



Overview

The C.S. Lewis Foundation is a donor supported 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Inspired by the life and legacy of C.S. Lewis, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing the renewal of Christian thought and creative expression throughout the world of learning and the culture at large.

C.S. Lewis is widely regarded as one of the foremost intellectuals of the 20th century and the most important Christian writer of his time. A renowned Fellow and Tutor at Oxford University and Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Cambridge University, Lewis wrote over thirty books in literary criticism, apologetics, fiction, and children's literature. The feature films *Shadowlands*, *The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe*, and *Prince Caspian* have endeared him to moviegoers worldwide.

Fact Sheet: C.S. Lewis Foundation

Since its founding in 1986, the C.S. Lewis Foundation has pursued its mission through several initiatives including regional conferences and retreats conducted throughout the U.S., the C.S. Lewis Faculty Forum, and the C.S. Lewis Summer Institute, convened triennially in the Cities and Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, England. The Foundation also owns C.S. Lewis' beloved Oxford home, "The Kilns," which it operates as a Study Centre for resident scholars and which is a highly favored tourist destination for Lewis devotees worldwide.

The Foundation has long envisioned establishing C.S. Lewis College in the U.S. as a fully accredited Christian institution of Great Books and Visual and Performing Arts. That vision is now about to become a reality as plans move forward to launch C.S. Lewis College on the beautiful campus in Northfield, Massachusetts, recently acquired for this purpose from Northfield Mount Hermon School. The School, one of the leading residential prep schools in the nation, recently consolidated its programs onto its nearby Mount Hermon campus and has been seeking an appropriate buyer and occupant for the Northfield campus.

This property has been purchased for the use of C.S. Lewis College by Hobby Lobby, a privately held retail chain of arts and crafts stores based in Oklahoma City, OK.

Subject to securing all appropriate approvals, C.S. Lewis College currently plans to commence instruction in Fall 2012. Within four years, the College is projected to enroll 400 students and employ a faculty of 40 with a staff of 45.

The College curriculum will emphasize the importance of reasoned thought, analysis and criticism, and will be balanced by an equally high regard for the unique contribution of the visual and performing arts. The College will also encourage the values of service, the advancement of international understanding, and the promotion of health and fitness.

Central to the identity of C.S. Lewis College will be the concept of *Mere Christianity*, an idea championed by Lewis, and the title of one of his most influential books. With this as its basis, the College looks forward to a rich association with Christians of all traditions.

Dr. J. Stanley Mattson, Founder and President of the C.S. Lewis Foundation of Redlands, CA, and Oxford, England, will serve as the founding President of the new College. An American social and intellectual historian by training, Dr. Mattson holds a Master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Prior to launching the C.S. Lewis Foundation in 1986, Dr. Mattson served as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the University of Redlands, CA. He previously served as Headmaster of The Master's School in West Simsbury, CT., and as Professor of History at Gordon College, MA. He has taught at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, and the University of Redlands, CA. He speaks widely on the subject of C.S. Lewis and the place of the Christian scholar in the contemporary university.

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