

## Prepared by Theron Britt

Dr. Phillips has asked me to say a few words to honor our friend and colleague, Dr. Brad McAdon, who has chosen to retire from The University of Memphis at the end of last Fall semester, 2020.

Brad received his Ph.D. from Texas A & M University in Rhetoric, with a minor in Greek philosophy, in May of 2002, and he joined our Department later that year. During his more than eighteen years of service at The University of Memphis he brought with him a remarkable depth of knowledge and an abiding interest in the history of Rhetoric in the Western tradition, in Classical Rhetoric (especially Greek rhetoric), in New Testament Rhetoric, in Early American Rhetoric, in Rhetorical Historiography, in The Bible as Literature, and in Argumentation and Critical Thinking Theory.

Besides diligent service as a mentor and advisor to many TAs and GAs, and service over the years on numerous standing Committees and hiring committees, Brad served the Department of English as Coordinator for the Professional Writing and Composition Studies Program from 2003-2008, and as Director of First-Year Composition from 2008-2010. And he was the Writing Center Committee Chair from 2008-2010, as well as the primary author of the Writing Center proposal; the proposal as we know was approved, and the Center has gone on to be a highly valuable addition to the University.

As a teacher Brad has been recognized for his dedication and skill. He was a finalist for the University *Distinguished Teaching Award* in 2007. Over the years he has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in History of Writing and Rhetoric, in Persuasive Writing, in Argument and Critical Thinking, in the Theory and Practice of Teaching Composition, in the Rhetoric of the New Testament, in The Bible as Literature, and in The History of the Bible as A Book. A first for our Department, he developed several rhetoric courses that were cross-listed with the Communication Department. As a mentor, he Chaired a number of undergraduate Honors theses. And he mentored as Committee member or Chair numerous M.A. and Ph.D. students, and specifically served as Chair for three completed Ph.Ds in Rhetoric and Composition. One of his Ph.D. graduate students, Mike Duncan, accepted a tenure-track position and has subsequently received tenure, no small accomplishment in these difficult times for the Humanities.

As a scholar Brad has been active in Rhetorical studies, and in particular his scholarly passion, the history and rhetoric of *The Bible*, and more specifically the rhetorical history of *The New Testament*. Bringing to bear his good working knowledge of ancient Greek and Latin, over the years he has published numerous articles on issues in classical rhetoric. In addition, he has edited a collection on rhetoric titled *Understanding and Engaging Humanity* (2010), and more recently in 2018 he has published a book on his scholarly passion in biblical studies, *Rhetorical Mimesis and the Mitigation of Early Christian Conflict*.

It is with heartfelt thanks for his many years of service and hard work that we wish our friend and colleague, Dr. Brad McAdon, all the best as he transitions to this new chapter in his life.