

I'd first like to thank CSRS for this signal honor. **Je tiens à vous remercier pour cette honneur. Merci beaucoup, mes amis.** I'd especially like to thank Elizabeth Sauer and Ken Graham for organizing the conference and doing the heavy lifting in clearing up the back log of the pandemic. The award could not have come to me at a better time. After almost a decade of university administration it is a joy to return to teaching and research. The single most important lesson I learned this year was just how hungry our students are to think hard thoughts **off Zoom** and **in person**, and most importantly, to do this **by engaging with the defamiliarizing alterity of the Renaissance**. Not, I should add, that university administration is without its charms. One of its many virtues is the way it continues the great Renaissance tradition of casuistry. The spirit of St Alfonso da Liguori is alive and well, and only in university administration do you learn so effectively how **to separate language from meaning**. This principle is epitomized for me in the ringing declaration of one of our many strategic plans – **that universities should be “open, connected, and purposeful.”** I mean, who knew. I'd always thought they should be **“closed, disconnected, and without any fucking purpose at all.”**

My debts are far too great to cover in their entirety, but I would like to acknowledge, first of all, you, the wonderful community of CSRS, and, second, some of the CSRS scholars I've learned most from: Lindsay Mann and Barbara Garner my first Canadian teachers, Ron Huebert and Christie Luckyj from Dalhousie, Judith Herz and the late Ed Pechter, Kathy Acheson and Ted McGee, Tony Dawson and Elizabeth Hodgson from UBC, Nick Terpstra, my fellow laborer in the stony fields of U of T administration, Randall Martin, Madeline Bassnett, Gary Kuchar, Paul Dyck, and the extraordinary Elizabeth Hanson. I'd also like to thank the doyen of Donne studies, Jeanne Shami, and my former students, some of whom are here today: Jackie Wylde, Leah Knight, Vicki Burke, Marie Loughlin, and Brandon Taylor. My greatest debt is, of course, to my partner of 43 years, the truly great Shakespeare scholar, Lynne Magnusson – without whom nothing.

