



Patrick F. Leahy

Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing Announcement | June 23, 2017

Thank you, Tom. Tom is the newest member of the creative writing weekender program. Bonnie, can we talk about your admissions standards?

In all seriousness, thank you all for coming, especially those students and faculty members who are here on campus for residency. I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to join us for this announcement.

There has never been a better time at Wilkes, as we take a good school on a path to greatness. Today is another step in that direction. This evening, I am pleased to announce a very significant gift from the Maslow family to support the graduate creative writing program. This gift — one of the largest in our history — will be used to create an endowment, the proceeds of which can be used each year by Bonnie to further develop the program.

You all know the Maslow family. They have been supporting the creative writing program for years through the Maslow Reading Series. Dick Maslow is a successful businessman who also supports the arts, and I admire his unique combination of interests. I am also extremely grateful to Dick for his generosity.

This gift did not find its way to Wilkes without the advocacy of Melanie Maslow. Melanie, who joins us here this evening, is a big supporter of Wilkes and of this program. I am personally appreciative of Melanie, since she is partly responsible for my five years here at Wilkes. I want to thank you publicly, Melanie, for your support not only of Wilkes, but also of Amy and me.

Melanie, would you please join me at the podium? In recognition of this latest commitment, in thanksgiving for your ongoing support of the Maslow Reading Series, and in appreciation for your loyalty to Wilkes, I am pleased to announce that forevermore this first-class national program will be called the Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing.

Congratulations!