

- What would you want the recipients of this award to know about Donald and Mary Snider?

Donald and Mary Snider were my parents. My father was born and raised in Waterloo Ontario, graduated University of Toronto. My mother was raised in a place called Fall River Massachusetts and was a graduate of Boston University. They found themselves together at Waterloo in the early 1950s and got married and I am the benefit of their marriage.

My grandfather was one of the founders of the University of Waterloo. One of the original gentlemen that created Collegiate College I guess it was called. Technically what Waterloo was originally called. He is a founding member of the university and my father was an engineer and he had his own firm in Waterloo and the firm is still in business today under a different ownership. I guess the best thing I can tell you regarding the award and my parents is that they were avid readers, loved to read and instilled that in me. Within the household there was always, I believe our parents subscribed to the New Yorker Magazine 50+ years. The New York Times Sunday edition was always in the house with all the other news magazines from Canada. You got to read. Education is reading. So that was their background in terms of instilling that in myself and in their memory, I created this award.

- Can you share a bit about your motivation behind creating this award?

In creating this award and talking to Kim Bardwell, there was a need for something like this within the university and it is my hope that will create somebody to step out of their comfort zone and say "Maybe I will do this" and possibly open up a whole new avenue for a student and a challenge. That is my hope that it will inspire other people or people who didn't think they could write to try and write.

- This award focuses on both rhetorical research essays on a speech *and* life writing--can you tell us a little bit about why those two genres? What do they mean to you?

I think it is important in terms of life writing that people are able to share and talk about their experiences and put them down on paper. It is almost like writing your essay or your college admissions process when you have to do that but you know this is kind of a step, this may lead to somebody ending up in journalism instead of what they thought they were going to do when they ended up in University of Waterloo. So, I really didn't have any specific goals in terms of what I'd like to see happen but it's the hope that they take it and run with it in whatever fashion they see fit in terms of their writing. Share their life and experience, if that is on paper or digitally that somebody else is going to read and inspire somebody else.

- Is there anything else you would like to share with us about this award?

It will create within the department the ability for students to step out of their comfort zone and say I am going to try and win that award and let their creative juices flow and see where it takes them and this is the first year that it's been awarded and so it's kind of a special time, so congratulations to whoever is the winner when the award time comes in late March.