



Greetings,

My name is Phil LaMarche and I am an Assistant Professor in the Humanities Department at SUNY Canton, where I teach literature and creative writing. In 2011, I developed the Living Writers Series to bring authors to campus to speak to our students and the greater community. The series has become a great success with positive acclaim coming from not only students, faculty, and staff, but also from many of our community members who are always encouraged to attend the events free of charge.

We have hosted such writers as Mary Karr, whose memoir, “The Liar’s Club,” spent over a year on the *New York Times Bestsellers’ List*, and George Saunders who was selected by *Time Magazine* as one of the top 100 most influential people in the world in 2013. We have hosted *New York Times* sportswriter, ESPN commentator, and Emmy winner William Rhoden, who filled the stands of our new athletic facility. A quick glance at our web page will show you the broad list of creative artists and intellectual minds we have brought to our campus.

The Living Writers Series has proven to be a valuable asset to our college and the broader community, but unfortunately there is a significant flaw that could prove fatal to the program. I work every semester to cobble together a budget from a variety of sources, call in personal favors, and even go so far as to put many of the writers up at my home when they visit. While this may work in the short term, it is not sustainable. I am writing to ask you to help me to make the Living Writers Series a permanent fixture on our campus.

Please join me in helping to bring the best and brightest minds to our SUNY Canton campus. Donations can be made to the Canton College Foundation, 34 Cornell Drive, Canton, NY 13617. Feel free to contact me personally with any questions or ideas you may have for upcoming events.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Phil LaMarche

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