

# Wickham Skinner Humanities Fund

## Call for Nominations



**Deadline for nominations: Monday, April 3, 2023**

The Wickham Skinner 'Making things Better' Humanities Fund was established at the University of Maine Foundation in 2018 for the benefit of the University of Maine with a gift from C. Wickham (Wick) Skinner, a former trustee of the University of Maine System. The fund is affiliated with the Clement and Linda McGillicuddy Humanities Center. The Wickham Skinner Award for Humanities Scholarship will be given annually by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, provided that funds are available and suitable nominations are received.

An award in the amount of \$500 will be made to a faculty member whose contributions emulate Wick's life-long approach to making things better and whose recent scholarly accomplishments have contributed substantially to the humanities. Preference may be given to mid-career faculty members, but faculty at all ranks will be considered. UMaine faculty whose scholarship, creative work, or expertise aligns with the spirit of the Humanities are eligible; no specific departmental membership is required.

**Nomination process:** Any University of Maine employee may submit a nomination (self-nominations also welcome), which should include the following:

1. A nomination or self-nomination letter (maximum of two single-spaced pages) that addresses the individual's work in light of the award's purpose and eligibility criteria.
2. A CV of the nominee

Please email nominations to Kelly Gilks, Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences ([CLAS@maine.edu](mailto:CLAS@maine.edu)) **by 4:00pm on April 3, 2023**. Contact Associate Dean Gregory Zaro ([gregory.zaro@maine.edu](mailto:gregory.zaro@maine.edu)) with any questions.

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**Wick Skinner's 2016 autobiography, *Making Things Better*, provides this summary:**

Wick has been driven all his life to make things better. He helped his depression battered family feel better; generated enthusiasm in school sport teams; addressed the fears of fellow infantry draftees training to fight in Europe; and improved production processes on the Manhattan Project and in factories of the Honeywell Corporation. His tools for making things better were simple, human, and limited: Be cheerful, helpful, and kind. As a Harvard Business School (HBS) student, Wick discovered the enormous impact managers can have on making things better. This became a lifetime focus. After ten years as a manager in industry, he became an HBS professor. As a director, Wick trained managers, consulted with them, guided and appraised them. Concerned with the decline in U.S. manufacturing, Wick did research that led him to striking new industrial management concepts. Wick was an institution builder, rising to the position of HBS associate dean and advising foreign and domestic education organizations. After retirement, he served a board member of Bath Iron Works, the University of Maine System, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Farnsworth Art Museum, and other organizations. Wick remarked that he did not always hit home runs, hardly, but I've had a good run. Wick and his beloved late wife, Alice, were married for sixty-four years and enjoyed their home on Northome Cove, Saint George, Maine. Wick and Alice were avid sailors.

C. Wickham Skinner died in 2019 at the age of 94.