

## MALS NEWSLETTER

### Master of Arts in Liberal Sciences

#### Student Profile: Henry Doss

Annie Young, Editor

When I sat down to talk with Henry Doss in a coffee shop on campus, students hunched over laptops and stacks of books at tables around us. Over the buzz of voices, he told me about his capstone research project for the Masters Degree in Liberal Studies (MALS); he is at work on a paper exploring the impact of the medieval church and economic forces on changing definitions of poverty in the years between 1348 and 1381. I asked him why he chose this project, the culmination of years of study and intensive research. His response was “just for fun.” He is a retired banker with a long and varied career, but enjoys the “discipline of analytical and critical writing.”



As a MALS student, Doss argues that interdisciplinary study can prepare students to better handle the unpredictable challenges of professional careers that will change over time. In this sense, “there should be nothing other than interdisciplinary studies,” he says. “You must be able to pivot. Life isn’t linear.” Doss exemplifies this in his own life. As an undergrad, he majored in English, began his career as a high school teacher, and later became a banker, retiring at the age of forty-nine. After retirement, he grew “restless” and began independent consulting. As he explains, he worked in “telecommunications; banking; universities; and a bit of just about everything, mostly consulting on strategy, technology (data technologies) and marketing/research.” He didn’t stop there. He also developed expertise in the venture capital and “innovation culture” fields. Today, he runs a consulting practice called Rainforest Strategies, while also writing for *Forbes Online*. His book, *The Rainforest Scorecard*, provides a guide to the measurement of innovation in organizations.

In his spare time, Doss volunteers with UNC Charlotte. He has served as President of the Alumni Board. He currently serves as Executive in Residence for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS); as a member of the Advisory Board for CLAS; and the Circle of Eighteen, a group that financially supports the Dig Mount Zion project. Surprisingly, he still has time to enjoy playing music and recording songs with his band. The unique combination of acoustic rock with a folk/blues rhythm has led to the opportunity for Doss to go on tour next year.

When asked if he had any closing remarks, he told me to put down my pen and paper and to come up with my own concluding thoughts. So, here they are: as students we often find ourselves going through the motions of daily life. We stray from the opportunities that may take us down a different path, yet lead to the same destination. Doss claims that we should embrace the many opportunities we have as UNC Charlotte students. While we often assume there is one preordained route to reach our destination, Doss encourages us to search out new paths that will enrich our journey.

*Henry Doss’s albums, including his latest “Need to Know”, are available on Spotify at*

*<https://open.spotify.com/album/4eJxbzszm7HujTQfoeuqe9>*

#### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- **Final Exams Begin: May 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>**  
(April 30<sup>th</sup> for Saturday classes)
- **Last Day of Class: May 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Reading Day: May 4<sup>th</sup>**
- **Summer Session 1 begins- May 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Memorial Day/No Classes- May 30<sup>th</sup>**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Confluence Journal Submissions: May 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Graduation for Liberal Arts and Science: May 14<sup>th</sup>**

