

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

## MALS NEWSLETTER

Master of Arts in Liberal Sciences

### WHY A NEWSLETTER?

Welcome to the first ever MALS Newsletter! Here at MALS we are excited to be able to communicate with you about upcoming events, important dates, and recent happenings that pertain to the MALS community. This newsletter is here to keep you up-to-date with the MALS program and our students. Occasionally, we will include articles about MALS students or graduates to illustrate how highly we think of each and every one of you! Keep an eye out for what's coming next.

### What's the Big Deal with Interdisciplinary Studies?

How does being a MALS student set you apart from other degree-seeking adults? Maybe it's your experience in the work force, or the achievements in your life. Or, maybe it's that you are earning your graduate degree in interdisciplinary studies. Today more students are combining studies to gain a greater variety of strategies to solve real world problems. Interdisciplinary studies helps to develop well rounded students who end up making better employees. Students are not simply taught a set of skills to solve problems, they are given the freedom to develop their own identity and apply their knowledge in response to real-world issues.

Interdisciplinary studies begins with the knowledge that all forms of intellectual inquiry influence, and are influenced by, each other. As Carolyn Haynes writes in *Innovations in Interdisciplinary Teaching*, interdisciplinary studies is increasingly popular among faculty and students because it is applicable to the real-world. Haynes writes, "interdisciplinary pedagogy... is not synonymous with a single process, set of skills, method, or technique." Instead, it helps students develop "a sense of self-authorship" and a creative flexible approach to new tasks "that they can use to respond to complex questions, issues, or problems."

Increasingly, employers are seeking out the flexibility and creativity gained through interdisciplinary study. Here at UNC Charlotte, MALS students draw on their customized education to create individualized careers for which there is no simple road map- whether that is designing amusement park venues, building a business consulting career, writing a fantasy novel for young adult readers or serving as a university academic advisor. MALS invites students to tailor their academic choices to fit their own career path. Like life, jobs don't come with tags specifying "English Studies" or "Sociology". They demand we confront each day with a variety of strategies to solve problems.

### RESOURCES:

**MALS PROGRAM** ~ <http://mals.uncc.edu/>

**CAREER CENTER** ~ <http://career.uncc.edu/>

**CENTER FOR GRADUATE LIFE**

~ <http://gradlife.uncc.edu/>

## HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Have you ever thought about publishing a literary work? The Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Program (AGLSP) has added a new section to their journal, *Confluence*. *Confluence* “is the voice for graduate liberal studies in North America” according to <http://www.aglsp.org/archives/2990>. The purpose of the new section is to exemplify “applications of ‘liberal’ learning to questions of human value and contemporary challenges to the stability and security of human society.” The new section aims to illustrate the interconnectedness of liberal studies by publishing a variety of literary works: essays, research papers, short fiction, creative nonfiction, poetry, art pieces, photography and book reviews of interdisciplinary works. Anyone who is an AGLSP member or currently enrolled in an academic institution with an AGLSP membership is eligible for submission and publication.

### Submission Guidelines:

#### Prose Manuscripts

- Limited to 20 double-spaced pages, including bibliography, tables, images, and endnotes.
- Follow the Chicago Manuscript style
- Times New Roman and 12 point font.

#### Poetry

- Single spaced
- No more than 10 pages
- Times New Roman and 12 point font

Submit up to two genres of literary work, be sure to include a short biographical statement in a separate document that includes your affiliation to AGLSP and contact information.

For further information, visit <http://www.aglsp-confluence.org/#!submissions/cv16>.

Submit to [submissions@aglsp-confluence.org](mailto:submissions@aglsp-confluence.org) by May 15th for the October 2016 edition.

## DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### DATES

- Registration Begins: March 28
- Open Registration: April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Final Exams Begin: April 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday classes)  
May 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
- Last Day of Class: May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Reading Day: May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Academic Year Ends: May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Grades Due: May 18<sup>th</sup>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jazz Ensemble: April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Graphic Design BFA Exhibition:  
April 19<sup>th</sup>
- Music of Women Composers:  
April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Confluence Journal Submissions:  
May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Graduation for Liberal Arts and  
Science: May 14<sup>th</sup>

