

July 1, 2010

**To Our WNC Public School Teachers:**

**UNC Asheville's *Master of Liberal Arts Program*** has been serving Western North Carolina for over two decades—and now is especially attractive to our region's teachers. North Carolina's public school teachers holding the MLA degree can earn ten percent more per year.

Teachers can complete this 30 credit-hour degree after school-hours, because all courses are offered after 4 PM, as well as in the summer. Soon, on-line courses also will be part of the MLA Program, as will opportunities for international study and travel.

All courses in this program focus on substantial issues and open-ended questions, and shed light on these topics from the perspectives of several disciplines. This fall semester, for example, the MLA curriculum will include interdisciplinary courses on "The Graphic Novel," "Race & Prejudice in 20<sup>th</sup>-C. America," "Stalin, Hitler, & Mussolini," "A Sustainable Culture," "Psychology of Communication," "Fundamentals of Climate Change Science," "Religion, Ethnicity, and Politics in the Middle East," a workshop focused on writing fiction and creative non-fiction, and several tutorials or independent studies. In spring 2011, we'll be offering two new courses, "Creativity & the Workplace," "Grant-Writing Essentials," and many others, new and tried-and-true.

Although the MLA courses are personally stimulating and fulfilling for students (and faculty), the Program's combination of intellectual breadth and graduate-level depth is also quite practical for our region's teachers, who inevitably are called upon (these days, especially) to offer a broad range of courses, and to work with a broad range of colleagues and students. MLA students do, however, specifically tailor their curricula to meet personal and professional needs: there's plentiful opportunity to concentrate on focus areas through elective courses, tutorials, and the individual graduate thesis or final project.

We offer you the opportunity to join other talented adult learners from all stages and walks of life. As MLA students, you'll join the Program's knowledgeable and nurturing professors in revitalizing our mutual commitment to life-long learning: what an excellent way to confirm our dedication to our profession as teachers!

Admission requirements include completion of an application form, an on-site interview, and letters of recommendation; no GRE is required.

I'd be most happy to converse with you about what UNC Asheville's MLA Program will offer to you as a teacher, and as a person. You can contact me at 828-251-6577; at [downes@unca.edu](mailto:downes@unca.edu); or by making an appointment to visit with me in my office, 129 Carmichael Hall, on the university campus. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Peg Downes

(Margaret J. Downes, PhD, MLA Director, and Professor of Literature & Language)