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Like some others on this page, I joined MALS in the first semester it was offered. At the time, I was the editor of the Opinion Pages at The News Journal and thought I needed a life changing experience. The MALS program provided that. I was in my early 50s and not the oldest person starting the program. That “guinea pig” class was a motley crew: retired scientists, a nurse, a teacher, a police officer, and a university administrator were among those trying to grapple with Dr. Raymond Callahan’s course: “Force, Conflict and Change.” It was exhilarating to read and discuss big issues with other mature students who always came to class prepared. The intellectual stimulation gave new energy to my personal life and to my work. The professors I met along the way were always challenging and understanding. I still may hold a record for the number of “Incompletes” in this program; but I did always finish.

At one point, a friend asked me why I was taking a course titled “Christian Iconography, 1100-1500” My reply was short and honest: Because I don’t know anything about it. The University was open to us. As Ray Callahan told me: You can take any graduate level course you can get yourself registered. My only regret was that the MALS experience had to come to an end.