



Nicholas Apostolakis

In 1992 I retired from the DuPont Company where I worked for 35 years as a chemical engineer. In the fall I joined the Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) and there I became aware of the MALS program offered by the University of Delaware. I decided that this was a great opportunity to take courses in various fields that I was not able to take some 40 years earlier when I was studying to become a chemical engineer. It was a wise decision.

I took courses in history, theater, sociology, ethics, art and I thoroughly enjoyed the interdisciplinary approach of teaching. The professors were excellent using the seminar approach. The size of the classes (10 to 15 people) was perfect for free and stimulating exchange of ideas. The students varied greatly in age, educational background, life experience, a truly interdisciplinary group. The papers I had to write gave me the opportunity to organize my ideas in these new, for me, fields. By taking one course a semester I was able to stretch this wonderful experience to five years. The topic of my synthesis, in the area of history remembered, was "Growing up in Greece during the Second World War." Mining my mind for memories of episodes, thoughts, feelings, that took place almost sixty years earlier was a fascinating experience.

Completing the MALS program gave me a sense of accomplishment. Having the opportunity to learn for learning's sake is a wonderful gift. My only regret was that there were more courses that I would have liked to take. But this is not a problem anymore. By being a member of ALL I can audit MALS courses on a space available basis. A great opportunity.