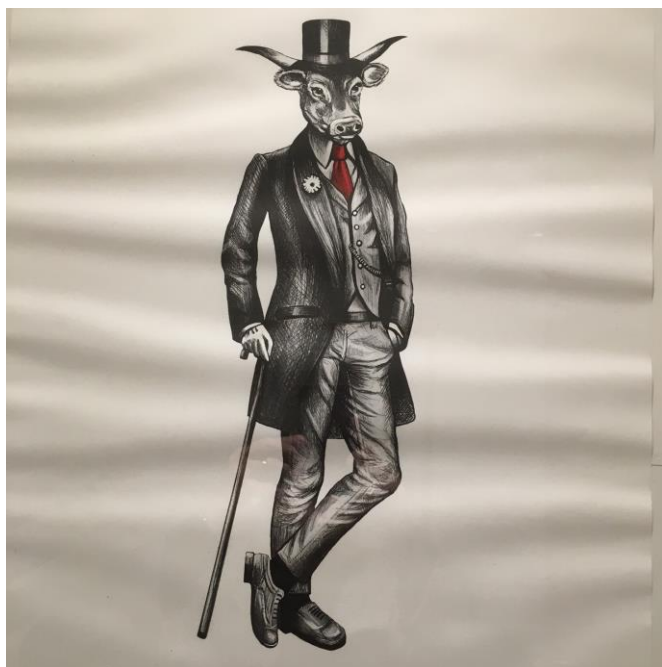


## William Branch



Joseph Campbell famously charged his students to “follow your bliss.” The pursuit of bliss is not easy, but really what other choice do we have? For me bliss is exploring new ideas, dissecting unfamiliar structures, listening to the viewpoints of others, and challenging my world view. What better place to begin a journey of the mind than UNC Charlotte?

I entered my first Master of Arts program, shortly after retirement. Going back to school after a 30 year hiatus provided many new challenges to this old dog. Fortunately I had great guides in my professors, myriad boon companions with my much younger fellow students, and access to humanity’s greatest minds through the books we read. Listening or reading about the experiences of others provided great joy, while accepting the freely given assistance of professors got me past many obstacles and caused me to reconsider long held opinions. The journey, once tedious, has become a pleasure.



I am now in the process of completing my third M.A. at UNC Charlotte. In addition I have been fortunate enough to help bring the scholars of UNC Charlotte into the homes of others, through the salon initiative. This program has touched hundreds of life-long learners in the comfort of their homes. It has provided scholarships for students and show cased the unique skills of UNC Charlotte’s great scholars and speakers.

If you find your bliss in learning, then I recommend exploring UNC Charlotte as the perfect place to start or recommence your journey.