

**Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre
Vancouver Island University**

Annual Report 2015-16

Overview

This report covers the period from April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016, during which the Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre at Vancouver Island University has continued its research and outreach activities on a number of fronts, in the quiet way adopted in recent years. This year's Malaspina Lecturer was Capt. William Noon, of CCGS *Sir Wilfrid Laurier*, who spoke on "The Franklin Expedition: Finding the *Erebus*."

The year is marked also by an expansion of our collaboration with the Liberal Studies Department, including the Malaspina Fellows Program and the online journal *The Compass Rose*, both described below.

Director John Black has announced that he will retire from his position as Dean of Social Sciences at the end of June 2017. However, subject to approval he will continue as Director and as an Honorary Research Associate in the Centre.

Personnel

Department(s)

Director:	Dr. John Black	Liberal Studies/Philosophy
Associated Scholars:	Dr. Ana María Donat	Modern Languages
	Dr. Oscar Clemotte Silvero	Philosophy
	Dr. Erik Liddell	Eastern Kentucky University
	Dr. David Livingstone	Liberal Studies/Political Studies
Honorary Associates:	Dr. Robin Fisher	Mount Royal University (retd.)
	Dr. Barry Gough	Professor Emeritus, Wilfrid Laurier
	Robin Inglis	Director, North Van. Museum (retd.)
	Ian Johnston	VIU Liberal Studies/English (retd.)
	Dr. Russell McNeil	VIU Liberal Studies/Physics (retd.)
	Josie Osborne	Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
	Dr. Brad Piekkola	VIU Psychology (retd.)
Student Assistants:	Rocio Rangel Macío	
	Helena Snopek	
	John Geddert	

Centre Research Projects

Translation and Web Publication of Source Documents

The project of translating, among other documents, the letters of Alexandro Malaspina and historical newspaper articles about him and his expedition, for publication on the Centre's website, continues. New facsimiles continue to be provided by Australian private scholar Robert King.

Public Events and Other Activity

Malaspina Lecture

The 2015 Malaspina Lecturer was Capt. William Noon, of CCGS *Sir Wilfrid Laurier*, who spoke on October 28th on the topic "The Franklin Expedition: Finding the *Erebus*."

The Compass Rose

In collaboration with the Liberal Studies Department, the Centre has created an online journal for undergraduate students (at <http://wordpress.viu.ca/compassrose/>). The journal is "for students of all disciplines, seeking essays which succeed in transcending the compartmentalization of discipline and address matters of importance to the human whole: questions to which the great works in the liberal arts tradition point us."

The Malaspina Fellows Program

With support from the Institute for Liberal Studies and Vancouver Island University, the Liberal Studies Department and Centre have launched a further collaboration. Students selected as Malaspina Fellows will take part in a co-curricular seminar on concepts of freedom, under the direction of AMRC Associated Scholar Dr. David Livingstone. At the completion of the seminar participants receive a small honorarium and are encouraged to submit written work to *The Compass Rose*.

Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Award

The recipient of the 2016 Award, which honours both Alexandro Malaspina's broad range of intellectual achievement and a VIU Liberal Studies student's success in interdisciplinary study, is Lisa Hamilton.