

**Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre
Vancouver Island University**

Annual Report 2016-17

Overview

This report covers the period from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, 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. The Malaspina Lecturer for 2016 was Jim McDowell, who spoke on “The Malaspina-Narváez Connection”, and for 2017 Michael Layland, who introduced his new book *A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island*.

Director John Black retired from his position as Dean of Social Sciences at the end of June 2017. However, he will continue as Director of the Centre and as an Honorary Research Associate in the Liberal Studies Department.

Personnel

Director: Dr. John Black

Associated Scholars:	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 Piekola	VIU Psychology (retd.)

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.

Public Events and Other Activity

Malaspina Lecture

The Malaspina Lecturer for 2016 was Jim McDowell, who spoke on September 29 on “The Malaspina-Narváez Connection.” The Malaspina Lecturer for 2017 was Michael Layland, who on March 23 introduced his new book *A Perfect Eden: Encounters by Early Explorers of Vancouver Island*.

Other Developments

AMRC Honorary Research Associate Dr. Barry Gough, Professor Emeritus of History from Wilfrid Laurier University, has been awarded the Washington State Historical Society's highest honour, The Captain Robert Gray Medal.

The Compass Rose

The collaboration with the Liberal Studies Department, an online journal for undergraduate students (at <http://wordpress.viu.ca/compassrose/>), has completed its second annual issue. 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 the Centre also collaborate to promote student engagement in the study of historically influential ideas. Students selected as Malaspina Fellows 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*.

The following student were selected as Malaspina Fellows for Spring 2017: Christine Allan, Michael Caditz, Alex Cunningham, Taylor Edison, Seamas Finnerty, Devin Greene, Erica Greenup, Lisa Hamilton, Jason Harms.

Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Award

The recipient of the 2017 Award, which honours both Alexandro Malaspina’s broad range of intellectual achievement and a VIU Liberal Studies student’s success in interdisciplinary study, is Erica Greenup.