

August 5, 2008

Issue 24

AMRC Newsletter

Alexandro Malaspina Research Centre, Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada

University Name Change is Mixed Blessing

Malaspina University College, will become Vancouver Island University on September 1, in a move mandated by the British Columbia government.

Although this decision, made without the agreement of the institution, somewhat weakens the university's connections with Alexandro Malaspina and all Malaspinas around the world, it will be mitigated to some extent by other developments.

President Dr. Ralph Nilson, for example, recently announced that the main campus in Nanaimo will now be known as the Malaspina Campus.

Furthermore, the English as a Second Language area and the international high-school will retain the old title, and the university will continue its plans for celebrating in 2009 the 40th anniversary of Malaspina as an institution.

One aspect of the name-change is welcomed by all, and that is the dropping of the descriptor "university college", so little understood outside the province. Being known as what it is, a university, will make it easier for VIU to take its proper place alongside its Canadian peers.

Opinion is strongly divided, however, on the wisdom of replacing "Malaspina" with "Vancouver Island." While some feel that the geographic name will attract more students, most are sorry to part with an identity which has meant so much over the years. There are no prizes for guessing the attitude of Centre Director John Black!

The spirit of Malaspina will in any case live on, through the work of the Centre and in the memories of its faculty, students and alumni. The legacy of the navigator and philosopher is too powerful to be allowed to disappear.

Contact Info:

John Black
Liberal Studies Dept.
Vancouver Island
University
900 Fifth Street
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 5S5
Canada

Tel: +1-250-740-6495

Fax: +1-250-740-6458

john.black@viu.ca

Malaspina Global Portal
Don't forget to visit the Portal to keep in touch with Malaspinas and Malaspinistas worldwide.

www.malaspina.org/index.htm

Don't forget to sign the new Guestbook!

© John Black 2008

Other News

- As a result of the change of the name of the university, all web and e-mail addresses have also changed. Please update your records with the new addresses on this page.

- The second Alexandro Malaspina Liberal Studies Award, for commitment to and achievement in interdisciplinary study, has been given to Lisa Kerr, a student just starting her final year in the Liberal Studies BA program.

- Liberal Studies Abroad will be offering a new non-credit program in northern Tuscany in

May 2009. *In Search of the Malaspinas*, as the tour will be called, offers participants the chance to explore the Lunigiana region in which Alexandro Malaspina was born and died. They will visit castles inhabited historically by the family while taking lessons in Italian, sketching and cooking. Anyone at all may participate, and applications will be accepted from September to November. For details click on the Liberal Studies tab on the AMRC Website and select Liberal Studies Abroad (after September 1).

- Correspondent Teresa Winthuysen Alexander tells us that the Winthuysen Foundation has published the English version of her artist father's autobiography *MEMOIR OF A SEVILLIAN MASTER* by Javier de Winthuysen. The author is a descendant of the Spanish naval officer after whom Dionisio Alcalá Galiano and Cayetano Valdés named what is now known as Nanaimo Harbour.

Please visit the web-page: stores.twinthuysen.com

AMRC Website: web.viu.ca/black/amrc/index.htm