

Research & Scholarly Activity

2005 - 2006

Malaspina grad lands job as Research and Development Coordinator with the BC Shellfish Growers Association • Malaspina Library – the perfect “laboratory” • Research sends students to prison • Students shine on national stage • Nursing students study abroad • Education students and technology • Creative non-fiction – real stories about real people • New book chronicles 20 years of nursing • English faculty scores hat trick • Malaspina students help Ucluelet win Sustainable Community Planning award • Malaspina University-College’s newest Canada Research Chair • Tuning in to the changing



Contents

Message from the President	
Message from the Vice-President, Academic.....	1
On Research and Scholarly Activity.....	2
Canada Research Chair – Dr. Craig Stephen.....	3
International leisure research conference a success.....	5
Tourism and Recreation Management alumni shine.....	6
Tuning in to the changing culture of music.....	7
Creative non-fiction – real stories about real people.....	8
Online archive preserves Canadian war experiences.....	9
Preserving life histories of Cowichan elders.....	10
Research results can inform policy makers.....	11
Malaspina’s Centre for Shellfish Research becomes reality.....	12
Malaspina alumna helps fisheries students.....	13
International project provides new perspective.....	14
Smart growth leads to sustainability...16	
Education students integrate teaching and technology.....	17
Malaspina Library – the perfect “laboratory”.....	18
English faculty score hat trick.....	19
New book chronicles 20 years of nursing.....	20
Nursing students study abroad.....	21
Promoting cross-cultural learning.....	22
Research sends students to prison.....	23
Students shine on national stage.....	24
External Grants Funded in Fiscal Year 2005/2006.....	25
NEWS Briefs.....	27

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Message from the President

Research and Scholarly activities are one of the cornerstones of advanced education. This report takes a look into the depth and breadth of some of the research and scholarly activities conducted at Malaspina University-College during the 2005 – 2006 academic year.

Research is important to all degree-granting institutions for a number of reasons. Research creates a climate conducive to scholarly activity, provides opportunities for upper-level students to participate in dynamic and ground-breaking research projects, allows faculty to maintain currency in their disciplines, and provides depth and credibility in teaching and learning. Research also allows the institution to stay connected to trends and developments in multiple disciplines and enhances the academic credibility of the institution, thereby creating better opportunities for graduates.

As I review the list of achievements outlined in this publication, I am again struck by the innovation and creativity that is embodied in the professionals who work at Malaspina. I believe strongly in the link between teaching, learning and research, and I am proud of the work that has been done by both our faculty and our students.

Malaspina exists to serve our students and our community. Research not only enhances the learning process, it is the cornerstone for growth in all communities. To this end, I am pleased that Malaspina University-College has made significant contributions to the communities we serve.

The types of research and scholarly activity we carry out would not have been possible without the tremendous support from numerous funding agencies. On behalf of Malaspina University-College, I would like to thank the Canada Research Chairs program, the Federal granting councils – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada Foundation for Innovation and Western Economic Diversification - for their investment into our research activities. I would also like to thank the province of British Columbia and the BC Knowledge Development Fund for providing funds to support our ongoing research efforts.

Malaspina University-College will continue to grow through research and scholarly activity. To our faculty, staff and students, I thank you for continuing to demonstrate to the world that Malaspina is an organization committed to quality, collaboration and success in both teaching and learning.

Richard W. Johnston

President, Malaspina University-College



Message from the Vice-President, Instruction & Research

I would like to commence my remarks on this past year's research activities by thanking our Director of Research Services, Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa, and her staff for their outstanding work. Our research activities continue to grow and our success rates on research applications are high. Malaspina University-College's revised Strategic Research Plan continues to match the infrastructure grants we have received with our funding for Canada Research Chairs and other operating grants. Our innovative use of the funds received from the major agencies has maximized the benefits to the institution.

Our first Symposium was held under the auspices of the Institute for Coastal Research this year. It was a successful day where key speakers highlighted regional issues. This Symposium also saw the ICR's first publications: *Wild Language* by Robert Bringhurst, and *The Poetry of the Sacred* by Don Domanski. Thanks to the work of Acting Director, Dr. Bill Pennell, planning for the Institute's future work is now well underway, and a strong advisory committee is in place.

The Centre for Shellfish Research continues to expand its activities. Work will commence in summer 2006 on the construction of the Centre's field site at Deep Bay. This year we received 2.2 million dollars to support shellfish industry training for First Nations communities. Dr. Yomi Alabi, Research Manager for the Shellfish Health and Husbandry Research Program at the Centre for Shellfish Research, was the recipient of the BC Aquaculture and Environment Innovation Award. Dr. Alabi will use the \$200,000, awarded over a five-year period, to expand his research on the needs of the BC shellfish aquaculture industry.

In addition to the preceding successes, there have been challenges. We are still attempting to raise funds for the two BC Leading Edge Endowment Fund chairs (in Aboriginal Early Childhood Development and in Regional Tourism), and for the International Centre for Sturgeon Research, which is part of the proposed new science complex. Malaspina University-College is seeking partnerships with corporations and individuals wanting to have their name associated with the Centre; those interested can contact my office.

We continue to involve our students in a wide range of research activities, and we are finding more ways to ensure that undergraduate teaching incorporates meaningful and appropriate research. Increasing numbers of our students are recipients of prestigious national awards to support their undergraduate and graduate studies. To restate an assertion

I made in last year's report: Research conducted at Malaspina creates new and valuable knowledge, contributes to the social and economic development of the region, enhances teaching and scholarly activity, and brings in much needed resources for both capital and operating expenditures. This statement remains true today.

This is my last year as Vice-President, Academic at Malaspina University-College. When I look back over the past seven years, I am impressed with the collective accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students. This annual research report, now in its fourth year, is a testament to our many accomplishments and will inspire those who are beginning major projects.

On behalf of all those involved in research and scholarly activity at Malaspina, I would like to acknowledge the support that we have received from the public and private sectors, and from the Federal and Provincial governments. Without this we could not succeed.

Dr. David Thomas
Vice-President, Academic



Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa, Director of Research Services

On Research and Scholarly Activity

Research at Malaspina is reaping rewards for students, faculty, and the University-College. In 2006, Malaspina students received \$52,500 in Canada Graduate Scholarships – the first time Malaspina graduates have earned these prestigious awards from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).



This success is a clear indication of the advancements made in research opportunities at Malaspina, with increased numbers of research chairs available to help students achieve post-graduate degrees.

For Liz Hammond-Kaarremaa, Malaspina University-College's Director of Research Services, this success validates the effort she has put into supporting faculty and seeking funding to develop the Institute for Coastal Research, the Centre for Digital Humanities Innovation, and the Centre for Shellfish Research.

"We're particularly proud of how we're starting to see a lot of the benefits from research

and scholarly activity manifesting in our students," said Hammond-Kaarremaa.

"By the end of this year we might have four Research Chairs and if each of these takes on students like Dr. Stephen, we'll be giving students who want to go on for their Master's and PhDs an added advantage."

"Our successes have resulted in a few different ways students can work, including opportunities with our Canada Research Chairs."

This past year Malaspina's newest Canada Research Chair, Dr. Craig Stephen, whose own studies are about the link between animal health and human disease, has also made it a priority to work closely with Malaspina students. Since starting

in 2005, he has co-authored research papers with three undergraduate students, while also helping a graduate and a PhD student conduct their own research projects.

"By the end of this year we might have four Research Chairs and if each of these takes on students like Dr. Stephen, we'll be giving students who want to go on for their Master's and PhDs an added advantage. A research opportunity can be key in getting the acceptance to enter graduate school," said Hammond-Kaarremaa.

"In Biology, the success rate of students getting into their Master's programs is higher than from other Canadian institutions because of the small classes, dedicated teaching and research opportunities."

And because of these research opportunities, Malaspina University-College students are now eligible for research scholarships and awards. This year was the first time Malaspina students received Canada Graduate Scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the top award given out by the Government of Canada to students entering graduate school. The students had been nominated for the NSERC post-graduate scholarships, but NSERC upgraded the award to the more prestigious Canadian Graduate Scholarship Awards. Bachelor of Science graduates Skye Creba, Owen Stechishin and Derek van Pel were awarded \$17,500 each for one year, with the possibility of a two-year extension. All three students had an opportunity as undergraduates at Malaspina to do research projects relating to environmental sciences and chemical analysis.

"I am pleased that the Research & Scholarly Activity office has been able to help faculty realize their vision. When you find a way for faculty to develop their passion, it rubs off on their students," said Hammond-Kaarremaa.

Students have always been the focus for Malaspina University-College President, Richard W. (Rich) Johnston, and Vice-President, Academic, Dr. David M. Thomas. Much of this development is directly due to the vision and leadership of Johnston and Thomas, both of whom will be retiring in 2007.

"Rich and David have been very supportive of making this happen," said Hammond-Kaarremaa.

Despite busy schedules, both Johnston and Thomas have embraced the extra work that comes from research activity, she said.

“They campaigned to the politicians, the community and other institutions, which required a lot of work on their part, but they saw the big picture: that research and scholarly activity would ultimately benefit our students.”

“It would have been easy to separate teaching from research, but David kept them together through focusing on the learning process. This link has also been apparent in the work the Teaching and Learning Centre has been doing by advancing the scholarship of teaching and learning, and creating dialogue on campus about the link between research and learning. For David, research is a process of inquiry, not just a product.”

This year’s other significant achievements include:

1. \$300,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and other agencies was awarded to Dr. Nicole Vaugeois for her three-year project called the Tourism Research Innovation Project. She will be using the funds to work with rural communities to incorporate tourism as a form of economic development, and to prepare for and benefit from the 2010 Olympic Games.
2. The Centre for Shellfish Research was given seven acres of waterfront property by the Deep Bay Ownership Group in February 2006. Construction began this spring on the field laboratory, upland tank farm, small hatchery and workshop where students, faculty and scientists will be able to test their lab research in the environment for proof-of-concept application and commercialization.
3. The Institute for Coastal Research, which opened in 2005 along with the new Library and is located on the 4th floor adjacent to the Research & Scholarly Activity office, hosted the first symposium, a one-day event called “Charting a Course.” Members of the public, students, staff and faculty spent the day exploring positive ways of dealing with controversial issues that affect the BC coast, including salmon farming, marine protected areas, forestry, fisheries issues and other natural resource management issues.
4. \$2.25 million was given to the Centre for Shellfish Research by the provincial government earlier this year to support the First Nations Shellfish Aquaculture Training program. The 16-course program, which includes such subjects as beach management and business management, is expected to train up to 500 First Nations and coastal residents over the next five years.

For more information about research and scholarly activity conducted at Malaspina, a complete listing of services provided by the Research Office and the Strategic Research Plan, please visit Room 434, Building 305, or check the website at <http://research.mala.bc.ca>.

Canada Research Chair — Dr. Craig Stephen

Human disease caused by environmental factors may be prevented by the work of Malaspina University-College’s newest Canada Research Chair. Dr. Craig Stephen’s research into links between animal health and human health attempts to prevent the spread of cross-species diseases like avian influenza, mad cow disease, SARS, and West Nile virus.

His 2005 appointment comes with a commitment of \$100,000 per year for five years, renewable for an additional five years. Stephen has served as Director of Canada’s Centre for Coastal Health (CCH) for 11 years.

“The appointment is positive news for Dr. Stephen and for faculty and students at Malaspina,” said President Rich Johnston. “It demonstrates that Malaspina continues to gain national prominence as a well-respected teaching, learning and research institution.

“Craig’s strong research experience is invaluable, and his demonstrated ability to attract and train students in a research area that is unique in Canada will be an important addition to our capacity to train highly qualified personnel in the field of environmental health,” Johnston added. “In addition, his past experience supervising graduate students and managing graduate programs will be an important asset to our institution.”

Stephen’s research program aims to monitor and prevent emerging environmental diseases, a national priority because of their toll on humans and the economy. He is spearheading efforts to increase our understanding of the link between animal and human health “so that we can predict and hopefully prevent emerging environmental diseases.”

“Diseases acquired from animals have had a wide-ranging effect on the health of individual Canadians, as well as on the well-being of rural communities and the nation’s economy,”



said Stephen. “Mad cow, avian influenza, SARS and West Nile diseases have made it clear that we need to learn more about animal health if we are going to reduce the risks to human health.”

Stephen was instrumental in establishing the CCH, a non-profit organization that serves as the hub for a national network of investigators who study relationships between human, animal and environmental health. Within the CCH, Stephen leads the Animal Determinants of Emerging Diseases national research unit, a team of scientists from nine agencies in four provinces.

“The CCH and Canada Research Chair allow me to provide unique experiences for students both at Malaspina and across Canada to learn how to identify, interpret and respond to complex environmental health issues at the interface of people, animals and their shared environments.”

Since being appointed Canada Research Chair this past year, Stephen and his team have been actively developing training and research in veterinary public health in Sri Lanka. He was also selected to provide a full application for a multi-national project in developing veterinary public health capacity for emerging disease preparedness in South and Southeast Asia.

His team is also involved in national surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds. In addition, “we’re assessing the risk of spread of the mad cow equivalent in wild deer for the state of Michigan, and have examined whether or not an international report card on antibiotic drug resistance can be created,” Stephen said.

Other research has included:

- assessing risks associated with the importation of oysters from Europe to BC;
- assessing risks to people from pollutants entering the beef food chain through animal waste disposal;

- helping to create new approaches to detecting food borne infections in BC (along with multiple government agencies); and
- evaluating surveillance for disease by the government in fish farms.

Stephen serves on a national advisory committee for avian influenza planning and preparedness. “We were consulted by the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on how to improve our ability to detect and control new diseases arising from animals and affecting people,” he said. “I recently participated in an international meeting in Paris at the World Organization for Animal Health to develop strategies on avian influenza plans as they relate to communities and industry.”

Stephen also believes in supporting student research. This past summer, Malaspina and the CCH hosted students studying veterinary medicine from the University of Montreal and University of Saskatchewan, and a University of British Columbia student studying community medicine. Six undergraduate Biology students from Malaspina worked for Stephen this summer, and he assisted with graduate student projects at various institutions.

“I believe that one of the best ways to teach is by actively involving students in the research process,” he said. “The CCH and Canada Research Chair allow me to provide unique experiences for students both at Malaspina and across Canada to learn how to identify, interpret and respond to complex environmental health issues at the interface of people, animals and their shared environments.”

Dr. Tom Delamere

International leisure research conference a success

A world-class leisure conference in a world-class recreational setting drew more than 200 international delegates to Malaspina in May 2005 for the 11th Canadian Congress of Leisure Research (CCLR 11).

“It was a resounding success,” said Dr. Tom Delamere, a professor in the Recreation and Tourism Management department, which hosted the congress.

The CCLR is held once every three years under the auspices of the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies (CALS), and brings together Canadian and international scholars and practitioners who share an interest in recreation and leisure research, and the delivery of leisure services.

“Feedback from our delegates was extremely positive,” said Delamere, chair of CCLR 11. “The Congress, hosted by Malaspina, was the largest to date, with over 220 national and international delegates and more than 175 presentations. The conference generated an estimated \$200,000 in economic benefits to the central Vancouver Island region.”

Highlights of the four-day event included the opening address by noted futurist Dr. Ken Balmer, and an address at the closing banquet by motivational speaker and Malaspina alumnus Michael Bortolotto.

Delamere said a lasting legacy was developed by the Malaspina Recreation and Tourism Research Institute, through its Delphi Group, that was tasked with determining:

- What are the top research priorities, issues and challenges facing the leisure field as identified by academics and petitioners?
- What are the blocks to partnership building?
- How can researchers and practitioners become better partners to address collective issues effectively?
- What is the best model and approach to ensure ongoing communication and coordination of research by practitioners and academics?

The Delphi Group’s findings will provide direction for years to come, said Delamere.

The CCLR conference provided numerous opportunities for student involvement, he added. Several papers/presentations made at the conference involved faculty and/or students from Malaspina.

“Our faculty and staff have a strong interest in student success, not only as it relates to academic studies, but also



as it relates to the fit between courses and professional preparation for practice in the field,” he said. “Students from the Recreation and Tourism Management department helped organize the event, and some presented research papers.”

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A final report on the 11th Canadian Congress of Leisure Research is being prepared and will be available online at www.mala.bc.ca/cclr11/.

Dr. Dave Robinson

Tourism and Recreation Management alumni shine



One of Canada's 10 best sustainable community plans was built on data developed by Malaspina's Tourism and Recreation Management Program. This year, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities selected the District of Ucluelet's Community Plan for one of its ten Sustainable Communities Awards.

"The award is terrific news for Ucluelet and for Malaspina University-College," said Dr. Dave Robinson, Tourism and Recreation Management professor.

Robinson is thrilled because Malaspina's Tourism and Recreation Management students have played – and continue to play – a key role in helping the District of Ucluelet with tourism-related research and incorporating sustainability into the

Official Community Plan. Robinson was instrumental in setting up the Ucluelet-Malaspina Planning Research Alliance more than five years ago with Felice Mazzoni, Director of Planning for the District of Ucluelet.

"Tourism students can conduct vital research that can be applied to develop a sustainable community plan."

Like other resource-based communities, Ucluelet needed to find a new economic direction when the forestry and fishing industries began to decline. The District wanted to take a thoughtful approach to tourism planning, and that's where Robinson and Malaspina's Tourism students stepped in.

Robinson convinced Mazzoni that tourism students could conduct vital research that could be applied to develop a sustainable community plan. With Mazzoni's agreement, fourth-year students Cleo Corbett and Heidi Schaiberger completed a 12-week co-operative education placement in Ucluelet as Mazzoni's community planning and research assistants.

During the placement, Corbett and Schaiberger designed and implemented public participation events, including open houses and informal drop-in sessions, to find out what

the community wanted for its future. They also contacted other BC municipalities to find out how they were handling community issues, such as affordable housing, coastal access, and amenity provisions, and also collected samples of how communities encourage developers to support environmentally-friendly project designs. The two students helped Mazzoni write the District's Official Community Plan that guides future land use.

"The initial research completed by the planning research team had a significant impact on local government policies," said Robinson.

The success of the co-op education placement in Ucluelet led Corbett and fellow Malaspina Tourism grad Rochelle Lewis to form their own company, Shine On Consulting, after graduation in 2004. Their first contract was developing a community profile for the Ucluelet Economic Development Corporation. From there, they were hired to run the planning department while Mazzoni took a month-long vacation.

In 2005, Robinson, Corbett and Lewis, assisted by a number of senior undergraduate students, ran educational workshops for the citizens of Ucluelet that led to the creation of a Tourism Planning Task Force. This task force represents the 'voice of the community' and it now reports to local council on all development initiatives. In 2005, Corbett and Lewis' company was also hired to run the planning department in neighbouring Tofino.

"We handle rezoning and development permit applications, subdivision approvals, and long-term planning," said Corbett. "My favourite part of the job is negotiating with developers to gain amenities for the community. So far, we've got commitments for over half a million dollars worth of public walkways on the waterfront, staff housing, and cash for community projects."

"We're networking, meeting tons of people, making a name for ourselves, running our own company, and making people's lives better – all this after graduating from Malaspina only two years ago," she added. "My advice to other students is to take advantage of every opportunity, including co-operative education. It made us totally employable after graduation."

Meanwhile, Mazzoni proudly received the District of Ucluelet's Sustainable Community Award in May 2006. He's still supporting Malaspina's Tourism and Recreation department by continuing to employ co-operative education students to help with on-going research.

Dr. Alex Tsisserev

Tuning in to the changing culture of music

Cultural demographics in North America are changing, leading to a shift in musical trends, claims Malaspina Music professor Dr. Alex Tsisserev, who recently completed an innovative study in which he explored the changing culture of music.

“Radio affects what we listen to,” said Tsisserev. “Radio programmers and the people who sell radio advertising decide what we’re going to listen to based on the demographics of their marketplace. It’s always been about money. Sadly, the art of producing a song often falls by the wayside. But changing demographics are having a big influence on what songs get airtime.

For his study, Tsisserev composed two versions of the same song - one a Hispanic/Latin dance mix, the other an urban/R&B mix. He took both songs to mainstream stations in large radio markets where the population of Hispanic Americans was starting to outnumber the population of African Americans.

“My hypothesis was that the growing Hispanic communities in major US cities, such as San Diego or Miami, would respond to the Latin version of the song and, as a result, it would get added to radio play lists and become successful due to radio call-in requests,” he explained.

“This success would lead to a movement whereby smaller neighbouring radio markets would pick up the songs as well (even if that market’s Hispanic population did not outnumber the African American population). Eventually, this phenomenon would domino into the mainstream listening audience throughout the country where the vast majority of people were Caucasian. In other words, the mainstream would be listening to songs driven by the Hispanic community in a few selected radio marketplaces.”

Tsisserev spent two months phoning radio programmers and visiting some stations in person to make a pitch for airtime for the songs. He hit several major market US cities including Los Angeles, Seattle, San Diego, Miami, New York and Boston.

The stations took Tsisserev seriously because he is an accomplished composer/song writer who has worked for Sony, Disney, DreamWorks, and Universal. Despite his background, however, major stations in New York, Miami, and LA refused to play both songs.

Tsisserev switched to plan B – he targeted medium market stations in smaller cities. Before long, a Seattle station began giving the urban/R&B mix light rotation, once a day for four weeks, to see if they would get a response from their listeners.

The song was also picked up by stations in San Diego, Kansas City, Hartford, Orlando, Houston, and Tacoma.

Eventually, in some centres, both songs faded away but in other markets, such as Orlando, San Diego, and Houston – where there are many Hispanics – the Latin version of the song did extremely well. “Due to the song’s popularity and volume of call-in requests, the stations began playing the song more often, three times a day instead of once,” said Tsisserev.

Meanwhile, back in Nanaimo, he monitored how much airplay the songs received through the Nielsen Sound Scan. “Soon, our Latin mix got played in every major centre including Los Angeles and Miami. It was a case of the smaller markets influencing the bigger markets because of all the buzz created by the Hispanic community.”



“The study showed that independent song writers, musicians, and listeners have the power to seek out and influence what they prefer to listen to on the radio today.”

Tsisserev said his study showed that independent song writers, musicians, and listeners have the power to seek out and influence what they prefer to listen to on the radio today.

“Yes, the music industry is a big corporate machine, but one individual can make a difference,” he said. “You don’t need a major label to get your song on the air.”

Tsisserev said his study sends a strong message to his students and other aspiring musicians. “You are the best engine for your work and your success. Don’t wait for discovery. Know what legwork needs to be done to get your songs played. College or university radio programs in Canada and the US are perfect breeding grounds. As a writer/composer, you have the power to affect future musical trends. That’s undeniable.”

Kate Braid

Creative non-fiction – real stories about real people



Kate Braid, who teaches in Malaspina's Creative Writing and Journalism department, has involved her fourth-year students in a unique project to develop their writing and interviewing skills, and preserve Nanaimo's history.

Using a genre of writing called "creative non-fiction" Braid's students have interviewed dozens of 'ordinary' Nanaimo citizens and recorded stories about their working lives.

These tape-recorded oral histories are preserved forever in the Nanaimo Community Archives and form an important piece of the Nanaimo Oral History Project.

"It's a valuable resource for researchers, writers, historians,

family members and anyone else interested in Nanaimo's history," said Braid.

"Creative non-fiction is somewhere between journalism and fiction. It's always true, and it's a combination of biography, memoir, travel writing, history and science."

Creative non-fiction is defined as using literary techniques to write highly readable stories about real people and real events. "It's somewhere between journalism and fiction," explained Braid. "It's always true, and it's a combination of biography, memoir, travel writing, history and science. Pierre Burton writes in this genre."

Creative non-fiction includes scenes, dialogues, strong characters and a strong sense of story. "It's been the best selling genre of all books for at least the past five to 10 years," Braid said. "It goes along with the current popularity of documentary films. Historically, when times are hard, or when there's a feeling of crisis in the world, people are hungry for real stories. They are interested in how real people cope."

Braid's students have recorded oral histories of fishers, millworkers, community volunteers, farmers, truckers and others.

"We've developed quite a collection in the past four years," she said. "I'm really pleased because I've always felt the contribution of ordinary working people has been vastly undervalued."

Braid said the students' work gives honour to the citizens they interviewed and shows "the power and colour of so-called 'ordinary' work."

"My students now realize how fascinating local stories really are," added Braid.

Students at Simon Fraser University (SFU) will soon benefit from Braid's talent for teaching creative non-fiction writing. In September 2006, she begins a one-year appointment as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Professorship in Women's Studies at SFU, and she will teach one course per term called Oral History – Women in BC.

"I'll model it after the creative non-fiction courses I've been teaching at Malaspina," she said.

Braid's personal background would make an interesting oral history project in itself. Years ago, while completing her Master's degree at SFU, she dropped out because she didn't want to be an academic. She moved to the Gulf Islands and began working in the construction industry.

Braid became a carpenter and earned her journeyman's Red Seal Certificate through an apprenticeship program at the BC Institute of Technology (BCIT). She ran her own company for a while, worked in a union shop, and ended up teaching construction trades at BCIT.

"I taught beside the guys who had taught me," laughed Braid. "Eventually, I got sick of being the only woman in the trade and was tired of being teased, taunted and watched."

Braid returned to SFU as a program director for four years, but "desperately realized" she had to get back to writing.

Braid completed a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia and has been writing ever since. Her Master's thesis focused on women in non-traditional work in BC and may have planted the seed for the course in creative non-fiction she would teach at Malaspina years later.

Dr. Stephen Davies

Online archive preserves Canadian war experiences

A vanishing resource, the memories of Canada at war, is preserved by Malaspina History professor Dr. Stephen Davies in “a labour of remembrance.”

As director of the Canadian Letters and Images Project, Davies is creating a permanent online archive of how Canadians experienced the war, as revealed in letters, diaries, and images.

“The Canadian Letters and Images Project preserves Canada’s wartime correspondence from the battlefield and the home front in any war,” said Davies. “It’s important to collect the personal side of the wartime experience as soon as possible before such materials are forever lost or destroyed. Every piece is a valuable link to our past.”

Since the project began six years ago, Davies, community volunteers, and work-op students have scanned and copied over 10,000 letters, postcards, diaries, etc., borrowed from individuals, family members and war veterans. About 3,000 of these items have been transcribed and are available online.

“We have the largest collection in Canada of materials of this type,” said Davies. “It provides a fascinating resource for researchers, professors, historians, students, genealogists and others.”

Last year, the home base for the Canadian Letters and Images Project moved from Davies’ cramped office to its own designated space in the research wing of Malaspina’s new Library. Due to the volume of material sent in, shelves are overflowing with copies of wartime letters and other memorabilia waiting to be transcribed.

“It’s a labour-intensive project,” said Davies. “The material usually comes to us in a shoebox. We make copies and send the originals back to the owners. Every copy is carefully preserved in protective sleeves in binders, and one by one, as time and money permits, each item is transcribed word for word or scanned, and put on the website.”

Davies relies on some funding from Malaspina and private donations to hire students to transcribe material and run the project. “For a national project of this size, we operate on a shoestring,” he said. “Our annual budget is about \$15,000, and over 85 percent of that pays student wages.”

Eventually, Davies hopes to fulfill a long-standing dream - to produce an audio CD featuring excerpts of the most compelling material collected through the Canadian Letters and Images Project. The CD could be used in schools across

the country “as an important and powerful teaching tool.”

Several famous Canadians are willing to donate their time to help with the project including broadcaster Peter Mansbridge as narrator, and other celebrities like Anne Murray, Dan Ackroyd, Paul Gross and Megan Follows who have agreed to read some of the wartime letters on the air. CBC has offered free studio time to record the CD, but Davies is still searching for government or private funding to cover production costs.

Meanwhile, Davies, students and community volunteers continue doing their part to preserve Canada’s wartime history. “Even though it often feels that we’re scratching the surface, it’s rewarding to make the past accessible to the public,” he said.

“It’s important to collect the personal side of the wartime experience as soon as possible before such materials are forever lost or destroyed. Every piece is a valuable link to our past.”

“It’s a unique opportunity for Malaspina’s undergraduate students to be involved in this kind of project, particularly students who are considering going to graduate school to pursue archival studies or another related history field. The hands-on experience they gain here puts them ahead of other applicants.”

For more information about the Canadian Letters and Images Project, visit the website at www.canadianletters.ca.



Helene Demers

Preserving life histories of Cowichan elders



Helene Demers and Cowichan Elder Abner Thorne

“It’s important to record elders’ life histories because it documents culture change and resistance to colonial policies and practices, and provides a counterpoint to ethnographic generalizations.”

Passion drives Malaspina Anthropology professor Helene Demers to devote hundreds of hours to complete a research project close to her heart – recording the life histories of prominent Cowichan elders.

Demers began recording and transcribing the life story of Cowichan elder and noted linguist Mrs. Ruby Peter in 1997. Nearly a decade later, the project is reaching its final stages.

“It’s been a rewarding but time-consuming experience,” said Demers, who has a Master’s in Anthropology and a Bachelor’s in Linguistics. “It’s important to record elders’ life histories because it documents culture change and resistance to colonial policies and practices, and provides a counterpoint to ethnographic generalizations.”

Demers hopes her work will preserve valuable historical information for the elders’ families, the Cowichan community, the academic community, and the general public. Her ultimate goal is that the narratives will “be an important community and scholarly resource for their historical and cultural content, have relevance for students at all levels of education and enhance cross-cultural understanding.”

The idea to document the life stories of Cowichan elders surfaced many years ago when Demers, then a graduate student at the University of Victoria (UVic), worked on a language curriculum project for the Cowichan Tribes.

“It was a privilege to spend time with the elders in the Cultural Education Department and hear some of their stories,” she said. “This project grew from there.”

Demers began to meet regularly with Mrs. Peter over the span of several years. Slowly, she began recording and transcribing Mrs. Peter’s life story. The project was partly funded by Malaspina and a BC Heritage Grant of \$5,000, which Demers received with Mrs. Ruby Peter and Dr. Thomas Hukari, Linguistics professor at UVic.

Mrs. Ruby Peter’s life story is written in English in a book format, with an accompanying CD featuring her voice telling three traditional stories in the Hul’qumi’num language.

“The CD was recorded and transcribed in the Linguistics department at UVic with Dr. Hukari’s assistance,” explained Demers. “We wanted people to hear her voice and the Hul’qumi’num language.” A line-by-line transliteration of the three stories in English is included at the back of the book.

“This project has been more costly, time consuming and rewarding than we ever imagined,” said Demers. “But it has absolutely been worth every minute. Mrs. Peter, who is now 74 years old, has been a joy to work with, and she took the lead throughout the project.”

In 2001, Demers began working on another life history with respected oral historian and prominent Cowichan Tribes member Mr. Abner Thorne.

“Mr. Thorne, who is 80 years old, is widely consulted by his community and the Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group as well as by scholars for his extensive knowledge of Cowichan history and genealogy. He has been recorded and interviewed and has been recognized for his contribution to many books and articles,” said Demers. “Documenting his life story and the context in which he lived his life, and his knowledge of oral history of the Cowichan people is an incredible experience.”

The transcribed accounts are edited only under the direction of the elders and their families in order to preserve the integrity and authenticity of the narratives. “This kind of research is built on respect and on relationships over years. You need to spend time, sometimes just having coffee and talking, and in the case of Mr. Thorne, laughing, and then the recording process can take place.”

Dr. Rick Rollins

Research results can inform policy makers

Mentoring the next generation of shellfish research is part of the legacy established by Dr. Rick Rollins, a professor in the Tourism and Recreation Management department.

One of Rollins' student protégés, Dave McCallum, has completed his Master's degree and is a Research and Development Coordinator with the B.C. Shellfish Growers' Association.

A few years ago, McCallum was one of Rollins' students in Malaspina's Tourism and Recreation Management degree program. He worked with Rollins on a two-year



Dave McCallum

study funded by AquaNet to look at implications of shellfish aquaculture on the development of marine protected areas in BC.

While working towards his Master's degree in Geography at the University of Victoria, McCallum continued assisting with Rollins' research. McCallum's thesis was funded through the AquaNet grant, and Rollins served as his co-advisor. AquaNet is a research

program supported by two major research agencies – the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

"I'm thrilled for Dave and really proud of him," said Rollins. "He successfully defended his thesis in April 2006 and immediately got the job with the Shellfish Growers. I've watched Dave grow and develop as a person and scientific researcher over several years. Throughout his educational journey he studied hard, did a great job assisting with our research, and started a young family. Earning a Master's has made him a better scholar and researcher. It's broadened his academic platform."

One of the goals of Rollins' AquaNet-funded research program was to transfer knowledge. "Through Dave, we've achieved that," said Rollins. "Dave will act as the knowledge transfer person for the BC Shellfish Growers Association. He'll be in touch with the latest social, economic and biological research and make that information available to shellfish growers."

Rollins' AquaNet research program ended in 2005. He had initially received a grant worth \$63,290 to investigate the

implications of shellfish aquaculture on the development of marine protected areas in BC. The study looked at:

- perceptions of community residents and tourists regarding planning for marine protected areas;
- opportunities and constraints for the development of shellfish aquaculture in a marine protected area;
- the role of First Nations in the development of marine protected areas and shellfish aquaculture; and
- approaches for management with multi-stakeholders.

Co-investigators in the project included former Malaspina Political Science professor Dr. Jeremy Rayner, and professor Chris Tollefson (Law, University of Victoria).

Rollins has devoted several years to conducting research related to national parks, and the impacts of aquaculture on marine protected areas. He has completed over a dozen journal articles on key findings and has made several conference presentations, including some with McCallum.

"Under the new land use designation, tourism lodges will be allowed, along with aboriginal harvesting of resources, as well as shellfish aquaculture."

Asked if his research program has resulted in policy change, Rollins points to an April 2006 announcement by the BC government. "They created a new land-use designation called 'nature conservancies' designed to protect sensitive environmental areas while, at the same time, preserving First Nations traditional rights and future low-impact economic opportunities," he said.

"Under the new designation, tourism lodges will be allowed, along with aboriginal harvesting of resources, as well as shellfish aquaculture. It's the first time I've seen aquaculture mixed in with any kind of protected area designation. Did our research influence the policy makers? I can't prove it, but it's nice to think that we may have had some influence."



Dr. Rick Rollins

Don Tillapaugh

Malaspina's Centre for Shellfish Research becomes reality



It all started with a vision: to become the focus for shellfish aquaculture research, innovation, training and technology transfer in BC. Thanks to the foresight and commitment of some key individuals, that vision has become reality in just five short years.

Dr. Bill Pennell, then professor of Fisheries & Aquaculture at Malaspina, was the person responsible for initiating the development of the Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR) concept in 2001. He saw the need for a research facility to support the social, ecological and financial expansion of the BC shellfish aquaculture industry.

“We need hard scientific information to address concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of shellfish aquaculture activities. That’s why it was so important to establish this research program first.”

It was Pennell who encouraged Don Tillapaugh to join Malaspina as Director of the CSR. “There was no doubt Don was the right person for the job. He had plenty of contacts and wide-ranging experience in the BC aquaculture industry, both in government and industry,” said Pennell

Looking back, this was a good decision for Malaspina. As Director, Don has been instrumental in bringing together key partners, collaborators and funding agencies who share his vision. To date, over 22 funding partners have contributed to the CSR’s ability to support the expansion and diversification of the shellfish industry.

The CSR’s success in building key partnerships is evident by its booming infrastructure development program that is based

on other successful agriculture research and development institutions. The model incorporates a university-based research facility and an associated field site for field/farm-based research, technology transfer and training.

Located at Malaspina’s Nanaimo campus, the CSR’s state-of-the-art 12,000 sq. ft. research facility was completed in 2004 – to the satisfaction of both Malaspina and its funding partners. As stated by Eliot Phillipson, CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) at the facility’s opening ceremonies: “The new CSR research facility is an impressive example of the type of strategic orientations and partnerships that are essential to ensure Canada’s success in the knowledge-based economy.”

To complement its Nanaimo research facility, the CSR is currently developing a research and training field site in Deep Bay, BC. As a result of a donation of seven acres of waterfront property by the Deep Bay Ownership Group, the field site is being constructed adjacent to the most productive shellfish growing area in the province. “Thanks to the generosity of the Deep Bay Ownership Group, along with funding from our partners Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund, we’re moving forward with building the next critical component of the Centre for Shellfish Research,” said Tillapaugh.

Upon completion, the site will include a field laboratory, an upland tank farm, small hatchery and workshop. Students, faculty and scientists will be able to test their lab research in the environment for proof-of-concept application and commercialization. The field site will also be used for training, technology development and public education.

“Soon we’ll have most of the key pieces in place,” said Tillapaugh. “The infrastructure is critical – but equally important is the development of strategic research programs.”

To date, the two research programs that have been established are the Ecological Interactions Research Program and the Shellfish Health and Husbandry Program. In combination, they provide the CSR with a synergistic and comprehensive shellfish aquaculture/marine ecology research capacity.

“Maintaining and enhancing public confidence in shellfish aquaculture is imperative for the future success of the BC shellfish aquaculture industry,” said Tillapaugh. “We need hard scientific information to address concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of shellfish aquaculture activities. That’s why it was so important to establish this research program first.”

To head up the Ecological Interactions Program, Don recruited top research scientist Dr. Penny Barnes in 2003. The following year, Barnes was appointed as Malaspina University-College's first Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Aquaculture Development. Barnes' appointment brought with it a \$100,000 per year grant for five years, renewable once. Barnes was also successful in receiving a CFI infrastructure grant to support her research, bringing her total funding for research to over \$750,000.

"Dr. Barnes' program is just another example of where we've been able to build partnerships and leverage funding to advance our objectives. This important research program has already begun to influence local and national science-based public policy development," said Tillapaugh.

To add to the CSR's growing research capacity, Dr. Yomi Alabi was hired to lead the Shellfish Health and Husbandry

Research Program in July 2005. Since the long-term success of any farming activity is dependent upon animal health, the Shellfish Health and Husbandry Program, under the guidance of Alabi, will look at issues that directly affect the shellfish grower's profitability.

Despite all that has been achieved at the CSR in a few short years, Tillapaugh believes the CSR's best days lie ahead.

"We have a unique research facility here at Malaspina," he said. "There's nothing else like it in North America. People have been astonished how far we've come on soft funding alone. Thanks to the support of industry and our funding partners we've been able to achieve a great deal, and we will continue to move forward."

Jenny Dawson-Coates

Malaspina alumna helps fisheries students

At the crack of dawn on an overcast day last June, Jenny Dawson-Coates was huddled in a small boat in Knight Inlet, beach seining for pink salmon.

"We were catching fish and looking for sea lice," explained Dawson-Coates, a Fisheries technician in Malaspina's Fisheries & Aquaculture department.

Several hundred fish were taken to Nanaimo's Pacific Biological Station for analysis. She was providing field assistance to world-renowned scientists Dr. Dick Beamish and Dr. Bill Pennell, who are conducting research for a sea lice project.

"I jump at the chance to work in the field, especially with top scientists like Drs. Beamish and Pennell. It's a wonderful part of the job. You always meet new people, learn new techniques and help put Malaspina University-College on the map in terms of research," she said.

When she's not in the field, Dawson-Coates can usually be found assisting students in fisheries labs at Malaspina's Nanaimo campus.

Like many students, Dawson-Coates didn't know what career path to follow after high school. She studied microbiology and biochemistry during second year university, but a summer job in Barbados changed her focus.

"I worked at the Bellairs Research Institute through McGill University and spent the summer working with graduate students in marine science," she said. "When I returned to

university for third year, I switched to marine biology."

After she earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Victoria, Dawson-Coates' father gave her some excellent advice. "He told me to get involved in a new, innovative and burgeoning industry, so he sent me to Malaspina to complete the two-year Fisheries & Aquaculture program. I'm glad I did."

The hands-on training she received at Malaspina landed her a job at a private fish health lab, where she conducted fish health diagnostics for five years.

"When salmon farms had fish health problems, we would perform on-farm diagnostic investigations and laboratory analysis for finfish submissions."

Dawson-Coates took a two-year career break in Australia to have children. She returned to BC and, when her youngest child was in kindergarten, she returned to full-time work at



Nanaimo's Pacific Biological Station (PBS) in the Fish Health department. For eight years, she was involved in several major research projects.

"I handled fish, learned to use state-of-the-art research equipment, learned scientific skills, and how to write scientific reports," she said. "It was great experience, and some of our research on a salmon disease was published in peer-reviewed journals."

"We offer one of the few Fisheries & Aquaculture programs in Canada and having completed it myself, I know it's a great program."

The skills honed at PBS helped Dawson-Coates secure the job as a Fisheries technician at Malaspina five years ago.

"Initially, I was hired to manage a laboratory in the Fisheries & Aquaculture department," she said. "My job was to support faculty in their teaching labs and in their research." The job has expanded somewhat, and she now also supervises and assists students and faculty with research projects, monitors equipment use, ensures students' safety, answers questions, and maintains the Fisheries & Aquaculture department website. She has also been instrumental in purchasing equipment for Malaspina's Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR), which opened at the Nanaimo campus in 2004.

Dawson-Coates would eventually like to earn a Master's degree, but for now she is content to help Malaspina students pursue their educational goals.

"We offer one of the few Fisheries & Aquaculture programs in Canada," she said, "and having completed it myself, I know it's a great program. I enjoy working with the diverse range of students in this program. Right now, we have international students from China, Spain, Trinidad and Japan.

What does she like best about her job at Malaspina besides working with students? "It ties fisheries and aquaculture with applied science. We're always asking questions and solving problems. I get a thrill out of that."



Mary Abbott

International project provides new perspective

Classrooms in Vietnam are being transformed by the work of two Malaspina Education faculty professors, Mary Abbott and Neil Smith, who participated in a four-year project to establish a community college in Vietnam's Tra Vinh province.

"It was the most amazing professional development experience I've ever had," Abbott said.

Abbott and colleague Dr. Neil Smith were invited by Malaspina's International Education department to join a Canada-wide consortium led by the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science to establish the new college.

"Neil and I were asked to lead the teacher education piece," said Abbott. The project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Association of Canadian

Community Colleges (ACCC) began in 2002/2003 and wrapped up in 2005. Abbott visited Vietnam three times in that period, while Smith visited the country twice.

The goal of the Tra Vinh community "was to establish teaching excellence in their new college and make it a top priority," explained Abbott.

Faculty members from Tra Vinh Community College formed a teacher education training team to provide training and support to all instructional faculty. "Their goal was to move towards a learner-centered method of teaching, as opposed to a transmissive method."

Six faculty from Tra Vinh Community College visited Malaspina for three weeks in spring 2002/2003 to observe the teaching

methodology at Malaspina and learn how to develop teacher education workshops.

“The idea was that they would return to Vietnam and implement these learner-centered strategies with their own faculty,” said Abbott. “The visiting faculty commented on how casual the Canadian system is, and on how we interact with our students so informally.”

In Vietnam, Abbott said there is a high degree of formality in the education system. Students stand when the teacher enters the room, and teachers give lectures from raised platforms at the front of the class. There’s no opportunity for direct student interaction.

“One of the main challenges Neil and I faced is that a lot of our interactive teaching strategies are based on getting to know students on a personal level,” said Abbott. “The Vietnamese faculty weren’t used to this kind of teacher-student interaction.”

Abbott’s first trip to Vietnam was to help faculty implement some of the new strategies.

“It was an amazing experience,” she said. “It was interesting to see how the Vietnamese teachers took their learning experience in Canada and adapted it within their cultural context. It was also amazing to see the enormity of the task they were taking on to establish a community college. At the time, the college consisted of only two buildings, and there was no road. To get to the college, we had to take a boat across a river.”

Abbott is highly impressed with the project’s end result. “The amount of leadership skills that the teaching team in Vietnam developed over the past four years has been phenomenal,” she said.

“Our goal was to help them be independent, and they are. They are organizing their own teacher-education workshops and conducting outreach programs with satellite campuses. Tra Vinh Community College now considers itself a Teaching and Learning Centre, and faculty there want to provide professional development workshops to teachers living and working in other parts of Vietnam. Ultimately, it’s the students throughout Vietnam who will benefit.”



Mary Abbott, front row, fifth from right, with faculty members of Tra Vinh Community College, Vietnam.

“It was interesting to see how the Vietnamese teachers took their learning experience in Canada and adapted it within their cultural context. It was also amazing to see the enormity of the task they were taking on to establish a community college.”

Abbott’s work in Vietnam also had a positive impact on her work at Malaspina. “A lot of what I do is developing programs in collaboration with Aboriginal communities with the goal of increasing the number of Aboriginal teachers in BC,” she explained.

“Working in Vietnam taught me to look at things through other people’s eyes. The more exposure you have to different cultures, the more it informs your sensibility about working with different people, understanding them and appreciating their perspective.”

Dr. Don Alexander

Smart growth leads to sustainability



Everyone knows what to do for sustainable development but not everyone does it, according to a recent \$30,000 study into smart growth strategies by Malaspina Geography professor Dr. Don Alexander.

Alexander has spent 20 years studying the development of sustainable cities. His most recent study, funded by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), examined how successfully municipalities and regions are implementing smart growth strategies.

Smart growth means finding ways to protect and conserve the environment through more efficient use of land, higher density development, more diversity of housing types, mixing land uses so people don't have to travel far to

do their shopping or go to work, protecting farmland and key habitat areas, and adopting greener forms of infrastructure.

“We found a huge gap between what municipalities say they want to do in terms of smart growth and sustainability, and what they’re actually doing on the ground.”

“Municipalities can make an enormous contribution to sustainability and reduce sprawl by improving the way they design cities and neighbourhoods,” said Alexander. “However, the road to getting there isn’t easy. Urban sprawl took hold after World War II, and it’s been the norm ever since. Old habits are hard to change.”

Alexander and colleague Ray Tomalty of Montreal examined six urban regions across Canada: Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Saskatoon, Calgary and Vancouver.

“We found a huge gap between what municipalities say they want to do in terms of smart growth and sustainability, and what they’re actually doing on the ground,” he said.

“One of the problems is that municipalities and regions are bound by the authority and money given to them by senior levels of government. There’s often a lack of political will and lack of coordination between various governments to implement smart growth strategies.”

Another major obstacle is that many municipal or regional growth management policies do not encourage innovation. “Sprawl has been standardized, and developers who try to do things differently run into a lot of red tape,” said Alexander. “Developers make money building according to a specific formula. There’s very little incentive for them to do things in a more sustainable way.”

Cultural attitudes are another big part of the problem, especially in countries like Canada, where consumers like living in large single family homes and subdivisions, and are heavily dependent on cars.

Alexander and Tomalty recently presented major findings of the CMHC study at a world planners’ conference in Vancouver, and they are currently preparing a paper for publication.

“CMHC has expressed a willingness to expand on the study and look at implementing certain policy changes,” said Alexander. “While it’s gratifying to know our research is making a difference at the bureaucratic level, we need the political will from senior levels of government to make concrete changes where they’ll really count.”

Prior to the CMHC study, Alexander was lead researcher, author and project manager on two major urban sprawl reports in 2001 and 2004 commissioned by Smart Growth BC, an advocacy group that promotes sustainability and smart growth strategies, and works with communities to implement them.

In the 2004 study, Alexander evaluated 24 large, medium and small communities in BC in terms of urban form (how cities are designed and laid out), quality of life or liveability and economic vitality.

The controversial report card generated province-wide media attention; however, it did accelerate some positive change. The municipality of Maple Ridge, for example, is working with Smart Growth BC to redesign its downtown core. “This is something we hope to see happen in other BC municipalities,” said Alexander.

Mary O'Neill

Education students integrate teaching and technology

Keeping education students connected with technology and with each other is a multi-faceted challenge for Mary O'Neill, Education Technician in the Faculty of Education. For the past eight years, O'Neill has managed the Education department's computer lab and assisted faculty and students with their technology needs. She maintains the department's website, produces a faculty online newsletter three times a year and serves as editor of a new online Education Alumni website launched in the spring of 2005.

"It's never boring," she says of the busy faculty. According to O'Neill, over 400 students were enrolled in concurrent and post baccalaureate Education programs at Malaspina during the 2005/2006 academic year.

The Education faculty recently celebrated its 15th anniversary, and the department held a successful alumni reunion weekend, which O'Neill helped organize.

Since its inception, the Education department has trained over 1,000 teachers, many of whom are working for school districts all over Vancouver Island, on the Lower Mainland, across Canada and around the world.

Integrating technology with teaching is a major focus for students enrolled in Malaspina's Education programs, said O'Neill, and that is where she plays a key role. Throughout their studies at Malaspina, Education students have access to a 12-station computer lab, and O'Neill acts as the main trouble-shooter. She also runs workshops for students to bring them up to speed on various computer programs including Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Front Page. O'Neill also arranges specialized workshops in topics such as digital media, GIS and how to use Statistics Canada information. "These are all valuable tools our students can use once they begin their teaching careers," she explained.

Two years ago, Malaspina's Education faculty implemented a new inquiry course for students enrolled in the concurrent program. The course focuses on how to conduct research and inquiry and integrate these into the teaching process, and students are mentored by specialists.

At the end of each term, students present their research findings at a mini-conference for their peers and faculty. "The course has been extremely successful and is proving to be an excellent introduction for students interested in learning how to conduct their own action research," said O'Neill. Her role in this particular course is to assist students with online survey mechanisms using automatic data collation and then

converting their findings into charts and graphs.

O'Neill also teaches an educational technologies course that helps students integrate technology into their teaching practice. She is often invited by faculty into their classes at the beginning of the year to speak to students about technology integration. "It's something our faculty expect of their students," she said.

Malaspina's focus on technology skills for Education students is paying off, she added. "We know that when our students get out into the job market, they are well-prepared in terms of technology skills. Teachers and administrators in the field have told us that Malaspina is quite progressive in this regard. There's no doubt that being proficient with technology is an important tool for our students that will serve them well in their future careers."

"We know that when our students get out into the job market, they are well-prepared in terms of technology skills."

Asked to describe the best part of her job, O'Neill said it is a tie between working with Malaspina faculty and students. "We have an exceptional faculty in the Education department," she said. "Each one of them puts students' needs first. It's a very positive environment to work in, and I feel so fortunate to be here."

O'Neill also enjoys keeping in touch with Education alumni, especially those who are working overseas in countries like Dubai, Asia and Nicaragua. "Our graduates act as ambassadors, sharing the knowledge they have gained here at Malaspina with their own students, both locally and around the world."



Dr. Richard Lane

Malaspina Library – the perfect “laboratory”



“I was particularly impressed with the quick access to excellent databases, online academic journals, open source journals, and the inter-library loan system.”

Dr. Richard Lane, an internationally-known researcher and English professor at Malaspina University-College, discovered the perfect “laboratory” to research his latest book.

His laboratory was Malaspina’s new \$14.1-million Library, one of the most technologically-advanced facilities in the country.

“The Library is a fantastic addition to Malaspina,” said Lane, who has used academic research facilities all over the world. “Faculty researchers like myself now have quick, easy access to a variety of resources right here in Nanaimo. We’re able to undertake the kind of humanities research that could only previously be done at larger universities, such as the University of British Columbia or the University of Victoria.”

Lane’s research focuses on two main areas - contemporary theory and continental philosophy, and postcolonial theory and literature with focus on Canadian and First Nations literature.

He has written or edited eight academic books, the most recent being *Fifty Key Literary Theorists* (Routledge, 2006), *The Postcolonial Novel* (Polity, 2006) and *Reading Walter Benjamin: Writing Through The Catastrophe* (MUP, 2005). He has also published or presented over 80 essays and conference/seminar papers.

Research for *Fifty Key Literary Theorists* and *The Postcolonial Novel* was conducted almost exclusively in Malaspina’s Library by Lane and three student research assistants.

“I was particularly impressed with the quick access to excellent databases, online academic journals, open source journals, and the inter-library loan system,” Lane said. “Thanks to our new Library and incredibly helpful Library staff, more materials are freely available to researchers in a quicker amount of time, and there are many resources available for web research. *Fifty Key Literary Theorists* is an example of a book that shows the kind of research that is possible right here on our own campus.”

The book is a reference text on 20th century literary theory and theorists, and Lane’s purpose in writing it is to make contemporary literature and theory more accessible to a wider, more general readership. The book is geared to undergraduate and Master’s students and will soon be used in universities around the globe.

Meanwhile, Lane is currently writing two other books: a re-examination of key deconstructive concepts in theory and philosophy, and a critical biography of Walter Benjamin. He is also conducting this research in, or through, Malaspina’s Library.

In addition, Lane is researching the topic of literary transcultural communication in a series of related projects, international in scope, which aim to examine changes in pedagogy in the teaching of Canadian First Peoples literature inside and outside of Canada.

So far, project outcomes include a paper delivered at the International Council for Canadian Studies in Ottawa, 2005, titled ‘Transcultural Images of Canada: Recoding Pictures of Canada’s First Peoples and Place,’ and a bibliography of literary criticism that covers contemporary Canadian First Peoples literature in English. Project partners and associates include Professor Deborah Madsen of the University of Geneva, in Switzerland, and Professor Carmen Concilio of the University of Turin, in Italy.

Drs. Frances Sprout, Deborah Torkko and Jeannie Martin

English faculty score hat trick

Call it a hat trick for Malaspina's English department.

Three faculty members, Deborah Torkko, Frances Sprout and Jeannie Martin, all undergraduate students at Malaspina at the same time, can officially add the title "Doctor" to their names, as all three women recently earned PhDs.

"It's quite a coincidence," laughed Martin. "We're very excited for each other."

Torkko, the most recent PhD recipient, flew to England for her convocation ceremony in July, while Sprout and Martin completed their doctoral dissertations last year.

Torkko, who joined Malaspina's English faculty in 1998, began taking undergraduate courses at Malaspina 10 years previous.

"I was working full-time as a travel consultant in Nanaimo," she said. "I took one course – English 198 – and loved it. I'd be up until 3 am working on my essays with a tub of whiteout and my re-conditioned IBM typewriter. That course impassioned and energized me."

After completing her Master's at Simon Fraser University, Torkko was awarded an Overseas Research Scholarship to pursue her doctoral studies, and began a PhD program at the University of Sunderland in England in 1995. Her effort to obtain a PhD wasn't without challenges. Torkko's educational journey was put on hold when her husband developed a serious illness, but she resumed her studies in 2002 when Malaspina granted her a half-year leave. "That was critical," she said. "I feel indebted to Malaspina for providing so much institutional support."

Malaspina is special that way, added Sprout, who joined the English department four-and-a-half years ago. "My experience is similar to Deborah's – everyone was very supportive of my desire to pursue my education."

Sprout recalls the days when she was a mature student at Malaspina, unsure of where the road would lead. "I see mature students in my classes now and know what they're going through. It inspires me all over again. I lived through that experience and, therefore, I encourage them as much as possible."

Sprout began her undergraduate work at Malaspina in 1987 while raising a family of four children and working full-time as a piano teacher. She completed most of the required courses in Nanaimo, but also earned her degree from UVic. After obtaining a Master's at the University of British Columbia, Sprout won a doctoral fellowship at UVic, where she completed her PhD in the summer of 2005.



PhDs Jeannie Martin, Deborah Torkko and Frances Sprout

"I see mature students in my classes now and know what they're going through. It inspires me all over again."

What Sprout valued most about attending Malaspina "was the opportunity to make connections with other students and faculty." Her love of the institution has filtered down to her own family. All four of her children have studied at Malaspina.

Like Sprout and Torkko, faculty member Jeannie Martin also has fond memories of her undergraduate days at Malaspina.

"Frances, Deb, and I have all studied individually, and together, with several fabulous people in the English department," she said. "When I obtained my degree and went to the University of Guelph to complete my Master's, one of my professors invited me for coffee to hear more about Malaspina. She felt I was the best-prepared student she had ever encountered coming into the Master's program. That's a tribute to our entire department and all the wonderful people who worked with us – from the dean, to the instructors, to the support staff, many of whom are still here."

Dr. Janet Rankin

New book chronicles 20 years of nursing



A controversial exposé of contemporary nursing is one of a recent series of notable achievements by Dr. Janet Rankin, a professor in the Malaspina University-College Faculty of Nursing.

Rankin completed her PhD with a doctoral dissertation that was nominated for two prestigious awards. Her challenging new book, *Managing to Nurse: Inside Canada's Health Care Reform* (University of Toronto, 2006), is hot off the press.

Co-authored with Dr. Marie Campbell, Rankin's PhD advisor at the University of Victoria (UVic), the book is aimed primarily at nursing and sociology students; however, it appeals to a wider audience. "The book has been favourably reviewed as being accessible to anyone interested in a detailed examination of contemporary nursing," said Rankin.

The book revisits Campbell's previous research that explored the state of nursing in the 1980s, and relies on Rankin's research from 1995 to 2000. "My work

provides an update in terms of how managerial technologies are influencing nursing," she explained. "The book is a chronological, historical account that spans 20 years of nursing, from 1980 to 2000."

"Information technology can construct a 'virtual reality' about what's going on in hospitals. Yet from my observations, the virtual reality does not match what is actually happening in nurses' work."

Rankin's book argues that the face of nursing has "fundamentally changed" in terms of what nurses can accomplish in their daily work. "New technologies implemented to make nursing more efficient have actually disrupted the profession," she said.

Rankin used a research approach known as "institutional ethnography" for her thesis – a sociological approach

developed by Canadian sociologist Dorothy Smith that provides a way to analyze how the everyday, taken-for-granted activities of people (in this case, nurses) are linked into the organizational structures of contemporary life.

Her research involved observing nurses and interviewing them about how they did their work. Rankin explored the social organization of nurses' knowledge and action in restructured workplaces, and analyzed how patients' needs for nursing care are too often compromised by the priorities of a smoothly running hospital.

"I examined how patients are admitted, discharged and counted in hospital settings, and discovered how information technology can construct a 'virtual reality' about what's going on in hospitals," she explained. "Yet, from my observations the virtual reality does not match what is actually happening in nurses' work."

Another discrepancy Rankin identified was in how patient satisfaction surveys are used as a management technology to harness patients' own impressions of their hospital care in alignment with the efficiency mandate. "My observations revealed that patient care is actually jeopardized by hospital restructuring," she said.

The precursor for the book, Rankin's dissertation titled "How Nurses Practise Health Care Reform" was nominated for the Governor General's Gold Medal in 2004. Her work also received a nomination from the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies, which recognizes Canadian doctoral dissertations that make unusually significant and original contributions to the academic field.

Rankin completed the PhD program by special arrangement with UVic. "They don't have a formal program, so I organized my courses and dissertation requirements in consultation with the Faculty of Graduate Studies," she explained. "Under the guidance of my committee, I developed a rigorous program of study that included courses in sociology, women's studies, and policy and practice that prepared me to conduct this research."

Rankin completed her PhD in eight years while working full-time. "I received incredible support of my colleagues at Malaspina," she added. "They were excited about my research and offered many tangible supports to allow me to complete this in terms of organizing my workload. I'm eternally grateful to all of them and forever in their debt."

Lynn Rollison and Lorna Jefferis

Nursing students study abroad

When student nurse Millie Anderson arrived in the Commonwealth of Dominica, she instantly fell in love with the country and its people. Anderson participated in a field school in Dominica in May/June 2005 with eight other nursing students and Malaspina University-College Nursing faculty members Lynn Rollison and Lorna Jefferis.

“Dominica was everything that I wanted out of an international experience,” said Anderson. “I was profoundly affected by this opportunity and will forever be changed as a nurse.”

The month-long field school allowed Malaspina students to gain clinical experience in pediatrics, labour and delivery at Princess Margaret Hospital. They also worked with nurses in the parishes of community clinics offering primary health care including triage, assessment, immunizations, teaching, diabetic wound care and, most importantly, health promotion and illness prevention.

Working and studying overseas provided students with a global perspective of health care, cultural awareness and a greater appreciation for health care provision in developing countries as well as in Canada.

“All of our students felt humbled by the experience,” said Rollison. “We saw well-trained professional nursing staff in Dominica provide health-care services and treatment with far less equipment and resources than we have in Canada.”

While there, Rollison and Jefferis conducted research to determine the impact they had on the host population – the women and families they cared for – the nurses, administration and community members they worked with.

Jefferis and Rollison also asked nurses at Princess Margaret Hospital about the impact of Malaspina nursing students on their work. They recruited a Dominican nursing student researcher to help interview patients to ensure honest and frank responses. They also interviewed senior management nursing staff, the Director of Nursing at the hospital, and Chair of Nursing at Dominica State College regarding their impression of having foreign students in their country. The findings will be published in a report titled “Above all do no harm: A study of the impact of Canadian students on a host country.”

“We used what is called ‘fourth generation evaluation methodology’ where you create a shared reality from all informants,” said Rollison. “You check with everyone involved in the project, plus Lorna and I each kept journals and tape-



“It’s clear that our nursing students had enormous impact in Dominica. We arrived as colleagues and left as friends.”

recorded our thoughts and observations during the trip.” The students who accompanied them also provided feedback on their experience, through interviews and post-conferences, which were added to the data collection.

“It’s clear that our nursing students had enormous impact in Dominica,” she said. “The nursing staff and patients appreciated our efforts. There was mutual trust, respect and the development of close relationships as seen through relational caring. We arrived as colleagues and left as friends.” One mother commented “She was my comfort” when speaking of the student nurse who was present during her labour and childbirth.

Jefferis and Rollison presented their key research findings at the Western Regional Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing conference in February 2006 in Edmonton, at the University of Alberta, and received favourable feedback.

“There are few research studies that consider how others experience us,” said Rollison. “Someone at the conference commented that they hoped we would publish our results because they felt our study was unique.”

Dr. Laurie Meijer-Drees and Dr. Melody Martin

Promoting cross-cultural learning



Students and faculty from Malaspina's First Nations Studies program with University of Alaska Fairbanks hosts.

A trip to the University of Alaska in Fairbanks to enhance their cultural learning was the “adventure of a lifetime” for eight students enrolled in Malaspina’s First Nations Studies program. The trip was the crowning finish to a brand new fourth-year advanced community-based research course designed by Malaspina First Nations professors Drs. Laurie Meijer-Drees and Melody Martin. They called the project *Tuntsaluqw: Ta’tulut Tribal Trails*, which loosely translated means “looking toward the north.”

“As facilitators, our role was to watch and encourage the students. The professional, personal, and cultural learning that took place on this trip was unbelievable.”

“The course was 100 percent student-driven,” explained Meijer-Drees. “The students’ task was to plan, organize and execute a 12-day trip to Alaska for the purpose of learning through cross-cultural sharing, empowering students and honouring indigenous cultures.”

Acting as facilitators, Meijer-Drees and Martin watched as the students took charge. The students formed five project management teams, and organized and implemented goals and strategies towards creating a unique cultural experience. The student teams handled all aspects of the trip, from fund-raising and making travel arrangements, to creating itineraries and handling public relations on campus. The group also established networking alliances with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Athabaskan and other Alaskan First Nations communities, and with Alaskan regional corporations such as Doyon and the Tanana Chiefs.

Students also organized several events on campus to raise funds and awareness about the trip including a raffle, feast and storytelling workshop. They created a non-profit society and solicited donations from Malaspina, the Cowichan Tribes and Snuneymuxw First Nations. Despite some fund-raising challenges, the group raised \$6,000 to cover hotel costs and transportation. Students covered their own airfare.

Meijer-Drees said Malaspina’s First Nations elders played an important role in the project. Before departure, the elders taught students about cultural protocols such as how to behave, how to conduct themselves and how to welcome others when visiting another region.

In February eight students travelled to Fairbanks, Alaska with Meijer-Drees, Martin and two First Nations Elders, Ray Peter and Florence Elliott. There they met with students, faculty, elders, and community members associated with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, with whom they shared their cultural diversities.

The Alaska trip really was the climax of a two-year project where students directed their own learning, said Martin. “It was a new style of learning for the students, and a new style of teaching for us,” she added. “As facilitators, our role was to watch, pray for and encourage the students. The professional, personal and cultural learning that took place on this trip was extensive and unbelievable,” she said. “We could see it and feel it happen.”

Team member Monica Wysotski said that throughout the planning process students gained new experience and skills in management, financial accountability, proposal research and writing, public relations and fund-raising. “These activities provided opportunities for myself and other students to master marketable community development skills and develop cultural awareness beyond the classroom,” she said.

Another participant, Ken Watts, said the FNAT course “is one of the best courses that I’ve ever taken at Malaspina University-College. Being 100 percent student driven, the course gave me a sense of responsibility and maturity,” he said. “Not only did the class work benefit me on an individual basis, but we came together as a group and as a community.”

The Alaska team also benefited from the opportunity to meet and host two faculty members from the University of Alaska Fairbanks who visited Malaspina for a week in May 2005. Their trip was made possible through a Fulbright Alumni Initiatives Award Meijer-Drees received from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2004.

Dr. Melanie O'Neill

Research sends students to prison

Hands-on research at Malaspina took psychology students behind bars in July 2005, and again in June 2006.

Several psychology students recently visited the medium-security Nanaimo Correctional Centre for research purposes to conduct interviews with inmates. Their research is part of an innovative study on obsessive-compulsive disorder through the Psychology Department's Fear & Anxiety Lab.

Led by faculty researcher Dr. Melanie O'Neill, the team is examining the nature and frequency of unwanted or intrusive thought patterns in the prison population, compared to 'normal' populations.

The study replicates and expands on research done 30 years ago by Stanley Jack Rachman at the University of British Columbia and Padmal de Silva at King's College London, two of the world's most eminent researchers of obsessive-compulsive disorders.

"Intrusive thoughts are defined as unwanted, unacceptable thoughts or impulses of internal origin," explained O'Neill. "Based on Rachman and de Silva's research, we know that approximately 85 to 90 percent of the general population experiences unwanted or intrusive thoughts or images in their minds. We're trying to confirm if that still holds true today."

The team is also trying to prove that the other 10 to 15 percent of the population who do not experience intrusive thoughts corresponds to those in society who possess psychopathic traits.

"Our belief is that because individuals with psychopathy lack morality, empathy and a conscience, the concept of 'intrusive thoughts' is alien to them; therefore, they fail to report them as intrusive," explained O'Neill. "If our hypothesis proves true, this research could have significant implications for best practices in terms of how obsessive-compulsive disorders are treated. Ultimately, the results of this study could shape the way cognitive behavioural therapy is delivered."

In July 2005, student researchers surveyed 117 inmates at Nanaimo Correctional Facility to assess the nature and frequency of their unwanted or obtrusive thought patterns. The same survey was also given to a group of Malaspina students, representing the 'normal' population.

Rachman at UBC reviewed the team's findings "and was very interested in the results," said O'Neill. "He suggested the team go back to the prison and collect more details from inmates using different methodologies. He felt this would provide an even deeper and richer understanding of unwanted and

intrusive thought patterns in the prison population."

The follow-up prison visit took place in June 2006, when eight Malaspina students conducted one-on-one qualitative and quantitative interviews with 60 inmates. "At first, the idea of speaking directly to the inmates was kind of scary," said student Mary Nenzel, "but it turned out to be an amazing learning experience."

O'Neill, who has conducted research in prisons before, said the reception Malaspina students received at the Nanaimo facility "was wonderful."

"The Corrections officers, staff and inmates were extremely cooperative and supportive of the study," she said. "We were the first research team to go into the prison, and the inmates were truly pleased that our team was there and that we cared about their experiences. They stood and clapped when we left. It was one of the most positive data collection experiences I've ever had."

"The results of this study could shape the way cognitive behavioural therapy is delivered."

Senior team members including Nenzel, Bill Caldwell, and Arlene Simpson, all recently graduated from Malaspina with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Psychology. All are planning to pursue graduate studies, and offer high praise for O'Neill's mentorship.

"She pushed us to do our best," said Nenzel, a single mother of three who returned to Malaspina five years ago as a mature student. "Working with Melanie and other students in the lab has increased my self-confidence. Thanks to my involvement in the psychology department and specifically with this project, I've met a lot of great students and faculty. I've truly had a meaningful undergraduate experience at Malaspina."



Back row, l-r: Tony Wang, Michael Chiorando, Andrew Lewis and Melanie O'Neill. Front row, l-r: Larissa Predy, Jill Fikowski and Arlene Simpson. Missing from photo: Mary Nenzel, Bill Caldwell, Katelin Bowes and Kasia Biegun.

Students shine on national stage



Bachelor of Science grads Skye Creba, Owen Stechishin and Derek van Pel

Skye Creba, Owen Stechishin and Derek van Pel are Malaspina's first students to receive Canada Graduate Scholarships from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

"It's the top award offered by the Canadian government for students entering graduate school," said Dr. Chris Foote, Malaspina's NSERC Liaison Officer. "Each

student receives \$17,500 for one year, with the possibility of extension for two years. The prestige of these awards is priceless." The awards are effective in 2006/2007.

"The kind of research experience we gained at Malaspina is often impossible to get at the undergraduate level in larger universities."

All three students graduated from Malaspina in June 2006 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Biology or Chemistry.

"The Faculty of Science and Technology is extremely proud of Owen, Derek and Skye," said Dr. David Drakeford, Dean of Science and Technology at Malaspina. "The Canada Graduate Scholarships reflect their hard work and dedication. Their achievement reinforces Malaspina's belief in the value of undergraduate research as a key element of the teaching and learning process."

Biology professor Dr. Tim Goater said the three "are exceptional students" and their success demonstrates that Malaspina students can compete with Canada's most promising young scholars. "News of their Canada Graduate Scholarships represents a huge milestone for Malaspina, not to mention the Biology and Chemistry departments," Goater said.

As fourth-year students, Creba, Stechishin and van Pel were required to complete a major undergraduate research project

under the supervision of a faculty member. The students were multi-year winners of NSERC's Undergraduate Summer Research Awards and honed their pure and applied research skills working in Malaspina's multi-million dollar Applied Environmental Research Laboratory (AERL) at the Nanaimo campus.

Under the guidance of Chemistry professors Drs. Erik Krogh and Chris Gill, the students were involved in cutting-edge research projects relating to environmental sciences and chemical analysis.

Creba worked with Gill on an air toxicology study measuring a specific molecule in wood smoke. In 2005, she presented some of her research findings at the Western Canadian Universities Chemistry Research Conference, and won best presentation award, beating students from some of Canada's top universities.

"It was a huge privilege to work in the AERL and gain such incredible experience," said Creba, who will attend medical school. "The kind of research experience we gained at Malaspina is often impossible to get at the undergraduate level in larger universities. As well, we produced publishable, peer-reviewed science that's often not tackled by students until they are well into graduate studies."

Stechishin is enrolled in graduate school at the University of Calgary and eventually plans to obtain a PhD in neuroscience. He chose Malaspina for his undergraduate studies because "the Nanaimo campus was close to home; I liked Malaspina's small class sizes and knew I would have opportunities for hands-on research." Stechishin worked with Krogh for two years in the AERL on a study concerning the formation of harmful by-products during the chlorination of drinking water.

van Pel worked with Krogh and studied properties of organic pollutants that determine their fate and distribution in the environment. He is pursuing graduate work in molecular biology and biochemistry at the University of British Columbia, where he hopes to fast-track into the PhD program.

Krogh and Gill have employed more than 50 students as full- and part-time research assistants since the AERL opened in 2003. "It's incredibly gratifying to see the success of students like Owen, Skye and Derek," said Gill. "The research they conducted in the AERL is relevant, innovative and significant on the national and international level. We're going to miss them at Malaspina, but there's no doubt these students will enjoy promising scientific careers."

External Grants Funded in Fiscal Year 2005/2006

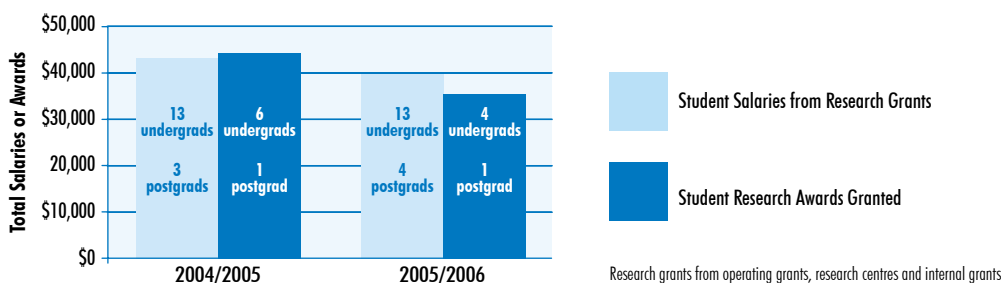
Infrastructure Funds

Grant Agency	Investigators	Department	Amount Received	Project Title
British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund (BCKDF)	Dr. John Morgan	Resource Management Officer Technology	\$1,600,000	International Centre for Sturgeon Research: BCKDF Infrastructure Grant
Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)	Dr. John Morgan	Resource Management Officer Technology	\$1,600,000	International Centre for Sturgeon Research: An Integrated Approach for Conservation and Aquaculture
Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)	Malaspina University-College	Research & Scholarly Activity Office	\$87,611	Infrastructure Operating Funds (IOF) 2004-2008
Western Economic Diversification Canada	Dr. Andy Spencer	Science Infrastructure & Planning	\$20,000	Preparation of a grant application for CFI-New Initiatives Fund. Natural and Perturbed Systems: Integrated Environmental Sciences Laboratory
Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)	Dr. Andy Spencer	Science Infrastructure & Planning	\$15,000	Preparation of a grant application for CFI-Leading Edge Fund. Condensed Phase Membrane Introduction Mass Spectrometry
Total			\$3,322,611	

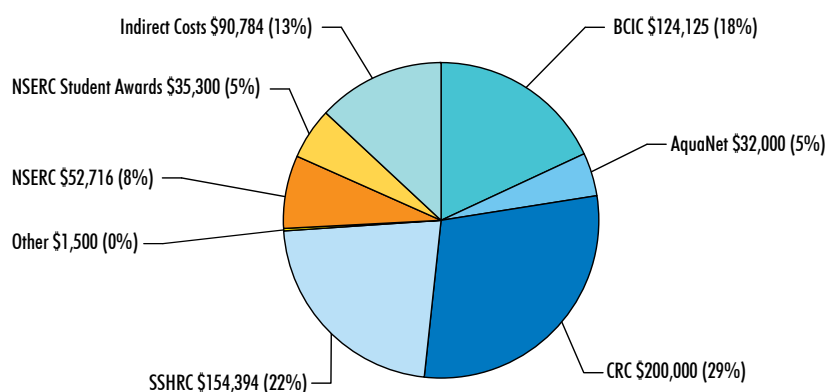
Student Awards

Grant Agency	Investigators	Department	Amount Received	Project Title
POST-GRADUATE AWARDS				
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Amanda Warman	Fisheries & Aquaculture	\$17,300	Post-graduate Scholarship
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS				
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Owen Stechishin	Chemistry Supervisor: Dr. Erik Krogh	\$4,500	Characterizing DBP Formations in Natural Waters by MIMS
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Derek van Pel	Biology Supervisor: Dr. Erik Krogh	\$4,500	Physio-Chemical Measurements of VOC/SVOCs by MIMS
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Jason Devlin	Chemistry Supervisor: Dr. Chris Gill	\$4,500	Thermally-Assisted MIMS Sampling Interfaces for Real-Time SVOC Measurements
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Robyn Ferguson	Biology & Chemistry Supervisor: Dr. Chris Gill	\$4,500	Real-Time Atmospheric Contaminant Quantitation by MIMS with Labelled Internal Standard
Total			\$35,300	

Student Impact from Research Funding



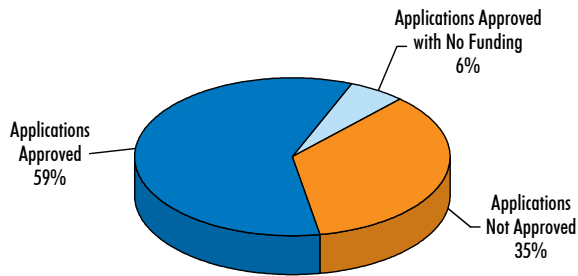
2005/2006 Funds Received for Operating & Student Awards by Funding Agency



Operating Funds

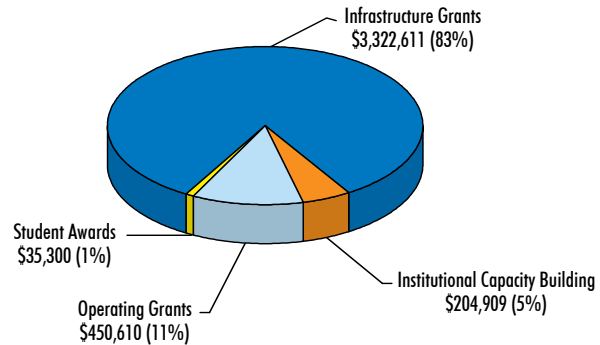
Grant Agency	Investigators	Department	Amount Received	Project Title
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Dr. Lev Idels	Mathematics	\$4,000	Delay Models in Mathematical Biology
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Christopher Pearce	Fisheries & Aquaculture	\$26,780	Culture of Pacific Geoduck Clams, <i>Panopea abrupta</i>
Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)	Dr. Chris Gill Dr. Erik Krogh	Chemistry	\$21,936	Using Membrane Introduction Mass Spectrometry (MIMS)
BC Innovation Council (BCIC)	Dr. Penny Barnes	Fisheries & Aquaculture/Centre for Shellfish Research	\$40,000	Advanced Systems Institute (ASI) of BC Research Fellow - Biotechnology Shellfish
AquaNet	Dr. Penny Barnes Lead University: Dalhousie, Dr. John Cullen	Centre for Shellfish Research	\$30,000	Low-Cost Optical Moorings for Continuous Assessment of Food Depletion: A Tool for Monitoring Shellfish Feeding Activity, Forecasting Growth and Quantifying Environmental Impact
AquaNet	Dr. Rick Rollins Dr. Jeremy Rayner	Tourism & Recreation Management	\$2,000	Integrating Shellfish Aquaculture and Marine Protected Areas in BC: A Framework for Planning
Canada Research Chair Secretariat	Dr. Penny Barnes	Fisheries & Aquaculture/Centre for Shellfish Research	\$100,000	Canada Research Chair: Ecologically Sustainable Shellfish Aquaculture
Canada Research Chair Secretariat	Dr. Craig Stephen	Centre for Coastal Health	\$100,000	Canada Research Chair: Integrating Human and Animal Health
The Leon & Thea Koerner Foundation	Cheryl O'Connell	Centre for Continuing Studies	\$1,500	Renewable Studies: Energized Communities
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	Dr. Cheryl Warsh	History	\$9,979	Canadian Bulletin of Medical History
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	Malaspina University-College	Research & Scholarly Activity Office	\$7,405	SSHRC Institutional Grant (SIG) 2002-2006
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	Dr. Laurie Meijer-Drees	First Nations Studies	\$7,010	Northern Nursing: Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Nurses in Northern Canada and Alaska, 1940 to 1970
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	Dr. Nicole Vaugeois Daniel MacDonald Dr. Rick Rollins	Tourism & Recreation Management	\$100,000	Reaching Out to Rural Communities: Tourism Research Innovation Partnership
		Total	\$450,610	

2005/2006 External Application Results



sorted by notification date & start date

2005/2006 External Funds Received by Type of Grant



Institutional Capacity Building

Grant Agency	Investigators	Department	Amount Received	Project Title
BC Innovation Council (BCIC)	Malaspina University-College	Research & Scholarly Activity Office	\$84,125	Building Science & Technology Capacity 2005-2006
Indirect Costs Secretariat	Malaspina University-College	Research & Scholarly Activity Office	\$90,784	Indirect Costs 2005-2006
Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)	Malaspina University-College	Research & Scholarly Activity Office	\$30,000	Building Capacity Phase Two: Building on Strengths
		Total	\$204,909	

Research & Scholarly Activity

NEWS Briefs

"A dream come true." That's how Malaspina students **David McGarry** and **Heather Chatwin** describe what it feels like to win one of Canada's top undergraduate awards. McGarry and Chatwin are among 111 Canadian university and college students to receive the 2005 Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship for Colleges (GWMSC) in 2005. National winners receive \$8,000 each from GWMSC and a tuition waiver from the institution of their choice, renewable for up to three years. Administered by The Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation, the GWMSC awards recognize and reward students who combine academic promise with character, leadership potential and a commitment to service. McGarry is enrolled in Malaspina's Jazz program. Chatwin, a second-year Arts and Sciences student, graduated from Nanaimo District Secondary School in 2004, and completed one year at Langara College on the Lower Mainland before enrolling at Malaspina.

A seven-acre waterfront property donation will be transformed into a field school for Malaspina's **Centre for Shellfish Research (CSR)**. The Deep Bay Ownership Group officially handed over the deed for the Deep Bay property to Malaspina

February 2006. Upon completion, the field site – situated adjacent to a major shellfish growing area - will provide infrastructure that is unparalleled in Canada and on the west coast of the United States. The site will include a field laboratory, an upland tank farm, small hatchery and workshop. Students, faculty and scientists will be able to test their lab research in the environment for proof-of-concept application and commercialization. The field site will also be used for training, technology development and public education.



Front, l-r: CSR director Don Tillapaugh and Deep Bay Ownership Group's Eric Netzer. Back, l-r: Deep Bay's John Casanave and Dan McCormack, and Malaspina President Rich Johnston.

The public came out in record numbers to learn about what humans and jelly fish have in common, among other interesting subjects, during the annual Science and Technology 2006 Spring Lecture Series. The free public lecture series kicked off in January with a presentation on the “Nervous systems and the control of behaviour: an evolutionary perspective” with **Dr. Andrew Spencer**, Malaspina’s Director of Science Infrastructure and Planning, who compared the similarities between the simple nervous system of a jelly fish and the more complex connectivity of the same system in mammals and humans. Spencer has an extensive background in marine biology, including work with the University of Alberta and the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre. His present research includes a study on the evolution and development of stem cells into adult neurons.



Dr. Cheryl Krasnick Warsh

Our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents are lucky to have survived childhood, according to a new book co-edited by **Dr. Cheryl Krasnick Warsh** (History). “It was very dangerous to be a child at the beginning of the last century, especially in Montreal, where the child mortality rate was higher than in any other part of the western world,” she said. “If you lived past your first year, you were lucky.” The book, *Children’s Health*

Issues in Historical Perspective, was released November 2005 by Wilfrid Laurier University Press and is already in several university curriculums, including Malaspina’s. Krasnick Warsh co-edited the book with Canada’s foremost women’s historian, Dr. Veronica Strong-Boag, who teaches Women’s Studies and Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia. The book started as a thematic issue of the *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History/Bulletin canadien d’histoire de la médecine*, of which Krasnick Warsh is editor-in-chief. The book shows a lot of similarities in children’s health care over the past 150 years, especially among countries of the British Commonwealth like Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Resource management issues on the BC coast were the focus of a one-day symposium called “Charting a Course,” March 2006. Hosted by Malaspina’s new Institute for Coastal Research (ICR), the symposium explored positive ways of dealing with controversial issues that affect the BC coast, such as salmon farming, marine-protected areas, forestry and fisheries issues. According to **Bill Pennell**, Acting Director of

the ICR and Malaspina’s Honorary Research Associate with the Faculty of Science & Technology, the symposium is the first public event organized by Malaspina’s new ICR that aims to “facilitate a wide spectrum of academic activities related to the BC Coast and its peoples.” The concept for the ICR was created in 2001, and space for the institute was included on the fourth floor of Malaspina’s new Library in 2005. The facility includes a computer lab, offices and meeting rooms that are available to visiting scholars and graduate students, as well as Malaspina students and faculty.

Tourism and Recreation Management students are trying to help rural and aboriginal communities improve their economy and quality of life. The students and two instructors left Nanaimo April 2006 on a three-and-a-half week study tour to meet with community leaders and tourism operators in Northern BC, Alberta and Northwest Territories. “The purpose of the Northern Tourism and Recreation Innovation Project is to learn more about the issues and challenges rural and aboriginal communities face, and possibly help them identify solutions,” explained **Dr. Nicole Vaugeois** (Tourism). “Our main goal is to create awareness about the value and importance that these communities play in the economic and social health of Northwest Canada. We hope to empower residents in the communities we visit and encourage them to cultivate vibrant, sustainable futures with tourism and recreation amenities that will enhance the lives of residents and visitors alike.” Student research assistant **Jeff Vos** said many rural communities are struggling to survive as they switch from primary resource-based industries like mining, fishing and forestry to tourism. Tourism can subsidize or revitalize communities, but there are challenges. For example, some community leaders and tourism operators may be unaware of potential tourism resources, or unfamiliar with marketing practices or with tourism planning in general, Vos said. Aboriginal communities face similar challenges, and “that’s why visiting these communities is a high priority on this tour,” explained **Dan McDonald**, a First Nations instructor at Malaspina and co-leader of the study tour. McDonald said Aboriginal Tourism BC has developed a new strategy to increase cultural tourism in Aboriginal communities. This first visit is only part of the three-year project Vaugeois has received funding for. She aims to prepare rural communities for the possible tourism potential created by the 2010 Olympic Games.

In April 2006, the Provincial Government awarded the **Centre for Shellfish Research** \$2.25 million to fund a five-year initiative called the First Nations Shellfish Aquaculture Training program (FNSAT). The funding will be used to reach out to First Nations communities coast-wide to coordinate, facilitate and deliver the FNSAT training.

Top international scholars visited Malaspina in May 2006 for a one-day symposium examining the best ways to link teaching and research to benefit student learning. Called “Engaging Learning, Transforming Teaching and Igniting Inquiry,” the symposium allowed Malaspina “to showcase our work in supporting student success, and learn from the experiences of international scholars,” said **Nancy Randall** (Education), Coordinator of Malaspina’s Centre for Teaching and Learning.

Ellen White received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree at Malaspina’s 2006 Spring Convocation ceremony at the Port Theatre. “Ellen White, one of Malaspina’s elders-in-residence in the First Nations Studies program, is a deserving recipient of this recognition for her outstanding contribution to Malaspina, her commitment to students, and her exemplary record of community service of over 60 years,” said Malaspina President **Rich Johnston**. White has a record of outstanding distinction and achievement, particularly in the area of Coast Salish language, history and cross-cultural relations. She received formal training both within her culture and within a post-secondary setting. Now in her 80s, White is widely known in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities for her dedication to the traditional ways, as well as her dedication to education as an important element in social change and community-building.

Alison Keple, a Grade 12 science teacher, won Malaspina’s 2006 Alumni Horizon Award. Keple, who teaches at Cowichan Secondary School in Duncan, received the award from Malaspina President **Rich Johnston** at the 2006 Spring Convocation ceremony at the Port Theatre. The annual award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of Malaspina alumni early in their careers, within 10 years of receiving a credential from the institution. Keple graduated from Malaspina’s Resource Management and Officer Technology diploma program in 1996. She earned a Bachelor of Science (Biology) degree from Malaspina in 1999, and received the department’s Most Outstanding Student Award. After graduating from Malaspina, Keple went on to obtain a Master’s degree in Zoology at the University of British Columbia in 2002. During her studies, she became a well-recognized expert on the ecology of marine mammals in the Strait of

Georgia, and lectured frequently on aspects of her research. In 2003, she pursued her primary passion to become a teacher and completed the post-degree teaching program at the University of Victoria.

Several dozen faculty from around the world participated in an international conference on internationalizing the curriculum at Malaspina in May 2006. The Internationalizing the Curriculum Academy, the first of its kind in Canada, featured five days of intense study on how faculty can integrate international perspectives and content into graduate and undergraduate course curriculum. Malaspina is committed

to supporting a curriculum that is international in nature and provides students with the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible world citizens and perform effectively in an international and a multi-cultural environment. “When faculty understand where they are culturally, they will approach the classroom differently,” said **Bronwyn Jenkins-Deas**, Dean of International Education at Malaspina. The Academy is a result of three years

of research and development by **Isabelle Giroux** (MBA & Business) and **Todd Odgers** (International Student Advisor). Malaspina has been a leader in international education since the early 1980s. In the 2005-2006 school year, there were 1,300 international students from more than 40 countries registered at Malaspina.

Malaspina has also developed a variety of international opportunities for domestic students, faculty, staff and community members.



Rich Johnston, Ellen White and Don Hubbard



Don Hubbard, Alison Keple and Rich Johnston



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