



An Introduction to the Newsletter

As summer ends and another school year approaches at Malaspina, we wanted to make sure that project team members and community members are up to date on the project's current events. If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, visit our website at www.mala.ca/ghana or contact Dr. Rick Rollins at rollins@mala.bc.ca.

In This Issue:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| What's New?..... | 2 |



If You Haven't Heard Yet...

Malaspina and its partner institutions in Sunyani: the Sunyani Polytechnic and the Sunyani Faculty of Forest Resources Technology are collaborating on a 5 year project with the aim of reducing poverty in the district of Sunyani. The project will focus on 4 community development projects identified by our Sunyani partners:

- 1) Increase in HIV/AIDS awareness and education
- 2) Reduction in household waste, particularly plastic waste
- 3) Improvement in agricultural practices and the reduction of bush fires
- 4) Increase in private sector employment, particularly the development of ecotourism

In April, 4 Malaspina students and 2 faculty members traveled to Sunyani to meet their Sunyani counterparts and engage in community needs assessments in Sunyani and its surrounding communities. These assessments were led by Sunyani students and provided the needed information to effectively move forward with the project. Students also had a chance to share their culture and participate in many activities such as visiting national parks and seeing protected wildlife. The students made long-lasting friendships and team members continue to communicate throughout the year.

In September, 2 faculty members from our the Ghanaian Institutes will be visiting Nanaimo for approximately one month. We look forward to hosting them and sharing in their experiences to Nanaimo. Welcome!





What's New?

After a buzz of activity with Malaspina's 1st visit to Sunyani, we wanted to provide a bit of an update on what's been happening in Nanaimo:

- + The Malaspina team has been meeting over the summer to discuss plans for the upcoming year and the visit of Sylvia and Kofi to Malaspina in September.
- + Karla, a Tourism Management student who traveled to Sunyani in April stayed an extra month and has recently finished her internship in Ghana working for The Nature Conversation Research Centre (NCRC) and is back working on the project. She is developing a Moodle website and other promotional tools for the project.
- + Amanda, also a Tourism Management student is just returning from her internship in Uganda and has lots of interesting experiences to share.
- + Bridgette, a nursing student and Ken, a faculty member in the Department of Tourism Management, have made presentations on the Ghana project to two Rotary clubs in Nanaimo. The Sunyani Rotary club has been meeting regularly since the Spring and will be reinstated as a club soon.
- + Nanaimo Rotarian Ross White will be visiting Sunyani in early September to explore further involvements of the Nanaimo Rotary clubs in Sunyani.
- + Andrea, a forestry student who also traveled to Sunyani, has been busy all summer fighting forest fires in British Columbia.
- + Rick, project co-ordinator, got married over the summer. Congratulations Rick!
- + Ken will be on leave from his teaching assignment this fall. He has been selected to teach aboard the Scholar Ship. Unfortunately he will not be in Nanaimo when Sylvia and Kofi visit but wish them the very best during their stay.
- + John Mason from the NCRC will be visiting Malaspina in October to talk about further partnerships. The NCRC is an organization in Ghana that initiates ecotourism sites across the country to bring extra revenue to many communities.



The students' homestay family in Ghana



A trip to the orphanage



Andrea at Mole Park