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AMRC Newsletter

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

Biosphere Conversation #4

The fourth symposium on environmental philosophy took place at VIU's Deep Bay Field Station Oct. 21-23. Participants from academia and the community discussed the rôle of post-secondary institutions in promoting sustainability, not only in ecological terms but also in relation to the social and cultural components of sustainable communities.

An interesting feature of the event was an emergent focus, deriving from the excellent contributions of student participants, on the rôle of universities in the larger world. The sharing of perspective among students, faculty and administrators will go a long way to supporting mutual understanding and true collaboration in the future.

Between intense sessions at the seminar table, the mood was lightened by a visit to the Big Qualicum Salmon Hatchery, led by guide Michael Recalma.

Aside from the work of the Hatchery, Michael also explained the medicinal uses of a variety of indigenous species seen on the walk. The black bear seen across the river added a sharp note of interest!



For more details see: <http://viudeepbay.com/2011/10/28/creating-space-for-a-sense-of-place-4th-biosphere-conversation-at-station/>.

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Other News

- In preparation for her PhD, visiting scholar Reetta Niemi has completed her work on 18th-century visual images of indigenous peoples. She also left us a digital archive of such images for future use. Reetta has now returned to Finland to pursue her studies.
- A large group of VIU faculty met to discuss the future goals of the AMRC, and concluded that its new mandate should include a focus on intercultural communication and relations.
- Acknowledging the legacy of Alexandro Malaspina in this field, a steering committee has been formed to carry the new mandate forward. A full account will appear in the next edition.
- Lunigiana, the navigator's ancestral home, was hit by severe floods a few weeks ago. We understand that Dario Manfredi, Director of the Malaspina Foundation, was among many residents evacuated from the village. Thankfully he is safe, and damage to buildings was not as severe as nearer to the coast, where it seems the towns of Vernazza and Monterosso were destroyed.
- Erik Liddell of the University of Eastern Kentucky reports that his translation of the *Critical Letter on Don Quixote*, by Malaspina, will be published in Spring 2013 in *Metamorphoses*.

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