

# Haida Gwaii Institute

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2023





# What's new at Haida Gwaii Institute?

## A Letter from the Director, May 2023

Dear Readers,

Greetings from Haida Gwaii Institute! I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying the arrival of spring. Here on Haida Gwaii, I have been appreciating the longer days and looking forward to the upcoming berry picking season.

I feel incredibly honoured to have recently stepped into the role of Director at Haida Gwaii Institute, and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our previous Director, Carlos Ormond, on his new position as the Director of Indigenous and Intercultural Initiatives at the UBC Faculty of Forestry. Carlos will continue to support HGI along with other great initiatives within the Faculty of Forestry.

I have had the privilege of working with the Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society and then Haida Gwaii Institute in multiple roles and on many projects and programs over the years. It has been amazing to see how much we have grown from offering our first semester in Natural Resource Studies in 2010 to now having developed five Semester programs, a Summer Session, several online undergraduate courses, and an online Professional Development Micro-Certificate program!

There is a lot of recent news to share, starting with the success of our recent Fall Semester in Natural Resource Sciences. We were fortunate to have a great group of 12 students who participated in the program and shared their unique perspectives and talents in the classroom and the community. We're very proud of their growth and accomplishments!

Currently, we are gearing up to welcome our 2023 Summer Session students to Haida Gwaii.



The team has been working closely with instructors and local educators to develop engaging field activities and meaningful opportunities to connect with the wider community.

As for our online programming, I am proud to say our undergraduate and professional development course offerings have been a great success! We are committed to continuing this mode of delivery, even as in-person programming continues.

We're always looking to explore new ways of engaging with our community and connecting with more local folks. So if you are looking for ways to get involved, or are interested in learning more about our programs and courses, please read on, visit our website, follow us on social media, and don't hesitate to contact us directly!

Haw'aa, Thank you, dear readers, collaborators, affiliates, and students of past and future for your support of HGI. I am confident that the best is yet to come, and we can't wait to share it all with you!

Sincerely,

**K'iinuwaas Carrie Anne Vanderhoop**



## Fall Semester in Natural Resource Science



We are happy to report that this past semester played out really well! Our students were fortunate in being able to attend significant community events such as pole-raising, potlatches, and other local gatherings. They went on a number of engaging field trips led by various Community Educators. They made it on an excellent trip into Gwaii Haanas, led by Community Educators, **Gid Yahk'ii Sean Young**, and **SGaan Kwah Agang James McGuire**. This group saw many opportunities to learn in ways that are truly unique to Haida Gwaii.

The way they supported each other through different challenges was inspiring, and it was clear that they formed strong bonds during their time spent here. We feel immensely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing where their new knowledge and skills will take them.

Congratulations to the graduates of this semester! All of your hard work and dedication really paid off. We hope you will take the lessons we learned here forward into your futures! And, of course, we hope to see you again soon on Haida Gwaii!

"My time with the Haida Gwaii Institute was life changing! The people and place of Haida Gwaii have given me hope and ambition for my future pursuits, in which I intend to take forward teachings from, not only the natural resource science semester, but also my amazing new friends, community connections, and time immersed in Haida culture. This experience was the perfect combination of challenging my own perspectives and worldviews, while also feeling supported and heard. I would recommend it to anybody who is looking to step outside their comfort zone in the best way possible!"

**Max Nishima**

*Fall Semester in Natural Resource Sciences, 2022*





# Calendar of Upcoming Courses

## In Person Courses

### **Haida Gwaii Summer Session:**

#### ***Haida Gwaii Summer Session***

#### ***Plants, People and Place***

May-June 2023, HIGaagilda Skidegate Courses:

Social-Ecological Change: An Introduction to Systems Thinking and Resilience  
Environmental Assessment in Cross-Cultural and Indigenous Contexts  
Plant Ecology & Diversity  
Indigenous Plant Knowledge: Ethnoecology & Ethnobotany

### **Haida Gwaii Semesters:**

#### ***Natural Resource Science***

September-December 2023, HIGaagilda Skidegate Courses:

Applied Ecology of Coastal Terrestrial Ecosystems  
Biophysical Dynamics of the Marine-Terrestrial Interface  
Ecology & Management of Island Wildlife  
Ecosystem Based Management  
Indigenous Governance & Land Stewardship

#### ***Community Resilience***

January-April 2024, HIGaagilda Skidegate Courses:

Introduction to Resilience Theory in Community  
Re-storying History: Indigenous Perspectives  
Language and Cultural Continuity  
Community Planning & Development for Resilience  
Community Resilience Seminar

## Online Courses

### **Online Undergraduate Courses:**

*Offered throughout the year*

Ocean People, Culture and Tradition  
Fisheries Co-management of the North Pacific Coast  
Marine Conservation in British Columbia  
Indigenous Fisheries Science  
Ecological Economics  
Language and Cultural Continuity  
Re-Storying History: Indigenous Perspectives

### **Professional Development:**

#### **Online Micro-certificate in Co-management of Natural Resources**

In this program, you may register for individual courses, but you must complete all three to receive the micro-certificate from the University of British Columbia.

Courses:

Social Change in Complex Systems  
Co-management  
Law and Governance





# Alumni Spotlight, Anna Socha

**You participated in our Semester in Natural Resource Studies in the Spring of 2018. What were some highlights / take-aways for you during your time in the program?**

The most influential part of the program for me was physically being on Haida Gwaii and learning from Haida instructors and guest speakers face to face in their ancestral territory. The community so generously shared their time and stories with us. Visiting the places we heard about in class (village sites, oral histories, cut blocks with cultural features marked) gave context to those stories making them all the more memorable.

I learned that western science and resource management is still playing catch up in many ways to Indigenous processes, practices, and ways of being that have been a part of the land and sea for generations. I learned from the personal stories that nothing is black and white, but rather rich in context and lived experiences that are best understood at the local level. The course contents supported our learning very well, however it was hearing the individual stories from the people themselves, and being in the physical places, that will stick with me much longer than any reading or project. Learning from the people of this island, on their land, was unforgettable.

**What have you been up to since graduating the program?**

After graduating the program, I stuck around on Haida Gwaii and was very fortunate to get a student job with Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve, National Marine Conservation Area Reserve, and Haida Heritage Site. This position built on some of the learnings from the semester program, and working with all of the knowledgeable local folk there shifted my perspective and understanding of how land and people relate and what intercultural land management can look like. I worked at Gwaii Haanas for two seasons while I was finishing my undergraduate degree in Geography, then found a position in Victoria with Trailmark Systems Consulting. As a junior consultant I supported work with Indigenous communities around Canada in their land use by mapping, organizing databases, archival research, qualitative and quantitative analysis, and graphic recording and visualization.

Although every community I worked with has their own unique context, lived experiences, and ways of being, I took the lessons from Haida Gwaii with me everywhere, and they supported that work immensely. Today I am back on Haida Gwaii working for the Haida Heritage Centre on a digital media project that is aiming to document Haida culture and heritage to increase awareness, understanding, access, and preservation. I am still learning every day and am so grateful for these opportunities that all started with my time at the Haida Gwaii Institute.

**You also recently completed our Online Micro-Certificate in Co-Management of Natural Resources. What was your experience like in this program?**

I was very impressed with the online micro-certificate. I'm generally not the biggest fan of online learning, but the accessibility in hours and remoteness created a fascinating classroom full of people from all different places and career paths. I found the layout and content of assignments manageable and enriching to complex issues in my work, and it seemed like they always found a way to relate to exactly what was going on in work or life. This program gave me a space to think and reflect after some years of working in the field, and the opportunity to recenter myself as a student in this world was just what I needed at that time.

**Any advice for prospective / future students of Haida Gwaii Institute?**

Just do it already!

Begin with Yahguudang *respect* for the people whose territories you are on and have been on before. Haida Gwaii is a gift to experience, and there are so many ways to give back here and in your home communities.



# Learning Locally On Haida Gwaii



## The Benefits of Place-Based Education

Place-based education is an approach to learning that emphasizes local environment, culture, and community as the starting points for education. This style of learning is designed to be immersive and experiential, allowing students to engage with the world around them and really see how their learning is relevant to their personal lives as well as the wider world.

At Haida Gwaii Institute, students learn from their experiences with instructors, valued Community Educators, and local Knowledge Holders. As the backdrop shifts between classroom, outdoor, and community settings, students are able to develop a deeper sense of perspective on a wide range of topics.

By connecting to real-world contexts, learners are able to see the value of their contributions in different settings through various projects and opportunities that relate back to local realities.

When students are learning in this style, they are more likely to feel engaged and motivated. For example, learning about local ecosystems (while immersed in said ecosystems) can help students more deeply understand interconnectedness, encouraging Systems Thinking and a more holistic approach to education.

At HGI, we feel that the heart of place-based learning is ultimately a commitment to building strong, resilient community. We believe that everyone has something to contribute, and that together, in collaboration, we can create a better future for ourselves and future generations. So whether you're a student who has travelled from far away to learn with us, or a local person who is interested in exploring new opportunities for learning and connection, we invite you to join us!



An eye-opening forest walk with Gaajiaawa, *Linda Tollas*

# Professional Development

We are thrilled with the positive feedback we have received from participants of our Online Micro-Certificate Program in Co-Management of Natural Resources and we are excited to be offering it again this fall. This program is designed for professionals and individuals interested in deepening their knowledge on the subject of Co-Management and can be taken at your own pace. It consists of three courses, although participants have the option to register for individual courses as well. This is a great chance to gain knowledge and skills in the area of co-management, regardless of your background or experience. Get in touch today for more information on how to register!

Haida artist, **Iljuuwaas Tyson Brown**, was commissioned to create a unique design that captures the complex subject of co-management. His stunning artwork will be featured as a print, which will be gifted to students upon completing our online micro-certificate.

The design represents the significance of co-management and serves as a tangible symbol of the knowledge and skills acquired through the program. In Tyson's words:

*"This design represents co-management in the form of a whale's tail. Both flukes of the tail have to work together to keep steady, forward-moving bearing. Each side of the tail has a human face inside of it, representing the parties involved in co-management - their tongues busy in conversation with one another. The diagonal hatching between the flukes represents coming together in a mutual pursuit. If we establish common values and move toward them as one, we will all be better off."*  
**Iljuuwaas, 2022**



## Student Housing Callout



**More HGI students  
will be arriving on  
Haida Gwaii soon!**

Do you have a furnished room, apartment, cabin, or house available for short term rental near Daajing Giids or HIGaagilda Skidegate this fall? Ask us how to list your space!





# Haida Gwaii Semester in: Community Resilience

**We** are especially excited about the upcoming Semester in Community Resilience, which will feature newly developed courses, as well as courses previously only offered online.

This semester promises to be unique and engaging, providing students with valuable tools and strategies for building capacity for change and increasing resilience in communities.

We encourage all interested students to apply early to avoid waitlists and ensure a spot!

"I am overjoyed with the opportunity and honour to instruct for the Haida Gwaii Institute. I am able to apply my passions of Haida language, correcting the historical record, and education in a meaningful manner, by shaping crucial conversations and promoting a shift in our collective understandings of Indigenous histories and on-going issues created by Canadian colonialism. I enjoy sharing my favourite Indigenous voices and resources, with almost all of my course material created by Indigenous knowledge holders, academics, and creatives. I am also able to uplift and highlight my favourite Haida educators, inviting them to come share their knowledge with my classes and to enhance the educational journey of HGI students. Haw'aa, dalang ahl kíl'láagang."

– **Jaskwaan Bedard**  
*Instructor*



## Instructor Callout

Haida Gwaii Institute is beginning the search for experienced instructors to work with us in our upcoming Semester in Community Resilience. We have teaching opportunities available in the following courses: *HGSE 373: Community Planning and Development for Resilience*, and *HGSE 374: Community Resilience Seminar*. Please see the full course descriptions on our website and get in touch if you are interested in applying!



# Staff Updates

*Our hardworking team shares a common passion for delivering transformative education inspired by Haida Gwaii. We are incredibly grateful for their contributions and ongoing support. Together, we foster supportive community. Together, we continue to evolve and grow. Together, we learn.*



This year we are saying a heartfelt farewell to **Carlos Ormond** after many years of devoted work with HGI as Director. We are wishing him incredible success in his new role at UBC as Director of Indigenous and Intercultural Initiatives. All the very best,



We are happy to welcome **K'iinuwaas Carrie Anne Vanderhoop** as our new Director! Carrie Anne has worked with HGI for many years as Indigenous Community Initiatives Manager and we are excited to have her lead us forward in her new position.



Some great news came last fall when our usual Operations Manager, **Emily Sky Collins**, welcomed her second child! Em will be away on maternity leave until February 2024. Congratulations, Em and family!



We've been fortunate to have **Jaad Aahlang K'uuyangs Verica Yovanovich**, our usual program coordinator, step into the Interim Operations Manager role. Verica is dedicated to her work and keeps things running smoothly. Haawa for your



We are also extending a warm welcome to our Interim Program Coordinator, **Katie Powell**! Haawa, Katie, for your contributions to our team!



Some serious appreciation goes out to our Finance and HR Manager, **Deborah Pearson**, for her continuous hard work and dedication. We think Deb is the definition of a POWERHOUSE! We are lucky to have you, Deb!

**Haawa | Haw'aa | Thank you** to our Funders, Dean's Advisory Committee, Community Educators, Instructors, and students for your contributions and commitment to overall excellence!

**Sk'aadGa Gud ad is Learning Together**





# Other Updates

## ***If you're looking to learn more about what we do...***

**Come** to our upcoming "Lunch and Learn" open House! We invite you to join us on Monday, May 29th from 11:30AM-1:30PM in Classroom 2 at the Haida Gwaii Museum. Enjoy delicious food, get to know the team, and have any questions answered that may be on your mind. We look forward to seeing you there!

## ***New Partnerships...***

This past winter term, Co-Creating Aquatic Science, a new graduate level course, was offered for the first time through a partnership with UBC's Centre for Indigenous Fisheries and **Dr. Andrea Reid**, who co-taught the course with **Kii'iljuus Barbara Wilson**. The course was developed with members of the Haida Nation, HGI staff and UBC Faculty. The course was delivered mostly online and finished with the students visiting Haida Gwaii for a capstone gathering.

This partnership with UBC's Centre for Indigenous Fisheries will continue with an offering of a new online undergraduate course this Summer, HGSE 320A Indigenous Fisheries Science, taught by Dr. Andrea Reid.

## ***Reminder to all Haida Gwaii Residents / UBC Forestry students...***

There are bursary opportunities available through Gwaii Trust and UBC that can help support your tuition and / or travel expenses. We encourage you to explore these options for financial assistance and open the door to new learning opportunities! For more information on eligibility and application deadlines, please feel free to contact us directly at [hg.institute@ubc.ca](mailto:hg.institute@ubc.ca).

## ***Community Events...***

This year we had the opportunity to attend various career fairs and events. We really loved being able to connect with local folks and share our passion for education! We always enjoy time spent in the community and really hope to continue making these connections in the future.



***We would like to respectfully acknowledge that we are located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Haida people.***

***We extend our deep gratitude to the Haida Nation for their hospitality and support.***





## A Day in the Life!







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