

# HAIDA GWAII INSTITUTE



## NEWSLETTER | 2024

2

Letter From the  
Director, K'iinuwaas  
*Carrie Anne  
Vanderhoop*

4

Programs in Review:  
Plants, People, and  
Place; Natural  
Resource Science

8

Student Spotlight:  
Catching up With  
Vera Oriava,  
Recent HGI Graduate

10

Welcome back, Emily  
Sky Collins!  
Hear what she's been up  
to during her time away.

# Letter From the Director

Here's what Haida Gwaii Institute's Director, Carrie Anne Vanderhoop, has to say about what's coming up!



Spring has arrived on Haida Gwaii, this time of year, whales are a welcome sight off the shores in front of the Kay, Haida Gwaii Museum and Haida Heritage Centre, where our offices and main classroom are located. Throughout this season of renewal and the returning of our warmer weather residents, migratory birds and whales; we reflect on the past year with a focus on the future, bringing forward lessons learned to our work in areas for new growth and areas where we can renew and refresh.

This past year has been a transitional time for HGI and as a team, we have navigated challenges and setbacks, celebrated successes, and we've continued to deliver transformative educational experiences online and in person. We are building new and exciting partnerships and expanding existing programs. We are also continuously working to improve our own systems and organizational structure to become more adaptive and resilient in times of change and uncertainty with consideration to how we can best serve our communities, partners and learners, while maintaining a culture of respect, wellness and balance in the workplace.

We are grateful for all the support of our local community partners and our partners at UBC Forestry and the communities and people of Haida Gwaii without whom our programs would not be possible.

Looking back at HGI Programs and online courses, this past fall, we had a great group of creative and adventurous students in our Natural Resource Science semester. From the students' arrival on Haida Gwaii, they could be seen out and about camping at North Beach/Tow Hill area, participating in the Agate Man Triathlon, volunteering at community events, hiking Sleeping Beauty and exploring Moresby Island on their bicycles.

We continue to offer a selection of online courses each term. This year we will be offering a few new online courses, so check out our website for the latest listings.

HGI's micro certificate professional development program, Co-Management in Natural Resources (CNR), has been quite the success. Since the first offering in Spring 2022, over 100 individuals have completed the program.

In May, we will be welcoming a new cohort of students for our Summer Session in Plants, People and Place. This summer we will also be hosting a cohort of UBC's Indigenous Teacher Education Program (NITEP) students for an offering of HGSE 371 Re-Storying History: Indigenous Perspectives, in Massett.

Applications and registration are open for upcoming Fall and Winter Semester programs and HGI online courses! Check out our website for details.

If you are interested in learning more about HGI and our programs and courses, please be in touch! We love to hear from you!

Haw'aa,  
Carrie Anne Vanderhoop  
Director HGI



# Upcoming Course Calendar 2024/25

To learn more about our upcoming programs/courses, or to apply, visit [hg institute.ca](http://hg institute.ca)

## Semester in Natural Resource Science | September to December 2024 & 2025

- HGSE 335 Applied Ecology of Coastal Terrestrial Ecosystems
- HGSE 356 Biophysical Dynamics of the Marine Terrestrial Interface
- HGSE 357 Ecology & Management of Island Wildlife
- HGSE 359 Ecosystem Based Management
- HGSE 352 Indigenous Governance & Land Stewardship

## Semester in Community Resilience | January to April 2025

- HGSE 370 Intro to Resilience Theory in Community
- HGSE 371 Re-Storying History: Indigenous Perspectives
- HGSE 372 Language & Cultural Continuity
- HGSE 381 Ecological Economics
- HGSE 373 Community Planning & Development for Resilience Seminar

## Summer Session in Plants, People & Place | May & June 2025

- HGSE 330 Social Ecological Change: An Intro to Systems Thinking & Resilience
- HGSE 331 Environmental Assessment in Cross-Cultural & Indigenous Contexts
- HGSE 332 Plant Ecology & Diversity
- HGSE 333 Indigenous Plant Knowledge: Ethnoecology & Ethnobotany

## Online Undergraduate Courses

- HGSE 360 Ocean People, Culture & Tradition - September to December 2024 & 2025
- HGSE 361 Fisheries Co-Management of the North Pacific Coast - September to December 2024 & 2025
- HGSE 394 Marine Conservation in BC - January to April 2025
- HGSE 311 Law & Governance: Indigenous & European Traditions - January to April 2025
- HGSE 312 Perspectives on Reconciliation - May to June 2025
- HGSE 383 Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship - July to August 2025

## Professional Development Micro-Certificate in Co-Management of Natural Resources

Offered online every spring and fall, exact dates to be announced

- Strategies for Creating Change in Complex Systems
- Co-Management
- Law & Governance

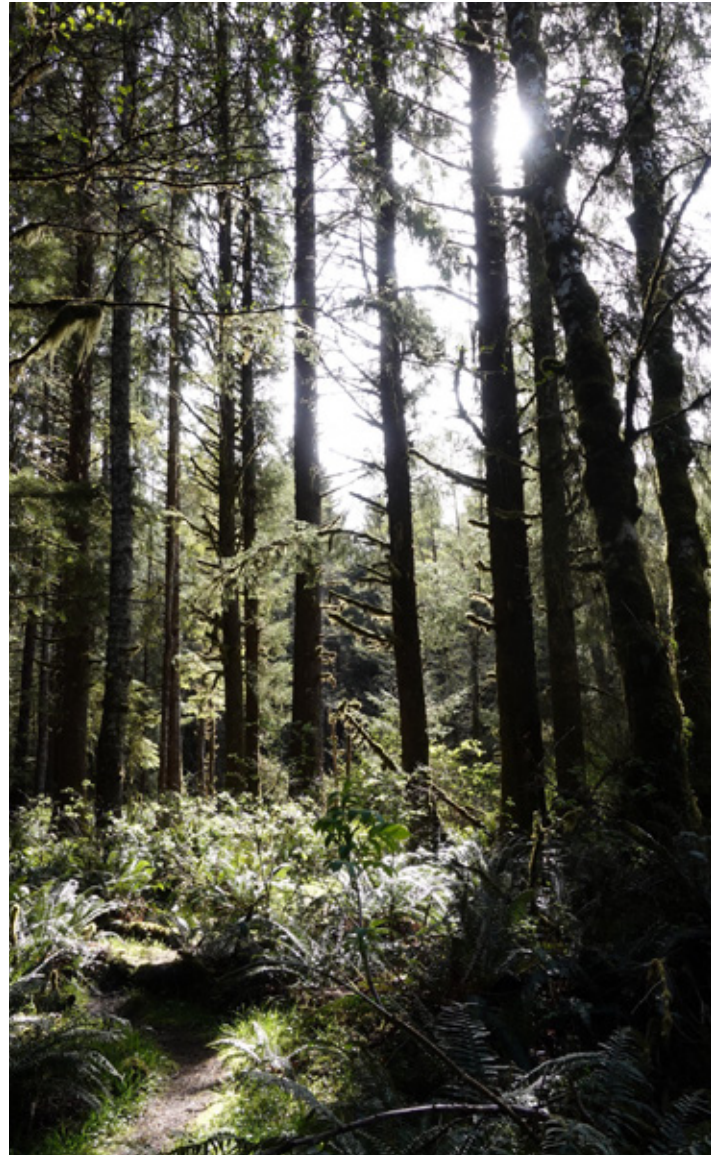


# Bridging the Gaps

## How Online Learning is Evolving at HGI

The education landscape is ever-evolving. At HGI we are continuing to expand our online programming, with the aim of opening avenues for learning and connecting. The HGI Online Micro Certificate in Co-management of Natural Resources has been a resounding success, and we are proud to continue offering this program! One of our goals in developing this unique program was to ensure that the ethos of place-based learning inspired by Haida Gwaii could still be felt, if even through a screen.

Through our online platform, we highlight case studies from Haida Gwaii, and voices from local guest speakers in order to provide current and relevant material. This course allows professionals across many sectors to critically consider the complexities of natural resource management. It focuses on institutional change, current co-management initiatives, and intercultural understanding. Requiring about 60 hours of engagement, participants are welcome to complete the program at their own pace over a period of two years, making it a great option for those with full schedules. To find more details, or to register, please visit [hgimstitute.ca](http://hgimstitute.ca). We also proudly offer an array of undergraduate level courses online, helping us remain committed to inclusivity and accessibility. All of our online



programs aim to engage students with important issues from a solutions-based approach. Find out more about political, ecological, and economic systems in HGSE 381: *Ecological Economics*, or consider the connections between language and culture in HGSE 372: *Language and Cultural Continuity*. For a full list of our online courses, see [hgimstitute.ca/online-learning](http://hgimstitute.ca/online-learning).



# Haida Gwaii Semester in Community Resilience

Coming January, 2025

**B**uilding on many of the foundational elements of our other semester offerings, the Semester in Community Resilience will deliver a transformative learning experience on Haida Gwaii. With a more sociological approach compared to our other programs, we will explore the dynamics of community strength and adaptation on Haida Gwaii. Concepts surrounding resilience and community strength will be at the core of this semester's curriculum. With a multidisciplinary approach, students will learn about the interconnected nature of people, place, and environment, drawing from both Western and Indigenous perspectives. With funding opportunities available for Haida Gwaii residents through Gwaii Trust, we welcome students of all educational backgrounds to apply to this innovative program, beginning in January, 2025.



## Summer Session in Plants, People, and Place



**T**he Haida Gwaii Summer Session in Plants, People, and Place offers a condensed and immersive learning experience, allowing students to expand their understanding of important concepts such as the intricate dynamics of social-ecological change, current environmental assessment models, and local plant ecology on Haida Gwaii.

The 2023 Summer Session saw 19 exceptional students from diverse educational backgrounds, who kept the atmosphere alive with engaging discussions. Together, we embraced place-based education, learning about traditional plants, community resilience, and realities of environmental sustainability, as seen here on Haida Gwaii. We really enjoyed seeing the group around town, as they grew and

made their own community connections! There were many highlights throughout the summer, inside and outside of class.

The sun was out almost every day this season, which made for some amazing field days. We were fortunate to spend many of those with local Community Educators from around the islands, including James Williams of Eagle Eye Tours, *Kii'iljuus Barb Wilson*, Gaajjiaawa *Linda Tollas*, SGang Gwaay *Dolly Garza*, and Kuunaajaad *Jenny Cross*.

Congratulations to the graduates of the 2023 Summer Session! You all brought so much to the program. We know you will take the lessons learned here forward into your futures!



The Haida Gwaii Summer Session was the most rewarding, interactive, and transformative school I've ever done. I came away with life lessons I still return to every day, deep friendships, and a better understanding of what I want to do with my career and my life. I'm so grateful to the team at HGI as well as the Haida Gwaii community as a whole for facilitating and for welcoming the students with open arms. It was truly life-changing and I plan to return to Haida Gwaii as soon as I can!

– Ella Winham, 2023 Summer Session Student



## Haida Gwaii Semester in Natural Resource Science

**T**he Haida Gwaii Semester in Natural Resource Science aims to provide students with diverse perspectives on subjects within natural resource management and environmental stewardship. Based in our commitment to place-based education, this program invites students to reflect on current industry practices, and consider emerging strategies that may inform future standards.

Throughout the Fall 2023 Semester, our crew embraced opportunities to learn alongside local Community Educators, and were able to gain deeper insights into various perspectives on land management and sustainability on Haida Gwaii. A major highlight for this group was their incredible trip to Gwaii Haanas, made possible by our friends at Haida Style

Expeditions! The sun was shining, the whales were extra social, and amazing connections were made. A special haawa goes out to Rob and Rhonda Russ, James Cowpar, and James Williams for warmly welcoming our students.

Courses such as Indigenous Governance and Land Stewardship, Applied Ecology of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Biophysical Dynamics of the Marine-Terrestrial Interface, Ecology and Management of Island Wildlife, and Ecosystem Based Management provided invaluable insights to the complex web of life on Haida Gwaii and across coastal BC. Haawa to our amazing instructors for a great semester, and congratulations to the graduates of the 2023 Fall Semester! We know you will continue to be agents of positive change in your communities and beyond!

From surveying salmon decay, to climbing mountain tops, my studies on Haida Gwaii were exactly what was missing from my undergraduate degree. The courses offered during the Fall Natural Resource Science semester do a great job of tying course content to local contexts, which allowed me to gain a deeper understanding and working knowledge of the material. Haida Gwaii is very unique in its history, ecology and community, which I was fortunate to be able to become immersed in thanks to the structure of HGI's schedule. You'll hear many times that you get out of this experience what you put into it, and I cannot stress enough how pertinent this is. If you're considering participating in a semester at the Haida Gwaii Institute, this is your sign to do it.

– Sephine Lauzé (UBC Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation), Fall 2023 Semester Student



# Student Spotlight: Vera Oriava

We caught up with Haida Gwaii resident, and recent HGI graduate, Vera Oriava. Hear what she has to say about her education experience in two of our in-person programs!



**HGI:** *Hey, Vera! Can you tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to Haida Gwaii?*

**Vera:** Hey! My name is Vera Oriava and I came to Haida Gwaii 3 years ago. I grew up in Terrace BC so I have roots in the north. I came to the islands to deepen my understanding of the ocean, and to spend time doing my favourite hobby, swimming! In my spare time I love to do cold ocean dips, go tidepooling, snorkelling, as well as freediving! I'm also an amateur stargazer, and love to spend the few clear nights we have here learning new star names and finding galaxies.

**What helped you decide to make Haida Gwaii Institute part of your education journey?**

I was really intrigued by the opportunity to have an academic learning experience that was grounded in place-based learning, and guided by the experience and wisdom of Haida elders. I have an interest in local plants, marine processes, and Haida culture. Spending weeks at

Kay 'Llnagaay at the Haida Heritage Centre was really amazing. I was a little apprehensive about the rigidity of post-secondary education, but I was really excited to access education in an integrated indoor-outdoor classroom setting! Attending the Haida Gwaii Institute seemed really ideal to me, as I could still access quality education in a field that appeals to me while staying at home and not having to move to an expensive city. It was also exciting to learn more about places I love already and deepen my understanding of them. Learning more about the amazing plants found in White Creek Bog, or going on a walk around Spirit Lake with Linda Tollas, it was really neat to connect with these places in a more nuanced way.

**You participated in two of our in-person programs this year: the Summer Session in Plants, People, and Place as well as the Semester in Natural Resource Science. Can you speak to your experience in each program? Any particular memories that stand out?**

Starting with the Summer Session, it was a 2 month block style program where every 2 weeks we studied a different course, while the Fall semester was 4 classes every 3 weeks, with a seminar throughout. This approach really appealed to me, as it was full of content regarding one subject, you could fully focus on one course at a time, and it was a short amount of time per course overall.

In the Summer Session we spent a lot of time outdoors identifying plants, looking at mosses and liverworts with our hand lenses, as well as scouting out tidepools to look at moonsnails, or learning about kelps with Dolly Garza! We also spent time at Tarundl learning about traditional Estuary Gardens and edible plants, making medicine with respectfully harvested local plant materials, and learning from amazing community members about how they use plant medicine. As well, we spent time with Sean Young and Dan McCarthy learning about systems thinking, how much policy affects conservation, and what it really looks like to navigate these systems while trying to help protect certain places and plants.

My favourite part about this semester was probably eating a Rice Lily Root and other edible estuarine roots for the first time! It was so cool to eat a traditional food resource that we overlook these days!

The Fall Semester brought in a different crew, heaps of new perspectives, and a different focus. There was a lot of focus on forestry, the impacts of logging, what regenerative and protective policies are in place here in Haida Gwaii. We also learned about the transfer of nutrients from the ocean to the forest via salmon and kelps that wash ashore. Surprisingly, my favourite class was the Ecosystem Based Management class, which explored the frameworks, policies, and biases that affect the way we make policy to affect change in our ecosystems. This class really enlightened the process of conservation, what modern efforts from Haida Gwaii and around the globe look like, and what making meaningful change can look like.





“

My understanding of how everything is completely interconnected in one system was greatly expanded upon in ways it is difficult to put into words!”

My favourite moment from this semester was when we went to Gwaii Haanas as a class. We saw so many incredible whales such as Orcas, Humpbacks, and Fin Whales. Haida Style did an excellent job taking us around, sharing fascinating traditional Haida knowledge about various places, and we left filled with respect, wonder, and amazement at the day.

***Amazing! What would you say to other Haida Gwaii residents who might be considering applying to HGI?***

If you have the time to take it, and you're curious to learn more about Haida Gwaii from different perspectives, from local Haida Elders, scientists and policy makers, you should definitely consider applying! My appreciation for the place we live in was deepened in ways I didn't expect, and I was very grateful for all the lessons learned along the way.

**What are your next steps from here? What lessons will you be taking with you?**

My next steps are to continue my studies! I'm focusing on online school at the moment so I can stay here as long as possible before leaving, and then I shall pursue a degree in biology and geoscience. There are so many lessons I will be taking with me, it's

hard to dilute 5 months of intense full days of learning into a short response but I'll try...

One of the key themes throughout each session was the idea of Gina 'waadluxan gud ad kwaagid, or Interconnectedness. My understanding of how everything is completely interconnected in one system was greatly expanded upon in ways it is difficult to put into words! I think the Land-Sea-People plan said it best when they said to see Gwaii Haanas "from mountaintop to sea floor, as one single, interconnected ecosystem."

This shift in perspective of seeing things as composite parts instead of as a greater whole echoes out into my life in so many ways, such as in my personal relationships, the way I understand community, and the way I see the entire world/planet that we live on.

***Haawa | Haw'aa, Vera! We really appreciated your contributions as a student during your time with us!***

Thank you so much team for being so wonderful and putting on this amazing program!! I wouldn't have had the success I had last year without the help of Katie, Verica, Carrie-Anne, and Debbie! You guys rock :)

## Welcome Back!

With many years of experience in her role as Operations Manager, Emily Sky Collins is a guiding force for HGI. We are so happy to have her back in office!



I've been busy at home for the past couple of years, with two back to back babies and maternity leaves. It has been a wild adventure, chasing after two little creatures! While I have really enjoyed my leave, I'm excited to be back in action with the Haida Gwaii Institute. Our organization's guiding principle of Sk'aadGa Gud ad is Learning Together has taken on new meaning for me as a parent and I've been reflecting on the balance of teaching and learning alongside Parker and Callie.

During my time away I've had the privilege of attending the amazing Xaayda Kil Hltaalga Skidegate Language Nest learning from Chinaay Herb Jones, Dáall Jaad Mel Gravelle, and Xamjuu Tristan Gravelle. Language Nests are immersion-based programs that foster traditional language development in kids under five years old, and incidentally, their parents. It was a real honour to attend these daily classes with my children, to learn from our incredible teachers, and for us

to practice speaking xaayda kil together. Asing dang hll king gas ga *I will see you all again!* I've also been lucky to serve on the Islands Wellness Society's Board in an effort to support their important, community-based work. IWS offers an incredible range of local programs aimed to promote empowerment and equality, overcome trauma and address violence, and ultimately, to enrich the lives of children and families on Haida Gwaii.

But it's good to be back! We have such a great team of people working together here at HGI, pouring energy into all levels of programming and operations. Everyone brings something special and unique to the planning table, which I believe adds immensely to the quality and design of our courses. A very big haawa to the wonderful Verica Yovanovich for stepping into my position and keeping things moving along in my absence (and for watering my jungle of plants)! Looking ahead I am very excited to reconnect with our intrepid instructors and community educators, to jump into some new projects, and to help share the magic of Haida Gwaii with our next group of students.

## All the Best!



Dedicated, positive, hilarious, kind, and all around amazing. Those are just a few words to describe the one and only Verica Yovanovich!! It's impossible to say goodbye to such a valued member of our very small team, so we will simply say a heartfelt "see you around." Wishing you all the best in your exciting new venture, Verica! Stay cool, buddy!



## Our Staff



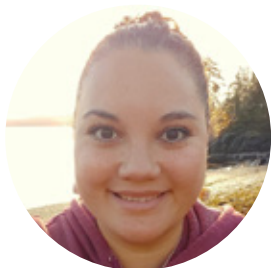
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Director



Emily Sky Collins  
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Operations Manager



Deborah Pearson  
HR and Finance Director



Verica Yovanovich  
Online Learning Support  
Coordinator



Katie Lelaina Powell  
Program Coordinator

## Connect With Us

If you're looking for more information about Haida Gwaii Institute, please get in touch with us! You can find us at [hg.institute.ca](https://hg.institute.ca) where you can join our mailing list, or you can email us directly at [hg.institute@ubc.ca](mailto:hg.institute@ubc.ca). We also post regularly on all of our social media channels (@hg.institute), so keep an eye out for updates! If you're interested in working with us, please see the 'work with us' page on our website.



*We would like to 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.*



**HAIDA GWAII**  
INSTITUTE

