DEAN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STUDENT VENTURE GRANT APPLICATION

Please read all instructions and regulations on the reverse side of this sheet prior to the completion of this form. The 8 copies of your proposal are due in the Dean's Office on the 2nd Friday of the Block by 1:00 p.m. If you have questions, please contact Rita Zook at x6686 or email rzook@coloradocollege.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED _______ April 2, 2010 _______

NAME ______________________ CLASS ______ WORNER BOX ______ EXT. ______

ID # ______________________ HOMETOWN (Not Address) ______________________

NAME ______________________ CLASS ______ WORNER BOX ______ EXT. ______

ID # ______________________ HOMETOWN (Not Address) ______________________

STUDENT RESEARCH ______ X ______ LIFE OF THE MIND ______ CONFERENCE ______

PROJECT TITLE
Exploring the Environmental Efforts of the Haida People

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INTENDED USE OF FUNDS
I plan to spend one month conducting research on the relationship between the council of the First Nation and the Province of British Columbia in regards to protecting the environment. I will explore how quasi-sovereign nations work with sovereign nations to create environmental policy.

PROPOSED DATE/BLOCK OF USE August 6 - September 6, 2010

NAME OF FACULTY SPONSOR Takeshi Ito

HAVE YOU BEEN THE RECIPIENT OF A PREVIOUS VENTURE GRANT Yes ______ No X

IF SO, WHAT AMOUNT? ______ WHEN? ______ REPORT SUBMITTED? ______

TOTAL AMOUNT OF VENTURE FUNDS NOW REQUESTED ______

ARE YOU SEEKING OTHER FUNDING FOR THIS PROPOSAL? Yes ______ No ______

IF YES, WHAT IS THE SOURCE? National Geographic Young Explorers Grant,
Polatc Science Department, President's Fund.

If this proposal is approved, I understand that it is my responsibility to notify the Dean's Office immediately if I do not pursue my project as proposed to the Dean's Advisory Committee. I further understand that all funds are to be used according to the proposal as submitted and approved by the Dean's Advisory Committee. Any changes to an approved project must be submitted to the Chair of the Committee for approval. Please note: the IRS requires that we report Venture Funds as taxable income.

SIGNATURE _______ DATE _______ April 2, 2010 _______

Approved _______
April 2, 2010
Venture Grant Proposal
Exploring the Environmental Efforts of the Haida People

For thousands of years, the Haida people have lived among year-round snow-capped mountains coated in mist-enshrouded rain forests, which plunge to wind-swept sandy beaches; the islands where their legends say time began. They call them the Islands at the Boundary of the World, or Xhaaidlagaha Gwaayaa. The Haida Gwaii Islands are located one hundred and fifty miles west off the coast of British Columbia, north of Vancouver Islands. In 1980, the Council of the Haida Nation formed as the governing entity of the Haida people. The mission of the Council, as stated by a local conservation group, is “to protect and assert Aboriginal Title and the collective rights of the people. Since its inception, the [council of the Haida Nation] has been successful in securing protection for some areas of the Islands as well as pushing for more sustainable use of Island resources.”¹ I plan to spend one month conducting research on the relationship between the Council of the Haida First Nation and the Province of British Columbia in regards to protecting the environment. In studying this relationship, I will be exploring how quasi-sovereign groups work with sovereign nations to create environmental policy and how different governing bodies work together to co-manage land and marine areas, specifically in and around Haida Gwaii.

As a political science major graduating in May, I am interested in pursuing a career in public policy. I am fascinated by the collaborative nature of public policy as it relates to local communities. To be successful in the field of public policy, I must have a thorough understanding of bottom-up movements and the structure of sovereign nations to

quasi-sovereign groups. By completing such a project in Haida Gwaii, I will not only gain a better understanding of what this entails, but I will also be stronger candidate for future admission to graduate programs.

The ecosystem of Haida Gwaii is crucial to the culture of the Haida people. Haida culture centers around the unique ecological environment of the Haida Gwaii Islands. Scattered around the southern half of the islands are rare ecological sites guarded twenty-four hours a day by watchmen, which is indicative of the cultural value of these sites. Since 1911, when the treacherous waters of the Hecate Strait were first crossed by foreigners, the Haida people have continued to preserve their environment despite devastating disease, modernization, and decreasing population to protect their valued homeland. I plan to study aboriginal and treaty rights of the First Nation in forest use, forest policy, land use planning, and protection of marine life in the unique Haida Gwaii environment. I will also research the role that local groups, comprised of Haida and non-Haida, play in determining such policies. In studying the collaborative relationship between the Haida First Nation and the Province of British Columbia, I will be able to better understand how public policy functions in an area governed as both a quasi-sovereign and sovereign nation. I look at public records and meet with community leaders to better comprehend this relationship.

The timing of my project is crucial. On January 16, 2010 the Canadian Government and the Council of the Haida Nation signed a treaty, known as the Gwaii Haanas Marine Management Agreement, to share the management of waters around Gwaii Haanas. In December of 2009, both parties agreed to officially change the official name from the Queen Charlotte Islands to Haida Gwaii, an act that demonstrates the
Canadian government’s commitment to respecting the Haida people and their culture. Such agreements support the Strategic Land Use Agreement signed by The Council of the Haida Nation and the Province of British Columbia in 2007.

Looming over all of Haida Gwaii is a major industrial threat in the form of a pipeline proposed to carry oil from the Alberta tar sands to tankers plying the coastal waters of British Columbia. The possibility of a major oil spill from the Enbridge pipeline in Gwaii Haanas has led to strong anti-pipeline initiatives among the Haida. One objective of my research project is to explore how the Haida Nation will oppose the threat of an oil spill from the Endbridge pipeline. Another goal of my project is to investigate the opposing actions taken by local groups to combat the serious hazards that face their environment.

The uniqueness of my project stems from the fact that the Haida are a remote and under-studied culture. While the topic of Haida art has been explored in great detail, the role of the Haida Nation in environmental policy has not been fully documented. By traveling to Haida Gwaii, I will be able to attend meetings and events organized by active Haida groups who are working to protect the environment and enact policy.

I am currently in contact with several politically active organizations in Haida Gwaii, the Haida Gwaii Roots and Shoots chapter, the Sierra Club, the Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society, and the Haida Heritage Center. The Haida Gwaii Roots and Shoots chapter, chaired by Allison Gear, is a program committed to helping young people identify environmental problems and take action in their communities. Through Roots and Shoots, I will learn about the traditional relationship between the land and the Haida people. I will also spend time with Roots and Shoots members, children ages five to ten,
who are currently working to protect the land. The Sierra Club of British Columbia is
moving to protect the Hecate Strait from tanker traffic and addressing the pressuring
issues of the Enbridge pipeline. Jacques Morin, chair of the Haida Chapter, holds a
summer hiking series where I will be able to speak with members and learn about
grassroots movements behind public policy. Hilary Thrope, a professor at the Hiada
Gwaii Higher Education Society and Laurel Currie, director of the society, have agreed to
meet with me and give me a pedagogical insight into the workings of the Haida Nation.

I will also have the opportunity to spend time with Guujaaw, the current chief and
president of the Haida Nation. In the mid 1980’s, Guujaaw led the fight for the
protection of Gwaii Haanas National Marine Park, which he now co-manages with the
Province of British Columbia. Before becoming President in 2000, Guujaaw served as
the negotiator for the Council. As negotiator his work focused the policies issues of
Gwaii Hannas. Guujaaw was instrumental in the formation of Coastal First Nations, an
alliance between the First Nations on British Columbia’s central and north coast and
Haida Gwaii. The Coastal First Nations is a group committed to managing the natural
resources of British Columbia. The Coastal First Nations collaborative relationship with
the Province of British Columbia have been positive and successful.

Severn Suzuki, who is acting as my local contact, has introduced me to various
tribal leaders and community activists. Severn is one of British Columbia’s leading
environmentalists. As founder of the Environmental Children Organization at the age of
nine and as a speaker at the Earth Summit in Rio at the age of twelve, Severn plays an
active role in environmental policy making. I will also to meet with her father, David
Suzuki, founder of the David Suzuki Foundation. David is an internationally known
environmentalist and an avid critic of both Canadian and global environmental policy.

From David, I will be able to learn how the issues in Haida Gwaii relate on a global scale.

The results of my findings will be published in a blog format, in the studentspeak section of the CC website. I am currently a second round finalist for funding from the National Geographic Young Explorers Grant. If approved, my results will also be published on the National Geographic website. By using the internet I will be able to reach a broad and diverse audience.

**Schedule: August 6- September 6, 2010**


August 7-8: Drive from Seattle to Prince Rupert. Lodging halfway through drive in Williams Lake at Sandman Inn, 664 Oliver Street, Williams Lake, BC V2G 1M6. Take 10:00pm ferry from Prince Rupert to Skidegate, arrive in Skidegate at 6:00am.

August 9- September 3: Meet with prominent Haida leaders, leading environmental activists, and members of the community. Conduct research. Camp at the Bunkhouse Campground, 921 3rd Avenue, Queen Charlotte. 

*Research includes, but is not limited to, meeting with:* 
Roots and Shoots- Alison Chair 
Haida Heritage Society- Jason Alsop 
Sierra Club of British Columbia, Haida Chapter- Jacques Morin 
Haida Gwaii Higher Education Society- Laurel Currie and Hilary Thorpe 
Moresby Explorers, Heron Wier 
Guujaaw, President of the Council of the First Haida Nation 
Kevin Boserio 
Seven Suzuki 
David Suzuki 

September 3: Leave Skidegate on 11:00pm ferry, arrive in Prince Rupert at 6:45am.

September 4-5: Drive from Prince Rupert to Seattle, lodging in Williams Lake at Sandman Inn.

September 5: Lodging at the Smith house in Bellevue.

September 6: Fly from Seattle to Chicago.
Budget

Transportation
Roundtrip plane ticket from Chicago to Seattle as of 3/02/10..............................$390
Gas from Seattle to Prince Rupert, 1000 miles at 48.5 cents per mile x 2.............$970
Gas around Queen Charlotte Islands, 300 miles at 48.5 cents per mile.............$145
Ferry from Prince Rupert to Skidegate, 1 passenger x 2 trips............................$78
Ferry from Prince Rupert to Skidegate, 1 vehicle x 2 trips.............................$280

Food
$20 a day x 30 days......................................................................................$600

Lodging
Hotel in Williams Lake, BC, $90 x 2 nights...............................................$180
Camping, $25 x 25 nights............................................................................$625

Total Costs: $3298
Total Amount Requested: $1000

Measures taken to reduce costs
I have taken every possible measure to reduce my costs in a safe and environmental friendly manner. Driving from Seattle to Prince Rupert significantly reduces my costs. Flights from Chicago to Skidegate are over $1500, plus additional transportation costs around Haida Gwaii, make driving more financially feasible. Without a personal vehicle in Haida Gwaii, I am limited in the people I can meet and the pertinent places I can visit. Public transportation on Haida Gwaii is unreliable and scarce. By driving, I will be able to purchase bulk food in Seattle. Food available for purchase in Haida Gwaii is imported and thus overpriced. Camping in Haida Gwaii and staying with friends when possible also reduces my costs.

I realize that the Venture Grant Committee funds applicants up to 1000 dollars for proposed opportunities. Part of the cost of my travel is a testament to the remoteness and undocumented nature of the area I seek to explore. I am also seeking funds from the Political Science Department and the President’s discretionary fund. I am a finalist for the National Geographic Young Explorers Grant. Thank you for allowing the opportunity to propose such an adventure and I assure that I have made every effort to be precise and accurate in my planning.
Reading List

*All That We Say Is Ours: Guujaaw and the Reawakening of the Haida Nation*, Ian Gill

*The Golden Spruce: A True Story of Myth, Madness and Greed*, John Vaillant

*Haida Gwaii, Human History and Environment form the Time of Loon to the Time of the Iron People*, Daryl Fedje and Rolf Mathewes

*Islands at the Edge: Preserving the Queen Charlotte Islands Wilderness*, Island Protection Society

*Paradise Won: the struggle for South Moresby*, Elizabeth May

*Report on the Queen Charlotte Islands*, George Dawson

Works Cited


