



SAUNNA Aviisi

Systems Approaches to Understanding and Navigating the New Arctic
ISSUE 1 • WINTER 2023

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This material is based on work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DGE-2021713. Any opinions, findings, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

What is SAUNNA?

The *Systems Approaches to Understanding and Navigating the New Arctic* is a graduate student education program based at the University of Maine, USA. Every year, SAUNNA participants spend several weeks in South Greenland.

The program trains students to use multiple perspectives, types of knowledge, and scientific expertise to learn about and address the challenges of socio-environmental changes in the Arctic.

Welcome to the first edition of SAUNNA Aviisi (*Greenlandic for 'news'*)!

Through this newsletter, we aim to sustain existing connections between Greenland and Maine, and to make new connections by sharing information and ensuring that research from scientists is accessible.

Thank you for reading! We value your feedback, suggestions, and ideas of how we can work together. Find out how to connect with us on page 2.

Greenland Field Experience June 2022

Learning from People and Place

In June 2022, a group of 24 students and professors travelled to South Greenland for three weeks to participate in the inaugural SAUNNA Greenland Field Experience.



Glacial-Marine Module near Qassiaruk

Based in Qassiaruk, the first week was focused on experiential learning and team-building through a series of systems science modules. Topics included glacial-marine connections, the Arctic carbon cycle, and Arctic law and policy.



Arctic Carbon Cycle Module near Tasiusaq

Greenland Field Experience June 2022 (Continued)

Learning from People and Place (Continued)

We also toured Norse and Inuit ruins with UNESCO guide Aqqaluaq Frederiksen, and we took part in educational site visits to Elna Jensen and Henrik Knudsen's sheep farm in Sillisit and the Innovation South Greenland office in Qaqortoq.

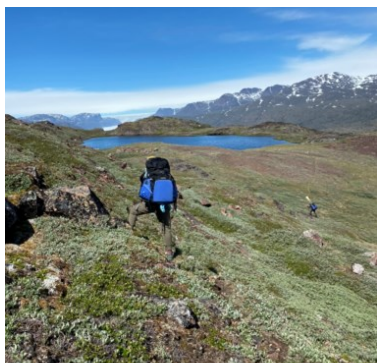


Innovation South Greenland staff hosting SAUNNA participants

Aligning Research with Local Priorities

After the first week of experiential learning and team-building, we spent two weeks launching several research projects:

- Rapid Change in Tidewater Glacier and Fjord Systems
- Arctic Freshwater Resource Management and Climate Change
- Agritourism and Sheep Farming



Research team hiking with water sampling gear to freshwater lake

Preliminary analysis of the data we collected is ongoing.

We are also reconnecting with Greenland partners and others who are interested to ensure that our follow-up research activities are aligned with local priorities.



Elna Jensen discussing sheep farming with Ligia Naveira (UMaine)



Aqqaluaq Frederiksen providing a tour of the Norse long house



Kristin Schild (UMaine) collecting tide-water glacier data by kayak


Getting Involved in June 2023

We are returning to South Greenland in June 2023 and there are many ways to get involved with SAUNNA:

- 1) We are very interested in working with sheep farms.
- 2) Several projects have roles for local research assistants.
- 3) We are always looking to collaborate with Greenland partners such as schools, community groups, or other organizations on new ideas.

Connect with Us

 <https://umaine.edu/arcticnr/>

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