2017
Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity (URECA)

Project Final Report

Within one month of project completion and no later than July 15, 2017, please provide an informative but concise (1-2pp) report that addresses the questions/items below. Please submit reports, along with any project photos that you approve of being distributed or publicized, to both kmjensen@alaska.edu and bbuma@alaska.edu.

Your Name: **Elise Sorum-Birk**
Your Faculty Mentor: **Glenn Wright**

(1) What was the original project objective or purpose?
My goal was to create an interactive app of Tlingit place names in the Juneau area in order to use it as a tool for education and resource management. The secondary objective was to write an academic paper about the project and to present at the Alaska Native Studies Conference in Fairbanks.

(2) With respect to your proposed project activities, what have you achieved thus far?
Most of the base work using GIS ArcMap is complete for Douglas Island places as well as the places near UAS and downtown Juneau. There are many more places to include and the ArcMap files need to be put into app format using the ERSI platform. The paper is close to being ready to submit for publication. I presented my work at the Alaska Native Studies Conference this spring and received varied feedback from the indigenous community about my project.

(3) Please explain any departures from your original project objectives, proposed activities, and/or notable budget changes.
Initially I hoped to have my data into an app format before this summer in order to field test it with children at my school and this has not happened yet. Also fees for app building platform that were budgeted for will not apply since UAS has access to ERSI's app platform which seems like the best tool for finalizing this project. At the Alaska Native Studies Conference it was also brought to my attention that Sealaska has a similar project that they are undertaking and suggested that I contact them. If Sealaska is interested in partnership then my work may benefit them as well and help them with the development of their app.

(4) What is the current status of your project? If not complete, when do you anticipate completing it? Do you plan to spend any more of the remaining funding?

The project is not yet complete and access to UAS computers has been an issue over the summer due to my work schedule. I intend to get my map to published format by the end of this coming semester, but due to the nature of the app and how much information there is to include the app will most likely continue to

evolve and more information will need to be added to it throughout time. I hope to have my paper submitted for possible publication by the end of September.

(5) Please summarize the project outcomes and/or any tangible products that resulted (or will result) from the project.
The app and the paper will be the actual tangible products resulting from this work.

(6) Please communicate the personal significance of your project, such as the impacts of the project on your education and experience at UAS; impacts on your future interests and outlook; how this project influenced your relationship with a faculty member; or simply use this space to provide some perspective about research & creative activities for students at UAS.
While I started out this project simply because of personal interest and a need I saw for more understanding of the Tlingit concept of place among the general public and the children I worked with, I have so far been pleasantly surprised by the insight it has given me into the indigenous community and into the process of academic research. I feel that this project has helped me to broaden my own perspectives in relation to my understanding of the place where I live. I also feel that the experience of presenting at the URECA symposium and Alaska Native Studies Conference was a very good introduction to sharing knowledge in an academic way and participating in both of these events was a growth experience for me.

Example of an info box in the existing map: