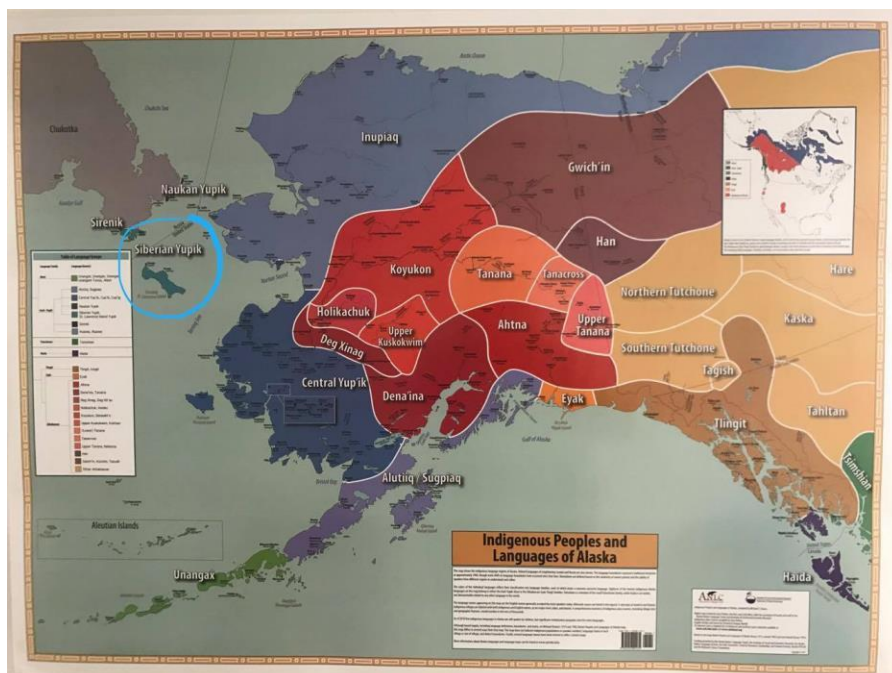


**Anny Lei, 2018, Linguistics/Cognitive Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Champaign, IL
Multicultural Alumni Network (MCAN)**

My summer internship at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with Professors Lane Schwartz and Sylvia Schreiner was a project on the documentation and maintenance of the endangered language Central Siberian Yupik (CSY). This ongoing project seeks to develop both conventional and computational tools for language documentation, analysis, maintenance, and revitalization. Amid my internship, they conducted a week of fieldwork on St. Lawrence island, mainly in the village of Gambell, located west of mainland Alaska. Although I was not able to go with them, after the trip, one of the tasks I assisted with was transcribing the audio files from native Yupik speakers obtained from their elicitation sessions. Below is a map of the Indigenous Peoples and Languages of Alaska (the circled part is where the fieldwork was conducted):



Through this internship, I was more informed about the process of starting a language documentation project from scratch and what that entails. The process is, to my surprise at the

time, painstakingly-slow and it is certainly not suited for every linguist out there. However, working on the language project was just a small part of what my supervisors did daily. Thus, this also allowed me to see what other parts of their jobs consist of. I thought that could be helpful if I decide to pursue a career in academia in the future.

The internship called for a lot of individual work. Because I was the only intern there this summer besides another graduate student, staying organized, planning, and finishing tasks on time were important. It was nice to work on my own timeline, but that also meant I had to turn in work that was satisfactory. Reflecting on this experience, I am grateful to my supervisors, who trusted me to finish the assigned tasks and then communicate with them accordingly. Through this, I strengthened my organization and communication skills, which are critical as I venture to other work places.



One of the main buildings surrounding the main “Quad”: Foellinger Auditorium



My work place: the Foreign Languages Building

Another key lesson I continue to reflect on throughout my years at Carleton is not to be afraid to ask for help if I really need it. Every one works at a difference pace and that is okay.

People in the work place, especially for internships, generally want to help you with your professional development. I felt supported throughout my time at UIUC and was comfortable to reach out to either of my supervisors if I had any questions or concerns.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge my supervisors Professors Sylvia Schreiner ('05) and Lane Schwartz for providing me with this internship opportunity, and the MCAN organization for funding my summer internship. I also would like to thank my advisor/mentor Professor Cherlon Ussery and Rachel Leatham from the Career Center for their continued support and advice throughout this entire process.