

Staff Bios for Zender Environmental Health and Research Group

Dr. Lynn Zender received her Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 1999 from University of California. The degree focuses on water, wastewater, waste, and air quality treatment systems, while her applied doctoral work was specific to waste management issues experienced by Tribes that differ from other communities, involved working directly with and for a number of Northwest Tribes, and included in addition the first (and only) manual on assessing illegal rural community open dumps. While at Davis in the first several years, she worked on treatment of wastewater through naturally constructed wetlands, including aquatic geochemical processes, contaminant transport, and pathogen treatment, knowledge which she uses extensively in work with Alaska villages because the sewage and honeybucket lagoons of high- and extreme-needs villages are generally natural pond/wetland treatment systems, many of which exceed designed retention time. Dr. Zender also completed a Masters in Environmental Systems Engineering and Modeling, focusing on modeling the function of complex natural environmental systems for water quality and quantity (i.e. fate and transport), while taking applied course and field work in appropriate technology, international development, and public health. She has instructed solid waste management and landfill design at the university and technical trade school level, and is an active member of SWANA, among other organizations. Dr. Zender has been working on waste and broader environmental management issues in rural and Tribal communities since 1994, with the first Alaska case studies in 1995. She has designed and directed numerous statewide and national projects related to environmental health risks, and is a trained Tribal Lifeline Risk Assessor. Projects include the first statewide assessment on conditions and risks related to village waste sites, and to co-mingled and adjacent honeybucket disposal practices. Dr. Zender is the Executive Director of Zender Environmental Health and Research Group.

Simone Sebalo, has a Master's and Bachelor's degree in environmental/civil engineering from UC Davis. She conducted her thesis work on the challenges and issues pertaining to implementing an alternative option to honeybucket use in rural Alaska, with a case *in situ* Western Alaska Village demonstration study of compost toilet socio-cultural introduction issues, logistical challenges, and *in situ* residential performance for a cross section of family demographics. Simone worked with Dr. Zender as an undergraduate research assistant in studying waste management issues with Tribes before entering private business as an environmental engineer for five years, returning to work with Tribal waste and environmental issues in 1999 with Dr. Zender on a baseline solid waste state assessment project. She has agency experience, having worked for the EPA Region 9 Tribal Program. Simone has been involved in a primary capacity in all of Zender's larger projects, and has led a number of individual solid waste/environmental projects for Villages over the past 14 years.

Sean Peterson M.S. spent the majority of his childhood in the Southwest Alaskan villages of Togiak and Koliganek. He spent 8.5 years in the United States Navy (USN) as a Sonar Technician, during which time he received his Bachelors of Science degree in Environmental Management. Upon receiving an honorable discharge from the USN, he joined the Environmental Department at the University of California, San Diego as a Hazardous Materials Technician and an Assistant Radiation Specialist. In 2008, Sean returned to Alaska to continue his career in the environmental field. During the last 6 years Sean has worked as an Environmental Scientist for two Alaskan environmental firms conducting Phase I, II, and III environmental assessments; soil and groundwater sampling; lead-based paint and asbestos inspections; and a variety of contaminated site remediation activities.

Kristin K'ait is Tlingit, Inupiaq and German. Her Tlingit names are Kindu.ein and Ga gweil. She received her bachelor of science degree in Chemical Engineering and Petroleum Refining from Colorado School of Mines with the support of CIRI, Inc. For four years, Kristin served as the Deputy Regional Director of Native Services for Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region, which works with 228 of the Alaska tribes. In addition to environmental and cultural resources, the programs ranged from transportation, housing, tribal government, and rural fuel supply, to social services, "638" contracting, budget, accounting, and other administration. She was also frequently Acting Regional Director which allowed her to work with the Trust Services offices on subsistence and on natural resources and real estate services for Native allotment owners. For seven years prior, Kristin was Director of the Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management for BIA Alaska Region, both in the permanent position and initially, as Acting. She directly managed Environmental Services and oversaw Regional Archeology and the ANCSA 14(h) (1) program. The Director position included her prior duties in her first BIA job as the Regional Environmental Scientist (RES). As both Director and Scientist, Kristin oversaw, managed and implemented all aspects of bureau environmental management: writing, reviewing and approving all levels of documents in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and providing training and technical assistance on NEPA to bureau and tribal staff and the regional tribal consortia such as AVCP, BBNA, Maniilaq, TCC, etc.; serving as the technical expert on oil and hazmat spill preparedness and response, and representing BIA Alaska Region, Native allotment owners and tribes at the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT); managing and overseeing identification and mitigation of hazardous material and waste sites, such as former BIA schools, and of solid waste disposal sites, such as rural open dumps with raw sewage and hazardous materials, and managing tribal grant funding for such; and managing and implementing Continuity of Operations Plans for four BIA Alaska Region locations. Working with so many tribes and non-profit consortia in the BIA RES position was a big change from working with nineteen tribes in Southeast Alaska as an Environmental Protection Specialist for her tribe Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska! Kristin began her environmental career while in college, working part-time for Tri-Technics Corporation in Golden, Colorado. Her interest in the environment, aka the world around us, began as a high school student in Anchorage, learning about aerial hunting of the magnificent wolf in Alaska who are also predators of moose, an important food resource to her family.

April Reed-McCoy, a Midwest native, earned a bachelor of science in English Literature with emphasis in Creative Writing and a focus in Human Peace and Conflict from University of Kansas to begin a successful and extensive career in program development within the environmental education field. In 2008, April received her Master of Science in Outdoor and Environmental Education from Alaska Pacific University, focusing on place-based learning and teaching through living systems. Integrating environmental education and peace studies, April's thesis project initiated a community garden in Girdwood, AK. She offers over 10 years successful experience in program development, management, facilitation, fundraising, grant writing, outreach and program evaluation/assessment, working with all ages. Additionally, April brings to the table almost 2 years progressive and successful experience in job creation and development. Utilizing experiential education techniques, nature and peaceful conflict resolution skills building, April's continuing focus is to connect individuals to self, community and planet in hopes of promoting and supporting ecologically sustainable concepts and compassionate relationships.

Evelyn Agnus grew up in Chefnak and Nightmute, AK, is a tribal member of Native Village of Chefnak, and is a fluent Yup'ik speaker. She worked for the Alaska Village Council Presidents and the Coastal Village Region Fund, and has served as environmental coordinator for two Western Alaska villages. Evelyn has an Associates of Applied Science in Business Office & Computer Technology from the Alaska Career College in Anchorage.