

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.

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. 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 offers over 17 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 8 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.

Reilly Kosinski was born and raised in Anchorage, AK. In 2003 he earned a bachelor of science in Wildlife Biology with an emphasis on aquatic organisms. Since, Reilly has worked in positions related to community outreach, education, solid waste and recycling. Reilly has traveled extensively throughout Alaska working directly with rural communities and assisting them with handling and backhauling hard-to-manage materials. As the *Waste Logistics* and *Training Development Specialist* for Zender, Reilly continues to provide rural Alaskan communities with training and technical assistance through the Backhaul Alaska Program.

Dr. Lina Taneva received her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where her training focused on the effects of global climate change on terrestrial ecosystems. She then worked as an Arctic research scientist at the University of Alaska Anchorage for the three years prior to coming to Zender Health, participating in research on the responses of tundra ecosystems to climate change. As an Environmental Scientist at Zender Group, Lina brings expertise on Arctic Ecology, climate change, tundra and forest ecology, plant physiology, and soil and permafrost dynamics.

Hazel Flynn grew up and currently lives in and works from Chefnak, AK, and is a tribal member of Native Village of Chefnak. She is a fluent Yup'ik speaker and has served as the Nelson Island Consortium Coordinator for the 7 NIC villages. Hazel translates Western Alaska Yup'ik as first language requests at Zender.

Paul Berry worked as the Gustvus, Alaska Landfill Operator for over 25 years. He has operated one of the most successful rural Alaska balefill, and composting programs in the state. He has direct experience with daily operation and maintenance, landfill and recycling equipment use and purchasing, operating a full composting program, and managing a recycling and waste re-use program for over 15 different types of materials.

Charla Kewan from rural Alaska, Port Lions tribal member, has over a decade in administrative assistance work.