



## 2018 Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies Board of Directors Bios

**Debbie Oudiz, Ph.D: Current Board President**, Environmental Toxicologist, retired. Debbie has a doctorate in toxicology and 30 years of experience in the field of environmental toxicology, including human and ecological risk assessments as a Senior Toxicologist with the California Environmental Protection Agency. She and her husband moved to Homer Alaska when we retired six years ago. She currently works as a consultant and volunteer with several community organizations. She is excited to serve a third, three year term beginning in October 2018. The educational, stewardship, and conservation goals and activities of CACs are particularly important for me in addressing the current and emerging environmental challenges.

**Bryan Zak: Member at Large**, former Mayor of the City of Homer, Associate State Director for the Small Business Development Center, owner of Alaska Adventure Cabins, Homer City Councilman, Board member for CACS as well as the Homer Senior Center, Rotarian and member of Homer United Methodist Church. Bryan believes in the Mission of CACS and supports achievement of it. Bryan is excited to serve his third 3-year term and is chair of the Human Resources Committee.

### Proposed New Board Members:

**Chessie Sharp, Education Director at the Pratt Museum.** I am interested in joining the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies' board because I would like to share my time and experience with this organization. I firmly believe the programming CACS provides is an important staple in our community, both for locals and visitors from all over the world. I have worked since 2011 as an informal educator in the Environmental Education field, both in Wyoming and here in Homer. Throughout these years I have worked for non-profits, including CACS and the Pratt Museum. I have taught and trained on the local ecology of Kachemak Bay and have worked closely with many visitors and locals of all ages. I received my initial training on the marine ecology of Kachemak Bay while working for CACS in the summer of 2015. I maintain both a Wilderness First Responder and Emergency Medical Technician certification, which I believe could be useful in advising on the risk management and safety of programs. I currently work at the Pratt Museum as the Education and Visitor Services Director. I plan and execute all education programs, as well as coordinate and supervise front desk admissions and employees. I have worked with many CACS staff on collaborative programs and enjoy our partnership. I believe with my training and experience I would be able to share insight from a unique perspective.

**Kevin Wilmeth, IT support Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.** Whether you know me as Mud Monster Dad, comically hapless birding amateur, credible threat to musical instruments everywhere, unrepentant molecular-level geek, or just the proud father of Sabre, Dee, and Murray and husband of Cathy, it's pretty much all the same: here is an amateur human who loves discovering the art in everything, and sharing it as relentlessly as circumstances allow.

To be uncharacteristically brief (no snickering, now, from those who do know me) I would simply be honored to serve on the board simply as a means of giving back to an organization that has meant a great deal to me and my family. My kids have quite literally grown up with CACS, and that is no accident: we know a good thing when we see it!

**Ken Goldman, Ph.D.** I have lived and worked in Homer for over 14 years, including the time I spent researching salmon sharks for my dissertation. I have my doctorate from College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute Marine Science and I recently retired from ADFG. I am active in the community on a number of levels: Adjunct Professor, KBC and UAA, research adjunct at APU, and site council at West Homer Elementary. I've recently embarked on a new foray in the community, co-owner of the new Captain's Toy Chest. I look forward to working with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies!

**Laurie Gentle.** I have Development Board experience at PAWS Chicago, a highest rated CharityNavigator.org 501(c)3; leading 3-5 Angels with Tails signature events annually, media relations, as well as working directly with Founder and executive leadership. I have worked in advertising my entire career, founding and managing a #29 ranked Inc. 500 agency. We chose to move to Homer a year and a half ago and now wish to become more involved in the area.

**Darcy French.** This summer, I moved to Alaska from California, where I taught elementary school for the past 9 years. In addition to my multiple subject teaching credential, I have a master's degree in science education and a secondary science (biology) credential. My background and bachelor's degree is in Environmental Analysis and Design. I spent a semester studying ocean ecology, terrestrial ecology, and aboriginal heritage at the University of Queensland, Australia. My passion has always been learning about, exploring, and sharing our natural environment, especially the ocean, with others. I look forward to continuing on this path by serving as a board member for the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.