



## 2010 Summer Environmental Exchange (SEE) Program Participant Biographies

TBI immerses passionate young leaders in an inspiring, place-based watershed curriculum to promote international understanding and global cooperation in meeting environmental challenges. Ultimately, TBI alumni strengthen the diverse coalitions of leaders, resource professionals, stewards—and cultures—building a future where sustainable communities thrive in concert with their environment.

### ☞ North American Participants ☜



#### **Kate Eisen**

Kate Eisen is an undergraduate student at Amherst College, majoring in Environmental Studies while also studying Art History and Russian language and culture. Having worked on a diversified organic farm, she loses sleep over how to create more sustainable agricultural practices that incorporate ecological principles. She is also interested in renewable energy, sustainable fisheries, and the art of the Russian avant-garde. In her free time, she enjoys rock climbing, learning to sail, and cooking. She has taken Russian language courses throughout college and hopes to become more fluent in Russian while learning about watersheds as part of the SEE program.

#### **Kayla Berry**

Kayla Berry received her Bachelor of Science in Geology from Texas A&M University in 2008 and has since continued pursuing her education. She moved to Reno, Nevada in 2008 to attend the University of Nevada, Reno and is currently a Masters student in the Program of Hydrologic Sciences studying hydrogeology. Her research focuses on Western U.S. interstate river watershed cooperation between diverse stakeholders regarding water quality issues. She has a vested interest specifically regarding cooperation in her local watershed, the Truckee River. Kayla is a member of the UNR organization SAIWI, Student Association for International Water Issues, and hopes to participate in an upcoming international project providing clean water to communities in need, teaching hygiene education, and helping to empower people and communities with environmental knowledge. She looks forward to learning Russian during the SEE.





**Elizabeth Mackey**

Elizabeth is currently a senior at University of Wisconsin – Madison majoring in Zoology and Biological Aspects of Conservation. Her background is primarily in limnology and fisheries sciences, and she is currently finishing her senior thesis involving the growth of invasive rainbow smelt within and between two different temperate inland lakes. Elizabeth’s career interests include aquatic ecology and conservation of freshwater ecosystems. She is interested in the SEE program in order to study contrasting conservational techniques between different regions of the globe.

**California Conservation Corps (CCC) Participants**

**Alicia Vargo**

Alicia Vargo grew up in Michigan with a love for the environment and a passion for travel. In 2007, she journeyed to California to join the California Conservation Corps (CCC), where she became a Sawyer Specialist in crew operations, operating chainsaws, leading and supervising crews of 4 to 20 other corpsmembers ranging in ages from 18 to 25. She also completed the CCC’s 2008 Backcountry Program, living in a tent for six months as a backwoods trail worker in Yosemite National Park. In 2009, Alicia completed the CCC Australian Exchange Program. There she experienced Australia’s fragile flora and fauna, unique wildlife, and discovered the great love and awareness Australians have of their native wilderness. In January 2010, Alicia became a CCC Crewleader. In her free time she enjoys exercising, playing just about any musical instrument, learning, teaching, traveling, and being outdoors.



**Paul Baker**

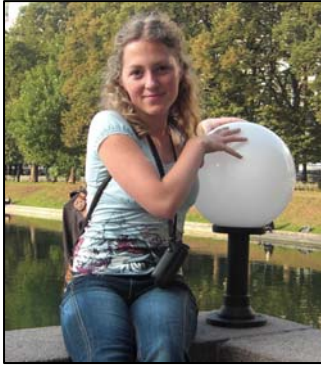
Paul Baker grew up in a few states but calls down-east Maine home. He received his two-year Associate of Arts degree in Adventure Recreation and Tourism in 2005. Since then he’s been living the dream and exploring the US through outdoor jobs; most notably dog sledding in the White Mountains of Maine and New Hampshire and rafting in Southeast Alaska. While in the CCC Paul been honing his outdoor leadership skills and continuing to create positive life experiences. Paul also has the distinction of serving as the TBI–CCC Intern in 2010. Working with the TBI staff and Board, he is helping to plan and execute the SEE program as an integral member of our staff as well as participating in the program curriculum in the US and Russia.

**Russian Participants**

**Svetlana Kuklina**

Svetlana graduated from Irkutsk State University, Biological and Soil Science Department. At present time Svetlana is the head of a Soil Museum and a lecturer in the Soil Science Department, Irkutsk State University. Her scientific interests are soil science, geo-archeology, ecology, stratigraphy of sediments, and environmental education. Svetlana studies soils, landscapes and conditions of habitation of ancient humans in the Pribaikalye region for the last 25 thousand years. She is a member of the “Green Party” of Russia. Her hobbies are making jewelry, books, movies, fishing and different types of tourism. Svetlana likes children, interesting people, Lake Baikal and traveling.





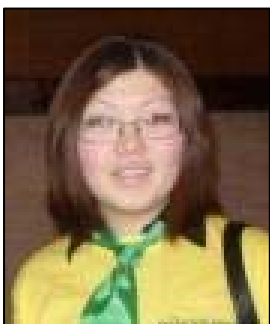
### **Ksenia Kustonovich**

Ksenia studies International Economy, as well as English and Japanese language at Baikal National University of Economics and Law. She is always interested in learning more about different countries and cultures, but especially likes Japanese culture and Japanese art such as origami and calligraphy. She is also keen on music and can play different musical instruments such as domra (a Russian folk instrument), piano, guitar and mandolin. Ksenia was born with a volunteer spirit; she is always ready to help those who need it. When she learned about the opportunity to be an international volunteer, she jumped at the chance. It's been one year since she became a volunteer of the Great Baikal Trail (GBT) organization at Lake Baikal. So far, she has volunteered as a translator on two summer projects

and is currently serving as an international partner coordinator with GBT. Above all these interests, however, is Ksenia's true passion – figure skating. She is absolutely sure that one day she'll be able to do spins and, even if only single ones, to jump.

### **Nadezhda Tsaryova**

Nadezhda Tsaryova (Nadya) is currently working on her thesis in economics. The sphere of her interests is in the influence of tourism on the regional economy, and researching effective methods in tourism organization with consideration of all stakeholders' interests. She believes most of the problems our society faces are connected with careless organizational processes. Nadezhda works as a lecturer in the Finance and Credit Department of the Russian State Trade and Economics University. Nadya is fond of different types of sports such as jogging, swimming, skiing, volleyball, and tennis. In her leisure time she enjoys hiking in the territories surrounding Lake Baikal, where she feels there is a unique opportunity to understand not only the place you live but also yourself. She also enjoys reading, art work, and going to the theater.



### **Sesegma Balzhinova**

Sesegma (Seseg) Balzhinova graduated from Buryat State University with a specialization in Biology. Currently, Seseg is a graduate student at Buryat State University. Her thesis is dedicated to studying vegetation in the forest-steppe environment which is inundated with permafrost. Sesegma is concurrently working as a Biology teacher at the Social Adaptation School # 60 for physically-challenged children. Seseg is a follower of an active live-style. She likes working with children, singing, listening to music, traveling, and communicating with interesting people. Lately she started collecting flags from different cities and countries of the world. Seseg has an elementary level of English.

### **Anastasia Khankhasaeva**

Anastasia (Nastya) Khankhasaeva is graduating from Butyat State University, Philology Department, also she is a third year student at Economics Department. She is an activist of the professional unions in the Republic of Buryatia. Nastya was an organizer and participant in an ecological action “For clean shores of Baikal”, June 2009. She is fond of sports (mini-football, wushu, bowling, paint-ball), reading literature on Psychology, painting. She is currently engaged in self-study of Buryat shamanic culture. Anastasia believes in miracles, and believes a day is wasted if anything new was not discovered for herself. Her life motto is “There are no limits for perfection!”



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#### **Tahoe-Baikal Institute**

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## ☞ International Participants ☜



### **Chimgee Ganbold (Mongolia)**

Chimgee graduated from the Mongolian Agricultural University in 1998 as an Agronomist and from the University of Humanities in 2006. Chimgee has worked as a Project Manager for “Food for the Hungry” international organization at the Agricultural Development Project for five years. Currently she is working as a Foreign Relations Officer for the United Movement of Mongolian Rivers and Lakes since its establishment in 2009. Her work involves protecting Mongolia’s freshwater resources and cooperating with various stakeholders to enact and implement environmental laws in Mongolia. She considers the SEE program to be a great opportunity to bring together knowledge and points of view from different backgrounds and cultures. Chimgee enjoys traveling to the countryside, exploring nature and meeting new people.

### **Odontuya Tumurbaatar (Mongolia)**

Odontuya (Odna) graduated from the Agricultural University of Mongolia as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Specialist in 2007. She recently completed 25 detailed EIA reports in collaboration with multi-disciplinary experts and participated in various studies on environmental pollution, soil erosion and habitat rehabilitation. Her aim is to work on re-vegetation and eco-toxicology of mining sites in her home country. For that reason, Odna has been studying hydro-seeding technology for re-vegetation of mining sites in Mongolia. In her free time she enjoys climbing, sport walking and listening to music.

