

Robyn Joanne Mello

Camden County, New Jersey

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Academics & Certifications

University of Delaware // Newark, DE, 2009, Honors BA in Sociology with Distinction, GPA: 3.94

Permaculture Activist // Akron, OH, 2015, Advanced Permaculture Design Certification

Earthseed Consulting // Rhinebeck, NY, 2015, Permaculture Design Teacher Certification

Permanent Future Institute // Kimberton, PA, 2015, Permaculture Design Certification

BioNeighbors Sustainable Homes // Philadelphia, PA 2011, Green Roof Professional Certification

Agricultural & Educational Work

Program Director // Philadelphia Orchard Project, 4/14-12/17

Developing educational materials & trainings; assisting POP partners with orchard design, planting & care; event planning; chairing education committee; developing fruit gleanings program; overseeing interns

Teacher and Course Designer // "Designing Urban Ecosystems", Fleisher Art Memorial, 10/16-11/16

4 class course covering topics such as basemapping, site considerations, agroforestry design and maintenance, perennial edibles and mushrooms, herbs, beneficial insects, soil health, common pest insects, fungi and diseases, city land use policy, and community organizing strategies..

Teaching Apprentice // Susquehanna Permaculture, 2015

Co-teaching 180-hour weekend Permaculture Design Certification Course (Ecological Landscape Design); leading various training modules, providing educational assistance & encouragement for 30 students

Farm Assistant // Mycopolitan Mushroom Company, Philadelphia, PA, 2/15-Present

Assisting with laboratory work, spawning, preparation, maintenance, harvesting, cleaning, disposal, & farmers markets for North Philadelphia-based gourmet mushroom-growing farm

Owner, Lead Designer, Farm Manager // Sleepy Beaver Farm, LLC, Ottsville, PA, 1/13-11/13

Constructing tinyhouses, solar panels, chicken coop, composting toilet, & 2 hoop houses; designing & installing organic permaculture farm on Agricultural Preserve; caring for 40 chickens; managing finances

Gardens Manager, Nature Educator, Development // Historic Fair Hill, Inc., Philadelphia, PA, 3/11-3/13

Managing & organizing volunteers to care for 5 gardens; distributing free produce; teaching women recently released from prison to grow food; spearheading garden clubs at elementary schools & low-income housing complex; leading field trips

Volunteer Nutrition Educator // Gearing Up & Neighborhood Bike Works, Philadelphia, PA, 2/11-5/11

Weekly budgeting, planning, purchasing, preparing, & serving healthy lunches for 20 previously incarcerated women enrolled in exercise & bike-building course; providing nutritional information & recipes for all food prepared; getting donated dishes from Philly AIDS Thrift to promote reuse

Founder, Lead Designer & Organizer // Philly Food Forests, Philadelphia, PA, 8/10-6/13

Organizing with community groups wishing to design & install free food-producing permaculture spaces in vacant lots throughout Philadelphia; managing over 400 volunteers; leading weekly “workparties” at rotating gardens; organizing fundraisers; maintaining web presence; publishing educational magazine

Orchard Committee Member & Liaison // Philadelphia Orchard Project, 4/10-4/14

Communicating with primary orchard caretakers & Executive Director; visiting orchards to assist with maintenance; helping organize the first POP Orchard Day in 10/11, leading to annual citywide event

Program Assistant & Advisor // Undergraduate Research Program, University of Delaware, 5/09-9/09

Organizing social, academic, & awareness-raising events for summer research scholars; Resident Advisor to approximately 50 undergraduate researchers; direct Research Advisor to 15 students

Selected Professional Development

- “African & African American Vegetable Cultivars” Workshop - Philadelphia, PA - 2013
- “The Art of Beekeeping” Course - Bucks County, PA - 2012
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) School with Penn State Extension - Leesport, PA - 2011
- Challenges & Processes of Grantwriting Workshop – Philadelphia, PA - 2009

Selected Honors & Awards

- 2009 Finalist, Rhodes Scholarship - Considered most prestigious scholarship, fully funded graduate program at Oxford University
- 2009 Finalist, Marshall Scholarship - Considered one of most prestigious scholarships, fully funded graduate study in UK
- 2009 Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society Membership
- 2009 Benjamin McLuckie Award - Awarded to Univ of DE’s best graduating Sociology major
- 2007 Plastino Scholar - \$6,000 grant awarded for United Nations internship in Sierra Leone
- 2005 Eugene E duPont Scholar - full academic scholarship with stipends (about \$100,000)

Selected Professional Research

Environmental Justice Investigator // Delaware Environmental Institute, Univ of DE, 11/13-12/14

NSF-funded interdisciplinary project titled, “The Effect of Sea-Level Rise on Contaminant Mobility & Cycling”; Designing & implementing community-based participatory research with poor, geographically isolated, African American environmental justice community in South Wilmington, DE; applying for external funding to pay community members & generate green jobs

Agricultural Research Assistant // Randall Wisser, PhD, Plant & Soil Sciences, Univ of DE, 8/13-12/13

USDA-Funded Maize ATLAS (Adaptation Through Latitudinal Artificial Selection) Project. Primary responsibilities: taking soil samples; tagging, collecting quantitative data, taking tissue samples, harvesting, seeding, organizing, & storing tens of thousands of individual corn plants as part of multi-year genetic study to increase biodiversity of corn

Selected Technical Skills

- Competency in light construction, use of power tools, & use of basic farm & landscaping equipment (tractor, chainsaw, weed wacker, sprayer, etc.)
- Word processing & presentation: Microsoft Office Suite, Open Office Suite, Google Drive Suite
- Web content development: Basic HTML, Blog Freeware, & Social Media