

RESUME

RALPH M. COOLMAN

KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

Dr. Ralph Coolman is associate director for Community Collaborations at Washington State University's International Programs/Research and Development. Dr. Coolman has over 25 years experience in community-based development in both domestic and international settings. Dr. Coolman has worked with diverse communities to design and implement projects on indigenous agricultural practices, urban agriculture, food systems, organic farming, sustainable agriculture and grass roots community development. He has completed projects in Malaysia, the Philippines, Brazil, and the United States. Dr. Coolman works on community collaborations in all stages of project development, design, and implementation.

EDUACTION:

Ph.D., North Carolina State University, 1994. **Nitrous Oxide Flux from Amazonian Ecosystems.** Major: Tropical Soil Management. Minor: Tropical Ecology.

MS, North Carolina State University, 1989. **Legume Relay Intercropping and Broccoli Production in Western North Carolina.** Major: Soil Management. Minor: Statistics.

BS, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1981. Dual Majors: Resource Management and Forestry. Studied at Universiti of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur. Honors Graduate.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

October 2007-Present

Associate Director for Community Collaborations, International Programs/Research and Development, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Responsible for: 1) develop funding for international projects, grants, contracts, training programs, and other activities, 2) provide liaison with departments and units in identifying and responding to opportunities for funding of international activities, 3) assist the Vice Provost of IP and Director of IP/R&D in interactions with donors, funding agencies, the private sector and organizations abroad for marketing and promoting WSU participation in development cooperation, 4) provide oversight of IP/R&D's International Christian University projects dealing with Malawi internships, 4) provide high quality technical/discipline support to IP/R&D and its various programs in the area of forestry and natural resource development, 5) manage, supervise or assist in implementation of forestry and natural resource management related technical and training programs at WSU and overseas, 6) assist in developing, overseeing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluation of WSU's international grants, contracts and activities, 7) participate in the university internationalization process.

August 2005 – June 2007

Senior Lecturer, University of Washington, Department of Urban Design and Planning, Seattle, WA

Responsible for: 1) community outreach to the most ethnically diverse community in the state of Washington grappling with the issues of political representation, gentrification and

creation of a cohesive community; 2) create strategies to maintain the diversity and character of the White Center community by coordinating efforts of Urban Planners, Educators, Business Developers, Political Scientists, Public Policy Advocates, Sociologists and many other disciplines; 3) development of a Comprehensive Plan for White Center from January to June of 2007 that challenges current practices of political engagement in the increasingly diverse urban make up of America; 4) design an array of strategies for political engagement that is tailored to the cultural norms of ethnic communities; and 5) direct 30 Masters students in Urban Planning in the research, outreach, design and publication of a community plan for White Center, WA

2003-August 2005

Director, Rutgers University Urban Ecology Program, New Brunswick, NJ

Responsible for: 1) long-term development of a state-based organization that fosters agriculture-based community development strategies in the urban-suburban environment of New Jersey; 2) fundraising for program implementation from local, state and national, public and private sector sources; 3) program administration and management, including fiscal management, organization management, program evaluation and reporting; 4) creating and supporting teamwork among professional colleagues, staff members, volunteers, and non-profit organizations, as well as collaborative efforts with research, extension, local community, environmental, and agricultural organizations; and 5) communicating effectively with local constituency groups and responding to changing needs of a collaborating group of organizations.

1998 – 2005

Permanent, Part-time Faculty, Cook College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Taught courses annually: *Principles of Organic Crop Production*, *Fundamentals of Agroecology*, *Introduction to 35MM Photography*.

1998-2005

Director Sustainable Food Systems Rutgers University Urban Ecology Program, New Brunswick, NJ

Responsible for: 1) long-term development of a program that emphasizes local food security, preservation of urban green space, experiential learning, economic development and sustained resource use; 2) Fundraising in excess of \$500,000 for program implementation in last three years of program; 3) Advise, manage and direct a three-acre organic farm that generates \$35,000 each year for six undergraduate internships through community supported agriculture shares; 4) Integrate program into service learning training for 10 undergraduates as part of an AmeriCorps grant with Middlesex Community College.

1997-present

President and Owner, CoolPhotos, Skillman, NJ

Created a small photography business that focuses on environmental portraiture, graphic design and local markets. Responsible for management of financial, legal, production, advertising and marketing operations of small business. Developed business plan for creating new products that are highly creative with an appeal to the local consumer including notecards, posters, artwork and exhibits.

1996-1997

Lecturer-Visiting Faculty, Princeton Environmental Institute and Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Responsible for: 1) teaching *Introduction to Environmental Studies* and *Global Tropical Forests: Resources, People and Policies*; 2) advising undergraduate students on development, research, writing and editing of Junior and Senior Theses; 3) organizing and hosting seminar on Urban Agriculture at Woodrow Wilson School.

1995-1996

Program Coordinator, Cultivating Communities Project, Department of Housing and Human Services, City of Seattle P-Patch Program, Seattle, WA February 1995-August 1996.

Responsible for: 1) implementing and managing *Cultivating Communities*, a program responding to health and nutrition needs of Seattle's low-income communities; 2) developing seven gardens at Seattle Housing Authority communities meeting the needs of 100 low-income families from a variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds; 3) coordinating workshops on organic gardening, nutrition and small business development; 4) creating an income generating organic vegetable farm within city limits to enhance economic opportunities for recent Southeast Asian immigrants; 5) developing a long-term program plan and raising funds for a program that emphasizes sustainable resource use, job creation, local economic development, and common open areas.

1991-1994

Research Assistant, Department of Soil Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina and EMBRAPA Centro de Pesquisas Agroflorestais da Amazonia, Manaus, Brasil.

Collaborated in the establishment of *Alternatives to Slash and Burn in the Western Amazon* a multi-disciplinary research project in Manaus, Brazil funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Designed, established and monitored a 10-hectare agro-ecosystem experiment at a remote research station in the Central Amazon Basin. Constructed a laboratory for the monitoring of "greenhouse gas" emissions from four Amazonian ecosystems. Coordinated inter-disciplinary research efforts at remote field station site.

1987-1991

Research Assistant, Department of Soil Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina 1987-91.

Collaborated on the development of joint program in "Conservation and Sustainable Development" between Duke and North Carolina State universities. Developed and implemented original research project for a low-input agricultural system in western North Carolina. Assisted in course and lab instruction at graduate and undergraduate levels.

1986-1987

Community Organizer, Illinois South Project, Herrin, Illinois.

Organized local farmers, county board members, Farmers Home Administration officials, local churches, and businesses to address social problems associated with the farm-debt crisis.

Mediated debt/land negotiations between farmers and Farmers Home Administration officials. Assisted in program development and fundraising. Provided direction to local groups addressing State and National farm policies.

1984-1985

Private Small Farm Consultant, Mountain Province, Philippines

Planned and directed the development of a multiple-use farm introducing agricultural alternatives for enhanced biological diversity and income generation. Developed demonstration area for the introduction of new vegetable and leguminous cover crops. Organized and conducted seminar on beekeeping. Facilitated establishment of farmer operated beehives.

1981-1984

Community Organizer, Upland Community Development Program, U.S. Peace Corps, Philippines.

Assisted a group of local leaders to address pertinent social problems in their community. Established an elementary school of 100 students, obtaining recognition and financial support from the Ministry of Education and Culture. Maintained new crops demonstration area and established 1000 fruit tree orchard on school grounds. Coordinated local land rights and cultural exchange activities with University of the Philippines College of Law and the Philippines Association for Intercultural Development. Designed and organized the construction of two village water systems. Responsible for project proposals, fund-raising, management of workers, final reports, and the transfer of fiscal management skills to community leaders.

COUNTRIES WORKED IN (LANGUAGES):

Malaysia, Philippines (T'boli and Maguindanao with some knowledge of Tagalog), Brazil (Portuguese).

PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITS:

Coolman, Ralph M. and Wayne P. Robarge. 1995. Sampling Nitrous Oxide Emissions from Humid Tropical Ecosystems. *Journal of Biogeography* 22:381-391.

Coolman, Ralph M. and Greg D. Hoyt. 1993. The Effects of Reduced Tillage on the Soil Environment. *HorTech*. 3(2):143-145.

Coolman, Ralph M. and Greg D. Hoyt. 1993. Increasing Sustainability by Intercropping. *HorTech*. 3(3):245-249

Amazon Images. A photographic exhibition at the North Carolina Botanical Gardens. Spring 1994.

Experiments in Light. An exhibit on abstract photography at Princeton University. Fall 1999.

Rights of Spring Sculpture Exhibit. A group exhibition of outdoor sculptures at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Spring 2003.

Vertical Clearance - Sculpture Exhibit. A group exhibition of sculptures at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. Fall 2003.

The Power of the Outdoors - Sculpture Exhibit. A group sculpture exhibit for perspective donors to the Mason Gross School of the Arts Sculpture Garden Fund at Rutgers University. Spring 2004.

We're Not in Kansas Anymore – Sculpture Exhibit. A group exhibition of sculptures focusing on the fantastic at Mason Gross School of the Arts. Fall 2004.

Nature Discarded – Single Artist Sculpture Show – ArtHead Gallery, Seattle, Washington. .
The sculptures presented here were created from the trash heaps of our modern lives. They are bits and pieces of wood, stone and metal discarded as useless. But, for whatever reason they forced me to stop and take a second look at them. It is my hope that I have used the elements of material, process and form to use this “junk” to make a connection with somebody out there sharing this planet with me.

AWARDS

2003 The New Jersey Community Foundation's Corporate Philanthropy Award for Excellence in Service and Commitment to the Community in the area of Health and Environment.

2001 The New Jersey Department of Human Services 1st Annual Award for Community Service in acknowledgement of our efforts with youth at risk through the Youth Farmstand Program.

1995 The City of Seattle Department of Housing and Human Services Maximum Achievement Award for Community Service in development of the Cultivating Communities Program.

RECENT GRANTS

The Green House Project: Cultivating Food Security. United States Department of Agriculture: Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program. September 1, 2002 to August 31, 2005 for \$214,000.

Healthy Foundations: The Environmental and Food Security Coalition. Environmental Protection Agency: Sustainable Development Challenge Grant Program. August 1, 1999 to July 20, 2002 for \$198,207.

The Green House Project: Sustainable Agriculture in Urban Areas. United States Department of Agriculture: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. September 1, 1999 to August 31, 2002 for \$122,315.

Farm to School: Improving School Meals and Small Farm Viability. United States Department of Agriculture: Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems. October 1, 2000 to September 30, 2004 for \$200,000.

Strengthening Communities Engagement in Local Sustainable Food Systems. United States Department of Agriculture: Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program. July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2004 for \$33,000.

Hunger Prevention Project. New Jersey of Department of Human Services. July 1, 2002 to June 20, 2005 for \$250,000.