

EDELI A TUREYGUA *(THEY/ELLO)*

PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS AMY V. VASQUEZ

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Bilingual environmental scientist, health and wellness coach, and nonprofit founder with 8+ years of experience in biodiversity-related research, youth education, small-team leadership, and inclusive community engagement across academic and public-serving spaces. Founder & President of Angelic Musings y Virtudes Inc., a nonprofit sanctuary and temple that weaves holistic healing, collective empowerment, and urban socio-ecological research into programs that promote wellness, connection, community development, and socio-environmental regeneration – particularly for BIPOC, TransLGBQIA+, and diffabled communities in Miami, FL and beyond.

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University (JHU) , Baltimore, MD M.A. , Earth & Planetary Science (<i>PhD program</i>)	Dec 2022
California State University – Los Angeles , CA M.S. , Environmental Science (<i>Biology Track</i>)	May 2021
Tufts University , Medford, MA B.S. , Biopsychology & Environmental Studies (<i>Science Track</i>)	May 2018
Miami-Dade College – North , Miami, FL A.A. , Biology	May 2014

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

The Joan Ehrenfeld Award for Best Student Presentation in Urban Ecology (ESA)	2021
JHU Earth & Planetary Sciences Graduate Summer Field Grant	2021, 2023
Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) MS-to-PhD Training Fellowship	2019 – 2020
Society for Conservation Biology Graduate Research Grant	2019
Santa Monica Audubon Society Research Grant	2019
Graduate Equity Fellowship	2019
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship	2017

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

Johns Hopkins University , <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> (2 labs), Baltimore, MD	Aug 2020 – Jun 2023
Led interdisciplinary urban ecology research connecting plants, soils, remote sensing, and socio-ecological patterns in Baltimore. Coordinated field teams, homeowner outreach, and community-facing data collection in residential neighborhoods, and analyzed socio-ecological data using R.	
California State University – Los Angeles , <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> (2 labs)	Aug 2018 – May 2020
Supported biodiversity-related field and lab research, including bird and vegetation surveys across Los Angeles County parks. Led and trained undergraduate field teams, and connected findings on urban parks and bird diversity to equitable access to green space and community well-being.	
Tufts University , <i>Research Assistant</i> , Medford, MA	Jan 2017 – May 2018
Conducted research on occluded action discrimination in pigeons using operant conditioning, analyzed and interpreted data using R, and presented findings at conferences and symposia. Also provided daily bird care – including weighing, feeding, cleaning, and enrichment – and supported general lab maintenance.	
School for Field Studies , <i>Student Researcher</i> , Karatu, Tanzania	Jun 2017 – Aug 2017
Completed coursework in <i>Wildlife Management and Conservation</i> and <i>Field Research Techniques</i> . Conducted wildlife and vegetation surveys in Serengeti National Park and gathered community insights, experiences, and perspectives to inform data analysis related to local wildlife and resource management.	
Museum of Science , <i>Live Animal Center Intern</i> , Boston, MA	Oct 2016 – Dec 2016
Cleaned and maintained wildlife enclosures and exhibits. Prepared diets and fed animals, assisted with record keeping and monitoring, and provided enrichment while learning proper handling techniques for a	

variety of species.

South Florida Wildlife Center, Nursery Intern, Fort Lauderdale, FL

May 2015
– Aug 2015

Cleaned and set up habitats for orphaned wildlife, prepared diets and formulas, handled and hand-fed baby animals. Documented care and observations, assisted with routine exams (including overnight care for newborns), and supported general housekeeping.

Stone Zoo, Zoo-Keeper Aide, Stoneham, MA

Jan 2015 –
May 2015

Prepared diets and enrichment items, cleaned enclosures and exhibits, and engaged visitors in conversations about wildlife conservation. Assisted with general animal care, safety, and housekeeping tasks.

LEADERSHIP & TEACHING

Angelic Musings y Virtudes, Founder & President, Miami, FL (Aug 2023 – Present)

Kelly Education, Miami-Dade County, FL, *K-12 Substitute Teacher* (Aug 2024 – Present)

JHU, Baltimore, MD, *Teaching Assistant* (Aug 2021 – May 2023)

JHU, Baltimore, MD, *Graduate Student Co-President* (Aug 2021 – Jul 2022)

Women of Color in Ecology, Evolution, & Biology, Virtual, *Mentor* (Jan 2022 – May 2022)

JHU, Baltimore, MD, *Department Graduate General Council Representative* (Aug 2020 – May 2021)

California State University – Los Angeles, *Environmental Policy Committee Member* (Aug 2019 – May 2020)

Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation, CA, *ESTEAM Curriculum Instructor* (Jun – Aug 2019)

California State University – Los Angeles, *Graduate Assistant* (Aug 2018 – Jun 2019)

PUBLICATIONS

Vasquez AV and Wood EM. 2022. Urban parks are a refuge for birds in park-poor areas of cities. *Front. Ecol. Evol.* 10:958572. doi: [10.3389/fevo.2022.958572](https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2022.958572)

PRESENTATIONS

Department Talk, **JHU Earth & Planetary Sciences Journal Club**, Baltimore, MD (March 2023)

Light, not Blight: An investigation into the microbial communities of Baltimore vacant lots

Department Talk, **JHU Earth & Planetary Sciences Journal Club**, Baltimore, MD (February 2022)

Planting Resilient Cities: The ecological effects of race and wealth disparities in Baltimore

Conference Talk, **Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting**, Long Beach, CA (August 2021)

The influence of urban park features and the surrounding cityscape on birds across a socioeconomic gradient

Poster Presentation, **International Conference on Comparative Cognition**, Melbourne Beach, FL (April 2018)

Partially Occluded Action Discrimination in Pigeons

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Certified Health & Wellness Coach, 2026
CAMtP – Open Source Wellness

Miramar Business Academy, 2026
SCORE + City of Miramar

Urban Agriculture Specialist, 2026
Coalition of Community Gardens

Nonprofit Management Training, 2025
NonprofitReady

SKILLS

Languages: English & Spanish (native)

Community Engagement: Education, peer support, mentoring, small-group facilitation/leadership/training

Research & Analysis: Urban ecology & biodiversity research (soils, plants, birds), field survey design & implementation, GIS, remote sensing, lab techniques, advanced biostatistics, data visualization

Computer & Software: R, ArcGIS Pro, Microsoft Office, GIMP, HTML, CSS, Zotero, Canva