

EDELI “E” TUREYGUA (THEY/ELLO)

✉ EDELI@AMYV.ME

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Bilingual (English/Spanish) environmental scientist, community educator, and nonprofit leader with 8+ years of experience in ecological field and laboratory research (wildlife, plants, soils), wildlife rehabilitation and husbandry, remote sensing and GIS, and urban socio-ecological data analysis – complemented by training in nonprofit management, health and wellness coaching, and urban agriculture. Experienced leading field crews, teaching from K-12 through university level, and communicating scientific findings to both scientific and public audiences. Currently applies this full scope of scientific, educational, and community-building experience as founder, president, and chief executive (*Cacike-Bohiti*) of Angelic Musings y Virtudes (AMYV), a Miami-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit centering BIPOC, TransLGBQIA+, and diffabled communities through spiritually rooted wellness, community building, and socio-environmental regeneration.

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University (JHU) , Baltimore, MD M.A. , Earth & Planetary Science	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

CORE SKILLS

- Environmental Field Investigations
- Wildlife Surveys and Observations
- Vegetation Surveys and Plant Community Sampling
- Soil Sampling and Physicochemical Analysis
- Habitat Assessments
- Digital Data Recording and Documentation
- GPS and Spatial Mapping
- Remote Sensing and GIS (ArcGIS Pro)
- Field Survey Design and Implementation
- Field Team Coordination and Training
- Outdoor Field Safety and Site Coordination
- Field Equipment Handling and Sample Collection
- Ecological Data Entry, Analysis (R), and Synthesis
- Report Preparation and Public Communication
- Outlook and Microsoft Office
- Bilingual Communication (English/Spanish)

CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed Certified 2026 <i>City of Coral Gables</i>	QPR Suicide Prevention Certified 2026 <i>Open Source Wellness</i>	Urban Agriculture Specialist 2026 <i>Coalition of Community Gardens</i>
Certified Health & Wellness Coach 2026 <i>CAMtP – Open Source Wellness</i>	Miramar Business Academy 2026 <i>City of Miramar + SCORE</i>	Nonprofit Management Training 2025 <i>NonprofitReady</i>

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH & FIELD EXPERIENCE

Johns Hopkins University , <i>Graduate Research Assistant</i> (2 labs), Baltimore, MD	Aug 2020 – Jun 2023
• Conducted ecological field surveys across residential neighborhoods, vacant lots, and parks to assess vegetation, soil conditions, and socio-ecological patterns. • Coordinated small field teams, homeowner outreach, and site-based vegetation sampling while documenting field observations in varied outdoor conditions. • Led vegetation survey activities including lawn quadrats, tree identification, DBH measurements, and shrub and flowering plant identification. • Collected soil cores, soil macrofauna samples, and vegetation samples following project protocols and field documentation procedures.	

- Supported grassland plant identification and ecological field research at Konza Prairie LTER.
- Used remote sensing and classification analysis to quantify vegetation and impervious cover for urban ecological site assessment.
- Analyzed plant community and soil property data using R and contributed to project planning, reporting, and communication of findings to scientific and public audiences.

California State University – Los Angeles, Graduate Research Assistant (2 labs)

Aug 2018 –
May 2020

- Led and trained undergraduate field teams for multi-year bird and vegetation surveys across 60 parks in Los Angeles County.
- Conducted repeated field visits to document bird observations, vegetation characteristics, and site conditions while maintaining detailed field notes and data records.
- Identified, measured, and mapped hundreds of trees within survey transects using DBH measurements, GPS, Survey123, and ArcGIS.
- Managed ecological field data and performed spatial, remote sensing, and biostatistical analysis using ArcGIS and R.
- Supported research operations and technical project tasks through GIS assistance, laboratory management, and data management.
- Published and communicated research findings that demonstrated relationships among avian biodiversity, urban tree canopy, and community well-being to scientific and public audiences.

Tufts University, Research Assistant, Medford, MA

Jan 2017 –
May 2018

- Studied occluded action discrimination in pigeons using operant conditioning.
- Analyzed and interpreted data using R.
- Presented research in the form of a poster at conferences and symposia.
- Provided daily care of birds, including daily weighing, feeding, cleaning, and enrichment.
- Completed general lab maintenance tasks.

School for Field Studies, Student Researcher, Karatu, Tanzania

Jun 2017 –
Aug 2017

- Completed intensive field coursework in *Wildlife Management & Conservation* and *Field Research Techniques*.
- Conducted field vegetation identification, wildlife identification, sampling, and habitat assessments in natural areas.
- Studied wildlife density, habitat preferences, bird diversity, and carnivore/ungulate behavior in Serengeti National Park.
- Gathered community insights and perspectives to inform ecological analysis related to local wildlife and resource management.
- Developed skills in ecological monitoring, scientific observation, experimental design, and field-based data collection in remote settings.

ADDITIONAL WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE

Museum of Science, Live Animal Center Intern, Boston, MA

Oct 2016 –
Dec 2016

Cleaned and maintained animal 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 to hand-feed animals, handled small mammals and birds for weighing and transfers, documented care and observations, assisted with routine exams (including overnight care of newborns), and supported general housekeeping.

Stone Zoo, Zoo-Keeper Aide, Stoneham, MA

Jan 2015 –

Prepared diets and enrichment items, cleaned enclosures and exhibits, engaged visitors in conversations about wildlife conservation, and assisted with general animal care, safety, and housekeeping tasks.	May 2015
Zoo Miami, <i>Conservation Teen Scientist</i> , Miami, FL	Jan 2013 – Mar 2014
Engaged ~100 visitors per day using animal models and artifacts to promote awareness of endangered species and wildlife conservation.	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, & LEADERSHIP

Angelic Musings y Virtudes Inc., <i>Founder & Cacike-Bohiti (President & Chief Executive)</i> , Miami, FL	Aug 2023 – Present
Founded and lead a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and public charity applying ecological research training, holistic wellness, and Afro-Taíno-guided spiritual practice to programs centering BIPOC, TransLGBQIA+, and diffabled communities. Designed and delivered 64+ hours of live virtual community programming across thirteen offerings, including guided meditation, Areito ceremonial dance, tarot, and co-working sessions, piloting the organization's current weekly program structure, while building and maintaining its website and a custom virtual gathering space that have driven steady year-over-year growth in public engagement without paid promotion. Established governing bylaws, policies, and banking and compliance systems, and oversee board governance, grant proposal development, and organizational strategy.	
Kelly Education, <i>Substitute Teacher</i> , Miami-Dade County, FL	Aug 2024 – Present
Provide flexible classroom instruction across diverse grade levels and subject areas, maintaining continuity of learning when possible in the absence of full-time teachers. Manage classroom behavior, implement lesson plans, and adapt teaching approaches to meet varied student needs while fostering an inclusive and supportive learning environment.	
Study Smart Tutors, <i>STEM Summer Camp Tutor</i> , Coral Gables, FL	May 2026 – Aug 2026
Provide individualized and small-group STEAM instruction to youth using culturally relevant and engaging instructional strategies. Adapt teaching approaches in real time to meet diverse learning needs and build students' academic confidence and curiosity.	
Women of Color in Ecology, Evolution, & Biology, <i>Mentor</i> , Virtual	Jan 2022 – May 2022
Provided monthly mentorship and professional guidance to Master's student in ecology.	
Johns Hopkins University, <i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Baltimore, MD	Aug 2021 – May 2023
Supported instruction in Sustainable Food Systems, Intro Ecology, and Soil Ecology courses through discussion facilitation, grading, and student support. Held office hours and helped communicate ecological concepts clearly to diverse learners.	
Johns Hopkins University, <i>Graduate Student Co-President</i> , Baltimore, MD	Aug 2021 – Jul 2022
Led and organized graduate student initiatives, coordinated events, and helped communicate between students and faculty. Strengthened leadership, stakeholder coordination, and community-building skills in an academic setting.	
Johns Hopkins University, <i>Department General Council Representative</i> , Baltimore, MD	Aug 2020 – May 2021
Represented department's graduate students in general council meetings, voted on initiatives to benefit students, and participated in bi-weekly meetings to advocate for funding and student interests.	
California State University, <i>Environmental Policy Committee Member</i> , Los Angeles, CA	Aug 2019 – May 2020
Collaborated with administrators to develop and implement campus sustainability policies. Educated campus community on environmental justice and stewardship.	
Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation, <i>ESTEAM Curriculum Instructor</i> , Los Angeles, CA	Jun 2019 – Aug 2019
Delivered a six-week environmental education curriculum to youth in a community park summer program. Designed weekly lesson plans, led hands-on science activities, and facilitated field-based learning and stewardship engagement.	

Developed digital learning materials to enhance accessibility and student comprehension of course content. Provided student support through office hours and assisted with grading, exam proctoring, and course administration.

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

SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

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
Emeriti Fellowship Fund	2019
Society for Conservation Biology Graduate Research Grant	2019
Santa Monica Audubon Society Research Grant	2019
Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship	2017