

# Marisa T. ValeCruz

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## Education and Awards

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In Progress	Cornell University, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment M.S. Natural Resources   Prospective graduation: December 2023 Graduate Research Fellowship, total award of \$117,822
2021-present	National Climate Adaptation Science Center, Northeast Branch   Fellow
2017	The University of Georgia, Odum School of Ecology B.S. Ecology, Spanish Minor   <i>cum laude</i> Hope Scholarship, merit-based award ( avg \$8,000/year, 2014-2017)

## Work and Teaching Experience

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2021-present	Graduate Research Assistant   Ithaca, NY Conducted ecological research surrounding selective fish passage in Great Lakes tributary rivers. Planned and completed two field seasons of biotic and abiotic stream sampling including fish handling, netting, and electrofishing, surgical tagging and telemetry of live fish, macroinvertebrate sampling, fluorometric analysis of water samples, and ecological bioassays. Analyzed large datasets in R; publications from this project are in preparation.
2021- 2022	Field Biology Teaching Assistant   Ithaca, NY Taught two semesters of undergraduate field biology. Led outdoor field labs, advised student research projects, and designed and taught labs in stream ecology and entomology.
2019- 2020	Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps   Detroit, MI Trained with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Responsible for the care and maintenance of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and Formal Gardens at Belle Isle Park. Awarded an AmeriCorps education award of \$5,920.
2019- 2020	Nature Center Leader   Farmington Hills, MI Led and developed environmental outreach, educational, and public programs for the Farmington Hills Nature Center at Heritage Park.
2019	Expedition Leader   Guanacaste, Costa Rica Co-led a National Geographic student expedition focusing on community service through the lens of ecosystem conservation throughout the Guanacaste region.
2018	Resident Naturalist   San Luis de Monteverde, Costa Rica Internship included teaching in and out of the classroom, translation and interpretation, development and revision of lessons and training materials and assistance with ongoing research projects at the station.
2018	Teaching Assistant   multiple provinces, Costa Rica Assisted the course professor on an interdisciplinary field course in Tropical Ecology at several research stations throughout Costa Rica.

- 2016-2017 Undergraduate Research Assistant | Athens, GA  
Supported several graduate students as a lab and field assistant in the Rosemond Freshwater Ecology Laboratory. The primary work supported a PhD research project on river ecology.
- 2016 Undergraduate Contract Student | Athens, GA  
Developed a reference database of national and global sustainability efforts as part of a larger policy initiative for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

## **Presentations**

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ValeCruz, Marisa T, Jacobs, GJ, Fisk, AT, McIntyre, PB. Predicting Ecosystem Responses to Restoring Fish Migrations: Does Within-Network Variation Matter? Poster presented at: The Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting. 2022 May 14-20; Grand Rapids, MI

## **Community Involvement & Outreach**

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- 2023 Cornell American Fisheries Society, Fisheries Club | Invited guest speaker
- 2017 Undergraduate Representative | Odum School of Ecology Diversity Committee
- 2017 Founding Member | The University of Georgia SEEDS Chapter  
(Strategies for Ecology Education, Diversity, and Sustainability)
- 2014-2018 Mentor and Service Team Member | St. Joseph Youth Ministry

## **Certifications and Skills**

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- 2022 National Climate Adaptation Science Centers Early-Career Workshop | Albuquerque, NM
- 2022 First Aid & CPR; wilderness-specific first aid
- 2018 Instructional Conversations Pedagogue  
Professional development workshop teaching conversation-based pedagogy for culturally and linguistically diverse groups of students