

## Wellesley College Botanic Gardens staff



**[Kristina Niovi Jones](#)**

Director

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office: Science Center E124

As a native Californian who didn't know much about the east coast, getting to know the trees and wildflowers of the Wellesley campus helped me feel at home here. That was in 1994 when I was a new faculty member in Biology... Now I love working on making the Botanic Gardens ever more welcoming and interesting to students from all over as they find their place here. I'm a pollination biologist by training, interested in helping human-dominated habitats like campus serve as suitable habitat for bees and many other species. Growing food sustainably is another big interest. Pups Rosie and Athena are good at getting me outside when I've been at the computer for too long, and outside is my favorite place to be, even in winter! Beginning summer 2023, I am also Faculty Director of the [Frost Center for the Environment](#) (a 3-year term)!



**K. Melchor Quick Hall**

Associate Director

Pronouns:

Office: Science Center E134



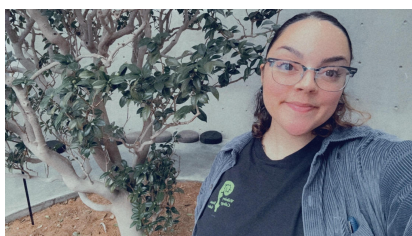
**Paul Battafarano**  
Senior Greenhouse  
Horticulturist  
Pronouns: he/him/his  
Office: Science Center E128



**Anne Beckley**  
Senior Gardens Horticulturist  
(part-time 2023-2025)  
Pronouns: she/her/hers  
Office: Science Center E128

I joined the staff as Gardens Horticulturist in 2020, where I oversee the daily care of the outdoor gardens, working with students, colleagues and mother nature to highlight and sustain the garden's beauty. I come to Wellesley with diverse experience, working throughout the country in the fields of plant community ecology, conservation, public parks operations, and ecological horticulture. In addition to tending and developing the gardens, one of my main goals at Wellesley is to inspire the next generation of nature-loving naturalists, scientists, meditators, artists and wanderers, in no particular order. I hold an M.S. degree in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston and a B.A. in Religious Studies from Macalester College.

**Connor Schmitz**  
Collections Horticulturist



**Tania Acevedo**

Hi! My name is Tania and I am the Academic Administrator here at Wellesley College, supporting the Botanic Gardens, Frost Center for the Environment, Paulson Initiative, and the Environmental Studies department. My background is not very extensive, but I am beyond excited to get to know everyone within the college, students and staff alike. Learning and continuing to grow in every environment is very important to me and becoming apart of the Wellesley College community allows me the opportunity to continue to

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| <p>Academic Administrator for Friends of Botanic Gardens, Frost Center, Paulson Initiative, &amp; Environmental Studies dept.<br/>Pronouns: she/her/hers<br/>Office: Botanic Gardens Visitor Center, Friends office</p>          | <p>grow and learn. Please don't be shy, do come say Hi! I'm sure we'll find things we have in common. For example, I LOVE Harry Potter. Let's talk about our houses! I do also have a big puppy named Nala who loves to play and beg for food whenever she gets the chance. She shares a space on my desk if you'd like to see her adorable face. :)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|  <p><b>Sofia Wolman</b><br/>Outdoor Gardens Horticulturist (part-time 2023-2025)<br/>Pronouns: she/her/hers<br/>Office: Science Center E128</p> | <p>I'm working as an Assistant Horticulturist for a two-year term, and am excited to learn from and help care for the 22 acres of the Botanic Gardens! Over the years I've come to revel in (often unexpected) focuses, lessons, or bounties of each season. I grew up helping in the vegetable garden, then worked on a small organic diversified farm, so I got to ferment and can those veggies that were most abundant. I've been amazed at the success of the hugelkultur beds I constructed - now filled with mostly perennial medicinal plants that I dry for year-long support, enjoyment, and sharing. I recently spent the summer working on residential ornamental gardens, and growing my home flower garden by a foot or two each week! I studied Politics at Earlham College and Ministry at Harvard Divinity School, and am part of efforts focused on: peace, justice, performance, holistic well-being, and community self-care.</p> |
|  <p><b>Elise Crawford-Paz Soldán</b><br/>Post-baccalaureate Fellow<br/>Pronouns: she/her/hers</p>                                             | <p>I have a passion for wildlife and conservation that inspires me, both professionally and artistically. The intersection of nature, society, and art is my main interest, and the way that art and nature are deeply intertwined. Gardens to me are a form of art that we use to reconnect with our environment, especially when society is growing further removed from the planet around us. My artistic medium of choice is charcoal, but I also love working with clay and experimenting with multimedia. I am always excited to create! I studied Ecology and Art at Arizona State University, and I have a background in K-12 environmental education and adult arts education/trauma recovery.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

