

I was born and raised in South Florida and still reside in the state. I received my B.S. and M.S. in biology from Florida Atlantic University, a certificate in Biomedical Sciences from Barry University and my Ph.D. in entomology from The University of Florida. I am currently the Southeast Regional Director for Vector Disease Control International (VDCI), overseeing their mosquito abatement programs in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Southern Mississippi. Prior to joining VDCI, I worked at Volusia County Mosquito Control where I headed up their research and arbovirus surveillance programs. I also worked at Anastasia Mosquito Control as their molecular entomologist, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a mosquito control outreach specialist for the Northeast region and I was a microbiology professor at St. Johns' River State College and Florida Atlantic University. My graduate research focused on improving conservation of endangered parrots with the use of a push-pull method to reduce nest site competition with Africanized honey bees. Additionally, I evaluated the impact of other arthropods, including mosquitoes, on nestling bird health and survival. In 2016, I founded a non-profit, Avian Preservation and Education Conservancy (APEC), to contribute to ongoing endangered bird conservation projects by performing problem-based research, community involvement and education. Some of my other projects include protecting penguins from avian malaria, permethrin use to reduce bird nest parasites and reducing the effects of the red imported fire ant on numerous bird species.