

Interests

My primary interests are in Extension education, integrated pest management (IPM), and inclusion in agriculture. My immediate goal is to gain experience as a leader in production agriculture and developing new ways of getting minorities involved in agriculture. I am especially interested in gardening, entomology, and small-scale food production education. My long-term goals are to obtain a Ph.D. in agricultural education and to ultimately become a professor of agricultural education at a historically black college or university.

Education

- **Aug 2016 to May 2018** – Master of Science in Life Sciences (MSLS) - Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.
- **Aug 2012 to Aug 2016** - Bachelor of Science, Agriculture: Plant and Soil Science *Cum laude* – Department of Agriculture, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

Professional License(s)

- Texas Private Pesticide Applicator License – September 17, 2019

Publications

- Scouting for Bird Cherry Oat Aphids on Wheat – 2019
<https://agriflife.org/texasrowcrops/2019/03/27/scouting-for-bird-cherry-oat-aphids-on-wheat/>
- Developing resistance to Bt genes in cotton bollworm – 2019
<https://agriflife.org/texasrowcrops/2019/03/18/developing-resistance-to-bt-genes-in-cotton-bollworm/>
- Survey of Pest Management Practices of Virginia Sweet Corn Growers – 2017
https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/content/dam/pubs_ext_vt_edu/ENTO/ento-248/ENTO-248NP.pdf
- Corn earworm monitoring in commercial sweet corn fields in Virginia – 2017
<https://pubs.ext.vt.edu/ENTO/ENTO-266/ENTO-266.html>

Experience

Feb 2019- Present – IPM Extension program specialist – Texas A & M University, Thrall, TX

- Scout producers' fields for crop damaging pest.
- Conduct research which is beneficial to local producers
- Write publications on current pest issues in the Texas Blacklands.
- Assist in entomological research conducted by Texas A & M University.

Aug 2017 to May 2018 - Graduate teaching assistant - Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA - Insects and Human Society – ENT2004.

- Create multiple choice test questions.
- Grade written assignments evaluating the student's understanding and perspective on the topic assigned.

- Lecture the class on recent news stories involving insects and arthropods and their effects on human society and popular media.

June 2017 to Aug 2017 - Research Assistant for Dr. Tracy Leskey USDA-ARS - USDA-ARS, Washington DC.

- Evaluated semiochemicals attractants in the field for brown marmorated stink bug(BMSB).
- Set up pyramid and sticky card traps in Blacksburg, VA.
- Record population numbers of BMSB onto data sheets and enter data into Microsoft Excel™.
- Send organized data to Dr. Tracy Leskey and Dr. Thomas Kuhar, Professor of Entomology, Virginia Tech.

May 2017 to Aug 2017 - Graduate Research Assistant - Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

- Assist in production activities with vegetable entomology field research conducted by Dr. Thomas Kuhar.
- Spray sweet corn varieties with various insecticides for my graduate research.
- Monitor and record data on the population of ladybeetles, honey bees, bumble bees, and solitary bee species in insecticide- treated sweet corn fields (post application).
- Conduct an experiment where honey bee nucleus colonies were trained to go to feeders, one of which was filled with non-contaminated sugar water while the other was filled with insecticide contaminated sugar water. Each hive was monitored by using GoPro™ cameras. Behavioral observations were recorded.
- Manage all field-generated data from summer research.

Aug 2016 to May 2017 – Extension Graduate Assistant - Department of Entomology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.

- Assist with Extension pesticide safety education and IPM (pesticide impact assessment) projects.
- Review literature for Extension publications.
- Provide workshop and meeting support.
- Conduct presentations for workshop participants.

July 2016 to Aug 2016 – Research assistant for the Plant Germplasm Introduction Testing and Research Unit of the USDA-ARS - USDA-ARS, Washington, DC

- Assist plant geneticist in researching various plant germplasm preservation.
- Make samples for polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- Plant, manage, and monitor alfalfa production at Prosser and Pullman, Washington State University research station.

Aug 2015 to May 2016 – Urban agriculture research assistant – Department of Agriculture, Randolph Farm Research Center, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

- Plant, manage, and monitor greenhouse-grown sweet potatoes, tomatoes, leafy greens, and sweet corn.
- Build and set up a raised bed for the community of Petersburg.

Aug 2014 to Aug 2015 – Plant genetics research assistant - Department of Agriculture, Randolph Farm Research Center, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

- Prepare pure plant tissue samples for PCR.
- Research current plant genetic experiments.
- Plant, manage, and monitor organisms used for conducting research.

June 2013 to Dec 2013 – USDA-NIFA PINEMAP research assistant and Extension educator – North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.

- Make and install sap-monitoring probes for loblolly pine trees.
- Excavate roots from soil samples for root dry weight.
- Educate elementary and middle school students about the impact of climate change and the importance of forestry in human society.

Aug 2012 to May 2013 - Poinsettia research assistant – Department of Agriculture, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.

- Monitor and manage various varieties of poinsettia.
- Assist Dr. Christopher Catanzaro in gathering marketing data on various varieties of poinsettia.
- Set up the annual open house to gather public opinion on the new varieties of poinsettia.