Abstract: Caribbean students desiring to contribute to conservation of this region are faced with many challenges including the lack of these specific programs at the undergraduate level across the Caribbean. To counter this dearth in education in the conservation fields, the School of Arts and Sciences at St. George's University in Grenada has developed a successful undergraduate program in marine, wildlife and conservation biology. An important component of this education has been to integrate students into research and outreach activities on local conservation topics such as wetland restoration, conservation of the Grenada Hook-billed Kite, and conservation of the critically endangered Cribo snake. This has led to an increase in our biological knowledge and public awareness of these issues, and to transformative learning by the students involved.

Biography: Dr. Easter-Pilcher is currently the Senior Associate Dean in the School of Arts and Sciences at St. George’s University. She also serves as a delegate representing the country of Grenada at the Convention International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES). After earning her Ph.D. in Conservation Biology and Statistics from Montana State University in Bozeman, she was a Professor of Wildlife and Conservation Biology in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of Montana-Western.

Dr. Easter-Pilcher has an ongoing commitment to experiential teaching and learning and to undergraduate student research focused in marine, wildlife and conservation biology. Dr. Easter-Pilcher’s current research in Grenada includes modeling sea level rise impacts on mangrove distribution and use by migratory birds, and nest tree selection by the endemic and critically endangered Hook-billed Kite.