

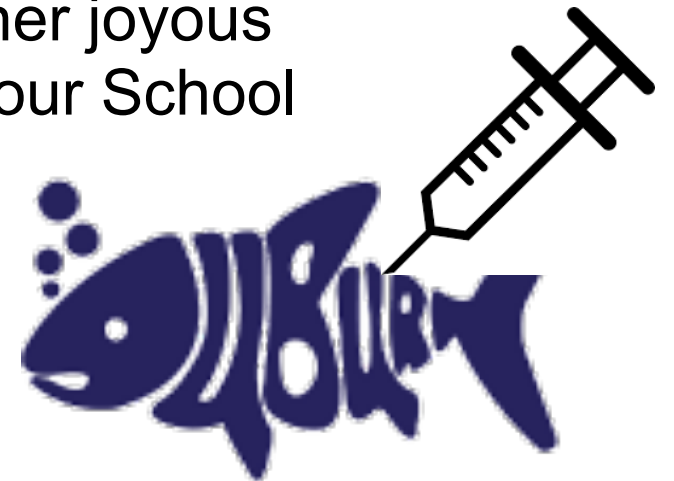
THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 4 / January 2021

We just made it through a rough year, and have some more rough times ahead before things may settle back to what we all think of as normal. The School managed to keep going through the pandemic – classes were held in one form or another, research was conducted, extension programs continued, and students graduated. We also had several students begin their studies. This *Newsreel* highlights eight of them.

Please send information items and pictures for *Newsreel*. Along with current School activities, it would be great to hear from our alumni and retired faculty and staff., So, let us know about new jobs, new kids, new grandkids, and other joyous activities,. Also, please let us know when former members of our School pass, so we can let everyone know. Here is to a better year!

Joe Tomasso
Professor & Director (and Newsreel editor!)





LEAVING US

Bill Walton has accepted the Acuff Professorship at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences.

Dr. Walton joined SFAAS in 2009 as an assistant professor and was promoted to professor last year. While here, he directed research and extension activities at the Auburn University Shellfish Lab on Dauphin Island. His efforts are credited with the development of an off-bottom oyster farming industry on the Gulf coast.

We wish Bill well as he takes on new challenges and look forward to continued collaboration with him.



RETIREMENT

Many may remember Betty Terry, better known as **Ms Betty**, the longtime custodian in Swingle Hall.

She has decided to retire after 14 years service to Auburn University. During that time, she received two employee-of-the-month awards.

Ms Betty has worked in many of the campus buildings, but Swingle Hall was always home plate.



ALUMNI UPDATE

Ana Menezes was recognized in 2019 as one of the 100 top employees by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Dr. Menezes earned an M.Aq. under the direction of Len Lovshin and later an M.S. under the direction of David Rouse. She later took a Ph.D. from Syracuse University.

She worked for her home country of Mozambique for a few years before accepting an offer to join FAO. She is currently based in Rome and focuses on aquaculture in Africa.

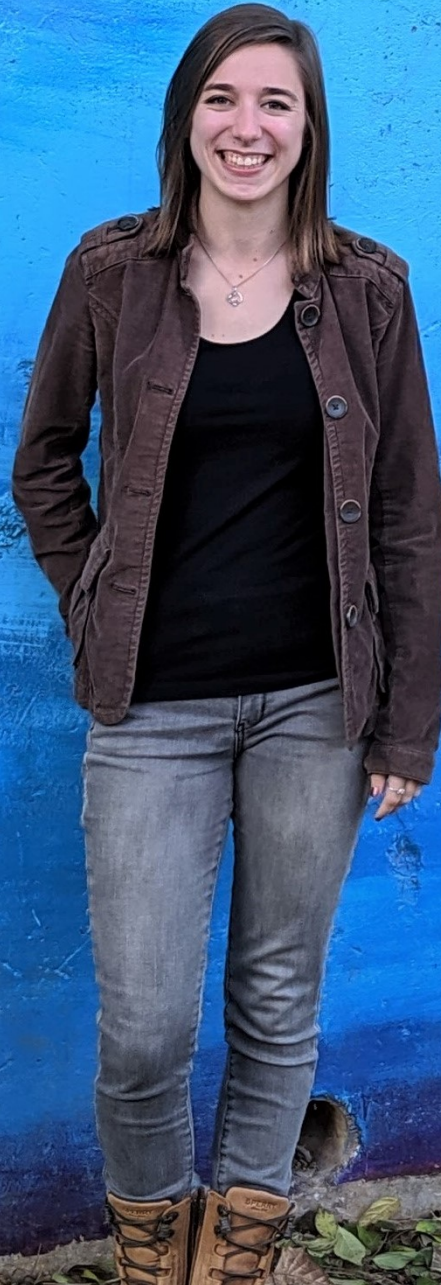
New MS Student

Evelyn Pieper has joined Jim Stoeckel's lab. She will study the effects of the invasive Asian clam *Corbicula fluminea* on juvenile native mussels.

Evelyn earned her BS in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at UT Knoxville.

She hopes to have a career in conservation biology of native mussels.

Epioblasma brevidens





NEW MS STUDENT

James Tuttle has joined Anita Kelly's lab at the Alabama Fish Farming Center in Greensboro.

He graduated from Rhode Island University in 2018 where he received his BS degree in Marine Biology and Minor in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science.

James has experience conducting large pelagic fish surveys, raising marine algal cultures, designing and building hatcheries, and producing and culturing several aquatic species.



NEW MS STUDENT

Daniel Westrich has joined Jim Stoeckel's lab. He will work on control technologies for the invasive Red Swamp crayfish *Procambarus clarlii*.

Daniel is currently a biologist at the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center where he works on invasive species problems.

He plans to pursue a career as a research biologist.



NEW MS STUDENT

Matt LaGanke has joined Bill Walton's lab. He will work on oyster mariculture questions.

Matt earned his B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, before working as a Shellfish Biologist for the Florida Wildlife Research Institute. In that position, he monitored and assessed the populations of oysters and bay scallops, as well as their associated benthic communities.

Most recently, Matt has been diving in New York to relocate fresh water mussels and is looking forward to warmer water temperatures on the Alabama coast.

NEW MS STUDENT



Khanh Nguyen has joined Allen Davis' lab. He will be studying the relationship between nutrition and immune responses in shrimp.

Khan is a product of the CANTHO English Aquaculture Program. Over the years, many Auburn faculty members have contributed to this program.



NEW MS STUDENT

Paul Ramsey has joined Shannon Brewer's lab. His thesis research will be determining the factors related to hatch date and growth of juvenile invasive carp in the Red River basin of Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas.

Paul received his undergraduate degree in Biology with a focus in Ecology from Florida State University.

Before joining the Brewer Lab, he worked as a fisheries technician for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

NEW MS STUDENT



Benjamin Birdsall has joined Shannon Brewer's lab. His research is focused on determining the age structure and growth of invasive bighead carp and silver carp in the Lower Red River Basin of Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Ben received his undergraduate degree from the University of Idaho with a B.S. in Fisheries Resources.

He previously worked as a research technician for both the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.



NEW MS STUDENT

Jordan Ramey has joined Shannon Brewer's lab. His project will determine habitat occupancy and population structure of crayfishes in the Ozark Highlands of Oklahoma.

Jordan received his B.S in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Fisheries Science from The University of Tennessee at Martin.

NEW PHD STUDENT

Aya Saied ElSeadawy has joined Allen Davis' lab to study the nutrition and environmental tolerances of shrimp.

She earned her MSc in aquaculture nutrition from Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt where she studied the growth of the green tiger shrimp in biofloc systems.

Since 2018, she has been a visiting scholar at Auburn, working in the labs of Allen Davis and Jim Stoeckel.

When she finishes her degree at Auburn, she will be assigned a tenure track assistant professor position upon returning to her country.



Waters, P; Petrolia, D.; Walton, W. 2020
Participant Motivations for
Joining an Extension program.
Journal of Extension V58-6a3.

<https://joe.org/joe/2020december/a3.php>

Participants in Gulf of Mexico, Chesapeake Bay, and Atlantic Coast restoration-focused oyster gardening programs (OGPs) were asked about motivations for joining an OGP. Environmental improvement was a stronger motivation than opportunity to learn or fishing improvement, both of which were generally greater than social motivations.

NEW PAPER

