

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

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The pandemic slowed things down a bit, but did not stop them. The last two months have been an exercise in catch-up, but it has gone well.

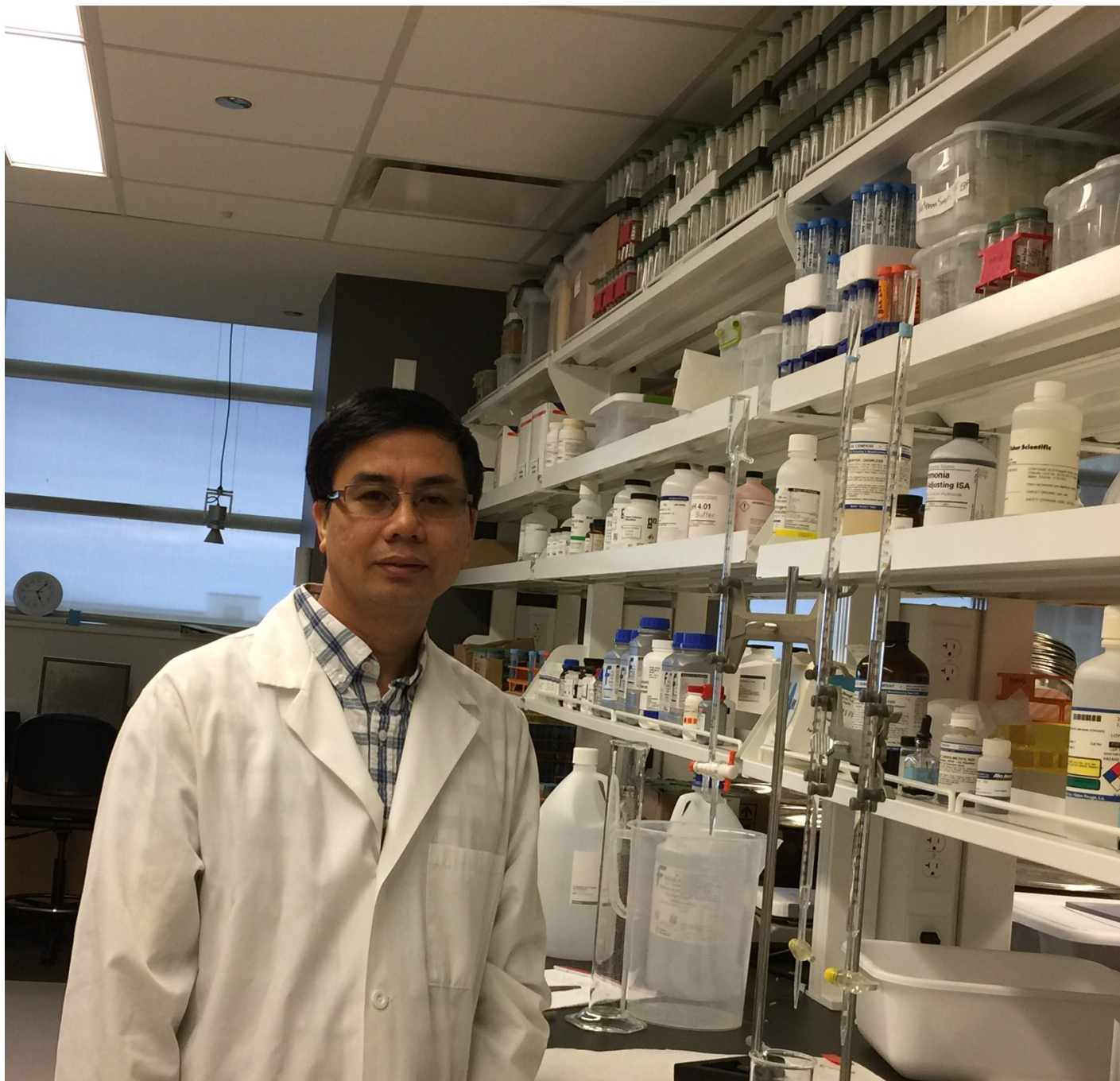
In this issue of *Newsreel* we welcome a new faculty member and congratulate twelve of our graduate students (7 PhD and 5 MS) who have completed their programs and are going on to their next steps.

We also recognize an achievement of one of our alumni.

Please keep the information coming in so we can get it out in the *SFAAS Newsreel*.

Joe Tomasso
Professor & Director (and Newsreel editor!)





NEW FACULTY MEMBER

Tham Hoang will join us on June 1 as an associate professor working in the areas of aquatic toxicology and risk assessment.

He is currently an associate professor at Loyola University in Chicago.

His MS and PhD are from Clemson University where he studied the toxicology of metals in aquatic environments.

NEW PhD GRADUATE



Harsha SC Galkanda-Arachchige recently completed his PhD under the co-direction of Allen Davis and Luke Roy. Bill Daniels, Joe Tomasso, and Ash Abebe served as members of his advisory committee.

His dissertation was entitled “Evaluation of an Alternative Salt Mixture and the Levels of Magnesium in Low Salinity Water for Pacific White Shrimp”.

Dr. Galkanda-Arachchige plans to return to Sri Lanka and continue teaching and conducting research at Wayamba University

He has also been named an **AU Outstanding Graduate Student for 2020-2021**.

NEW PhD GRADUATE



Riley Buley recently completed his PhD under the direction of Alan Wilson. Dennis DeVries, Rusty Wright, Luke Roy, and Jennifer Graham served as members of his advisory committee.

His dissertation work addressed the monitoring, quantifying, and controlling the effects of Cyanobacterial blooms and toxins.

Dr Buley is currently interviewing for jobs in academia and government.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

Lindsay Horne recently completed her PhD under the co-direction of Dennis DeVries and Jim Stoeckel. Rusty Wright, Elise Irwin, and Mark Meade (Miami Dade College) served as members of her advisory committee, while Marie Strader served as a reader.

Her dissertation title was “The effects of temperature and dissolved oxygen on fish respiration determined by integrating enzymatic and organismal approaches”.

Dr Horne plans on continuing her research as a postdoc in the labs of Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

João Reis recently completed his PhD under the direction of Allen Davis. Luke Roy, Bill Daniels, and Jim Stoeckel served as members of his advisory committee, while Lee Chiba served as a reader.

His dissertation title was “The application of automatic systems in shrimp production as tools to improve feed management”.

Dr Reis plans a career in research and development for the aquaculture nutrition industry.

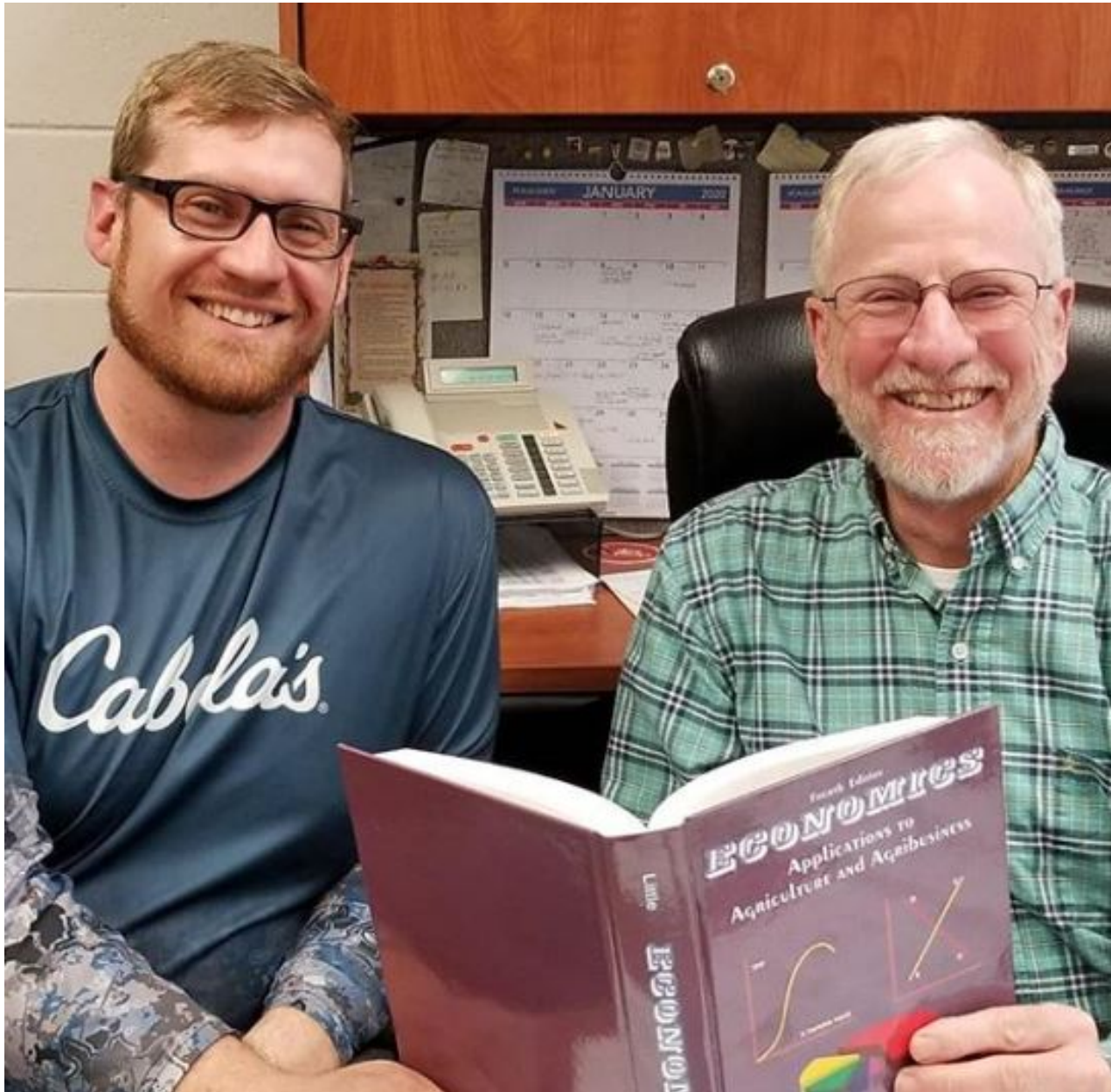
NEW PhD GRADUATE



Edna Fernandez-Figueroa recently completed her PhD under the direction of Alan Wilson. Matt Waters, Mark Liles, and Jennifer Graham served as members of her advisory committee.

Her dissertation work addressed the impacts of eutrophication and climate change on algal blooms at various scales.

Dr Fernandez-Figueroa will soon move into a postdoctoral position in Stephanie Rogers' lab in AU Geosciences.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

Allen Pattillo recently completed his PhD under the direction of Terry Hanson. Daniel Wells, Luke Roy, and David Cline served as members of his advisory committee.

His dissertation was entitled “Needs Assessment and Practical Solutions for the Aquaponics Industry”.

Dr. Pattillo has accepted a position as a Shellfish Aquaculture Technology Specialist at the University of Maryland.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

Michael Coogan recently completed his PhD under the direction of Rex Dunham. He holds a BS and a MPS from the University of Miami.

His dissertation was entitled “Genetic technologies for growth of channel catfish”.

Dr Coogan will continue running Blue Evolution Aquaculture, a consulting firm started by fellow Auburn fisheries graduate student Joao Reis, that provides full-service support to aquaculture companies around the world.

NEW MS GRADUATE & RESEARCH FELLOW



Matt Gladfelter is the recipient of a **Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship**. He is one of four students in the College to receive such an honor.

Matt recently completed his MS in Alan Wilson's lab and plans to build a dissertation project off of his MS project. The project will focus on how cyanobacterial communities respond to various forms of dissolved nitrogen – particularly changes in gene expression and toxin production.

He hopes to have a career in academia.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Cody Stites recently completed his MS under the direction of Allen Davis. Bill Daniels and Ian Butts served as his committee members.

His thesis title was “Improving plant-based diets for Florida pompano *Trachinotus carolinus*”.

His future plans are yet to be determined.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Andrew Johnson recently completed his MS under the direction of Rex Dunham. He is from San Antonio and holds a BS from the University of West Virginia.

His thesis title was “Analyses of texture and sensory traits, carcass traits, and fillet color in different genetic types of farmed catfish: genetic approaches to enhance catfish fillets”.

He plans to pursue a PhD in population genetics of sport fishes.



NEW MS GRADUATE

MC Eastburn recently completed her MS under the direction of Bill Walton. Jim Stoeckel, Brian Callam (LSU), and Jerome LaPeyer (LSU) served as members of her advisory committee.

Her thesis title was “Testing maternal contributions in triploid eastern oysters: a field evaluation in coastal Alabama”.

MC will soon start as hatchery manager for Pensacola Bay Oyster Company.



NEW MS GRADUATE

James Kelly recently completed his MS under the direction of Bill Walton. Jessica Jones (FDA, and Todd Steury served as members of his advisory committee.

His thesis title was “Testing and comparing the effects of different culture methods in the Pacific Northwest on the levels of *Vibrio* spp in farm raised oysters”.

James is currently applying for several positions in shellfish research.

ALUMNI UPDATE



Dr Ben Beck recently received the USDA Agricultural Research Service Leader & Center Director Award for “innovative and visionary leadership promoting scientific integrity, impact, and investment in human capital”.

He earned his BS in Fisheries & Allied Aquacultures in 2002, followed by a MS in 2005 under the guidance of John Grizzle.

Dr Beck is currently the Director of the USDA-ARS Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory on the Auburn Vet School campus.



AUMERC IS PREPARING FOR OYSTER SPAWNING

Seven yards of seasoned oyster shells from the Alabama Oyster Shell Recycling program were washed of sediment, sorted by size, counted and bagged.

They will be sent to the Auburn University Shellfish Lab and the Thad Cochran Aquaculture Center in Mississippi.

The hatcheries spawn and set larvae on the cleaned shells which are then moved to volunteer gardening sites in Alabama and Mississippi as well as into funded research projects focused on oyster restoration.

