

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 2 / October 2020

Here is our October edition of *Newsreel* - new people, new papers, new grants, and other news.

We have nearly made it through the Fall semester in spite of the pandemic. This year, the last class day is just before Thanksgiving with exams right after the holiday weekend. Things have gone amazingly well so far. Hopefully, we can begin returning to normal within a few months.

It is time for thesis and dissertation defenses to begin. I ask all major professors to send me a blurb as each student passes. Let us know who, what degree, research title, their committee, and what their plans are.

Joe Tomasso
Professor & Director (and Newsreel editor!)



AUBURN UNIVERSITY®
SCHOOL OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE
AND AQUATIC SCIENCES

NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Dr. Kevin Wang will join us in January as an assistant professor of aquatic chemistry.

He took his PhD from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Nanjing, spent time as a postdoc at the University of Delaware, and is coming to us from a research associate position with the USEPA in Oklahoma.

He has a strong interest in soil chemistry, transport processes, and organic contaminants.

His office and lab will be in Swingle Hall

Several faculty members are looking forward to collaborations with Dr. Wang



NEW RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Jesse James has been hired as a Research Associate at the Alabama Fish Farming Center.

Jesse grew up on a catfish and crawfish farm outside Newbern, Alabama. He attended Troy University where he received a B.S. in Marine Biology (2017) and was a member of the Troy University Bass Fishing Team. After completing his undergraduate studies at Troy he was accepted into the graduate school at Auburn University, and in 2019 where he received an M.S. under Dr. Terry Hanson.

Jesse will be providing support to research, diagnostic, and extension programs based out of the Fish Center.

SHRIMP TELL DR. DAVIS WHEN THEY ARE HUNGRY



Allen Davis and his lab have installed the “AQ1” automated feeding system on 16 ponds at the Claude Peteet Mariculture Center.

The system feeds shrimp based on the noise they make when they are hungry.

The system has reduced the growing days required to reach market size by 25% while increasing yields.

NEW JOURNAL ARTICLE



Rhoda Mae Simora et al. from **Rex Dunham's** lab have published an article showing that cathelicidins, derived from alligator and sea snake, protect channel catfish and hybrid catfish against *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, one of the most prevalent pathogens affecting the commercial catfish industry.

Simora RMC, Li S, Abass NY, Terhune JS, Dunham RA. Cathelicidins enhance protection of channel catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus*, and channel catfish ♀ × blue catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus* ♂ hybrid catfish against *Edwardsiella ictaluri* infection. J Fish Dis. 2020;00:1–10. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.13257>

FISH KILL STUDY

Terry Hanson, Steve Sammons and Phil Carson are in the second year of a project funded by **ADCNR** to study fish kills on the Locust Fork, Cahaba and Coosa Rivers.

The study goes beyond estimating the value of lost fish and seeks to include lost economic activity due to reduced angler visitation and the costs of restoration of the rivers and fisheries.



Photo courtesy of Cal Johnson (ADEM)

GRANTS & CONTRACTS CONTINUE TO GROW

Fiscal year 2020 \$8.1 million

Fiscal year 2019 \$7.2 million

Fiscal year 2018 \$6.1 million

Fiscal year 2017 \$6.7 million

PIs from SFAAS had another good year of grantsmanship.

Grants and contracts support much of our research and extension efforts

NEW GRANT



Anita Kelly and **Luke Roy**, along with collaborators at UC – Davis, have received a **USDA-NIFA** grant to study antibiotic resistance in aquaculture animals.

The main goal of this study is to identify critical control points and mitigation strategies for preventing the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria and the horizontal transfer of antibiotic resistance genes in aquaculture production systems

Aquaponics 101 Teacher Workshop Goes Virtual



In its 23rd year, the 5-day Aquaponics 101 Teacher Workshop was forced to go virtual.

Despite not being able to meet in person, the workshop expanded its reach to include 46 teachers from 16 states.

AU experts have trained more than 750 teachers throughout the years and through these teachers more than 100,000 students per year benefit from our curriculum.



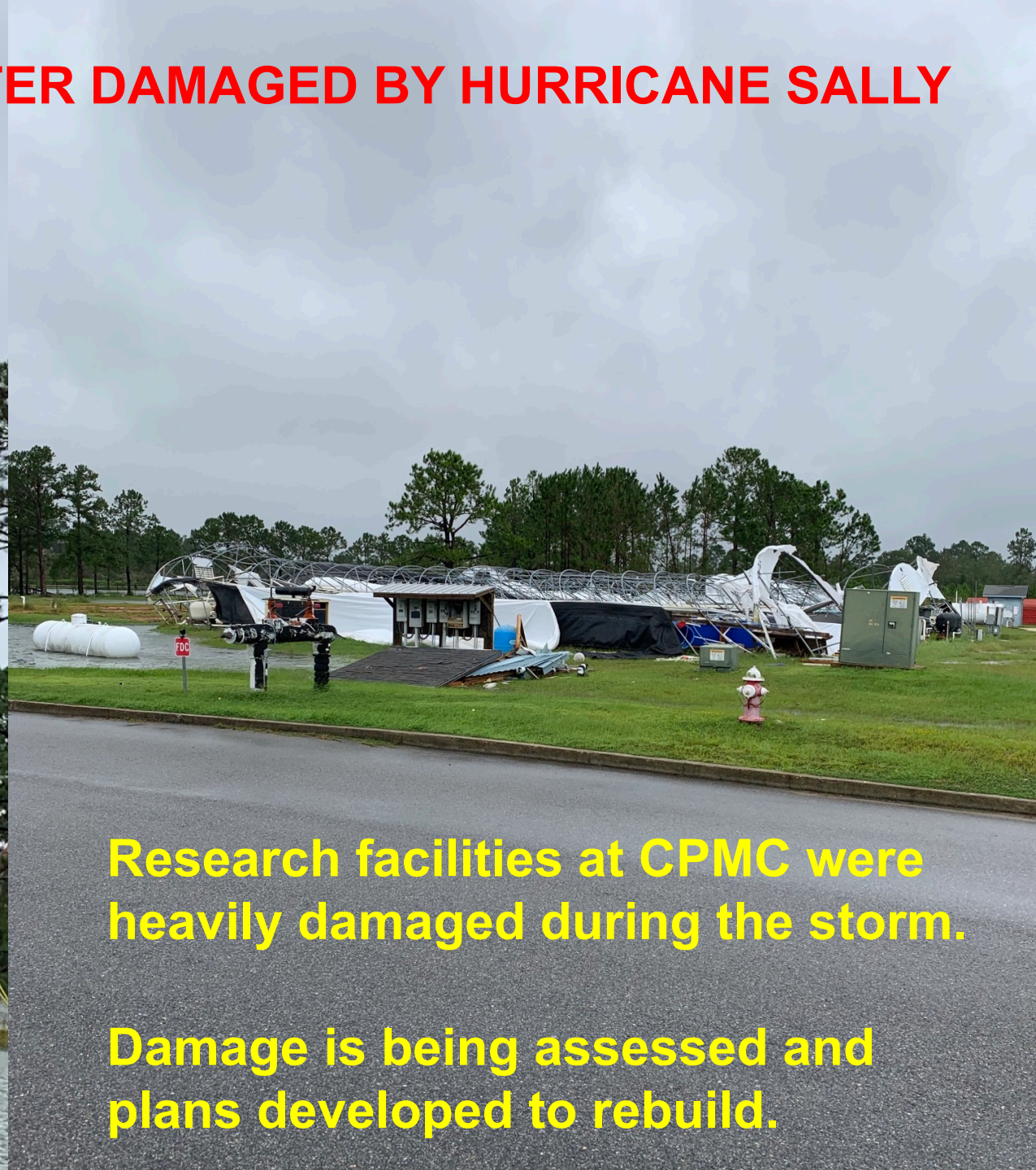
GENERATORS TO GO



Larry Lawson and **Clint Lloyd** carried generators, fans, fuel, and tarps from Auburn to our Shellfish Lab on Dauphin Island soon after Hurricane Sally cleared the area.

The Lab sustained roof and water damage.

CLAUDE PETEET MARICULTURE CENTER DAMAGED BY HURRICANE SALLY



Research facilities at CPMC were heavily damaged during the storm.

Damage is being assessed and plans developed to rebuild.

AUMERC HAS A NEW HOME

AUMERC has completed its move to a new location – 50A Midtown Park West in Mobile.

This location allows for easier access for stakeholders as well as provides workspace for ongoing and future projects/collaborations.

