

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 8 / June & July 2021

Summer is upon us and things are beginning to return to normal. Research and extension activities are in full swing and we are planning a return to full in-person instruction in the Fall.

In this *Newsreel* we say goodbye to some people and welcome some new people. I guess that is the nature of an academic unit.

By the way, thanks to Josh Woods we are archiving the past *Newsreel* editions on the School website under the “Newsletter” tab.

Please, keep sending us material to include in the *Newsreel*!

Joe Tomasso
Professor & Director (and *Newsreel* editor!)





RETIRING

Jeanie Harry has decided to retire after 14 years of keeping accounts in order for the School.

Jeanie came to us from the business world and says she needed some time to “adjust” to the university world.

She plans to spend more time with her grandchildren and work crossword puzzles – “no plans beyond that”.

← Jeanie practicing for retirement

NEW ACCOUNTANT



Tiffany Stevens is our new accountant. She comes to us from Chicago by way of Denver, Kansas City and London.

Tiffany is a CPA with a MS in accounting from the University of Missouri KC. She has spent ten years in the corporate accounting world and eighteen years in the small-business accounting world.

Tiffany, along with her husband, John, and daughter, Abby, did a search for "the place" to live and found Auburn.

She joined us a few weeks before her family moved so she could work with Jeanie on the transition. Now everyone, including Lily the dog, is here.

MOVING ON



Josh Brown is leaving us after three years as the Swingle receptionist. He plans on pursuing a life goal – earning a pilots license at AirVentures in Lagrange. If a plane buzzes Swingle Hall, we know who it is!



DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD

Xiaoli Ma is one of six PhD graduates to win the 2021 Distinguished Dissertation Award from the AU Graduate College in the category of Humanities/Fine Arts and Biological/Life Sciences.

Her dissertation topic was the functional genomics of air breathing in catfish. Her advisory committee consisted of Rex Dunham (chair), Charles Chen, Anthony Moss, and Joanna Wysocka-Diller. Xu Wang served as an outside reader.

Dr. Ma hopes to have a career in academia and continue her research in phylogenetics and comparative genomic analysis.



DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD

Michael Coogan is one of six PhD graduates to win the 2021 Distinguished Dissertation Award from the AU Graduate College in the category of Humanities/Fine Arts and Biological/Life Sciences.

His dissertation topic was genetic technologies for growth enhancement in catfish. His advisory committee consisted of Rex Dunham (chair), Ian Butts, Charles Chen, and Joanna Diller.

Dr. Coogan now lives in Brooklyn, NY and plans to continue his aquaculture consulting company, Blue Evolution Aquaculture.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Jacob Samenuk is the 2021-2022 winner of the **Alabama Catfish Producers Annual Scholarship**.

Jacob is from Dublin, Ohio and is currently working toward his BS. He is also working at the EW Shell Fisheries Center as a student employee.

His career goal is to own and manage his own fish farm or aquaponics operation.



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Annaleigh Poland is a co-recipient of the 2020-2021 **Auburn Fish Family Legacy Scholarship**.

Annaleigh is from Dothan and already holds an associates degree. She has experience working in both a veterinary clinic and a broiler farm.

Her career goal is to attend veterinary school and work in the fields of rehabilitation and management of marine life.

NEW TECHNOLOGIST

Mason Williams joined the AUMERC group this month to assist on the Mississippi Oyster Gardening grant.

Mason is currently a senior at the University of South Alabama studying biology and marine science.

After graduation in the fall, he hopes to pursue a career in aquaculture.



NEW RESEARCH ASSISTANT AND MS STUDENT

Conrad Horst is a research assistant working at AUMERC on projects related to oyster gardening and habitat restoration.

He is from Tuscaloosa and holds a BS from the University of Alabama in Marine Science and Biology.

He plans to work with PJ Waters to obtain a MS and continue his career in Alabama in the fields of sustainable resources and healthy habitats.



NEW MS STUDENT

Guillaume Cacot will soon join Tim Bruce's lab to evaluate a novel probiotic to enhance the immune response and disease resistance in channel catfish.

He is from Montpellier and holds an Associate of Science from the University of Perpignan via Domitia and an MS from Montpellier SupAgro.

Guillaume hopes to pursue a PhD and eventually have his own fish farm.



NEW MS STUDENT

Suzanne Tenison will soon join Alan Wilson's lab to study nutrient uptake in aquaculture pond sediments.

She is from Harlingen, Texas and holds a BS in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi.

Her career goal is to manage an aquaculture facility, wastewater treatment plant, or drinking water treatment plant.



RETIREE UPDATE



Faculty retirees Greg Whitis and Claude Boyd visited former faculty member David Teichert-Coddington at his shrimp farm in West Alabama.