

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 11 / November & December 2021

We are about to close another year. Despite the pandemic, the School has done well. Students continue to graduate, and new students continue to replace them. The faculty and staff continue to do their work and keep the School at the Nation’s forefront of fisheries, aquaculture and aquatic sciences.

Some of our faculty and staff have moved on, and new people have replaced them. A lot of processes and activities at the University have changed largely due to the pandemic.

So, things change, and things stay the same. Have a happy holiday!

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

You can find past *Newsreels* at
<https://agriculture.auburn.edu/research/faas/newsletters/>



RETIREMENT



Karen Booker is retiring after 16 years service to Auburn University, 15 of those years in SFAAS where she has been the go-to person for HR actions and many other things.

In retirement, Karen plans to “make mama happy” – taking road trips with family and friends, sitting on the front porch drinking tea and watching wildlife in the yard, crocheting gifts, and being on call for family (three daughters and their spouses, seven grandchildren, three grandchildren-in-law, and six great-grandchildren).

She will also help out as needed in the SFAAS office on TES to “keep my sanity”.



RETIREMENT

Valerie Klein is retiring after 17 years service to Auburn University. She started her Auburn career in Civil Engineering and came to SFAAS in 2008. Since then, she has served as an Administrative Support Assistant at North Auburn.

In retirement, Valerie plans to enjoy living at the Lake and spending time with her grandkids (Stella Ann and Cohen).

She anticipates about six months of retirement bliss before she is “climbing the walls” and begins looking for another job.

NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Dr. Andrea Tarnecki recently joined the SFAAS faculty as an assistant extension professor. She will be based at the Auburn University Shellfish Laboratory (AUSL) on Dauphin Island.

Dr. Tarnecki is originally from Ohio, but was raised in Tennessee. She holds a BS in Biology from Middle Tennessee State University and a PhD in Microbiology from Auburn University. Prior to joining us, Dr. Tarnecki was a staff scientist at Mote Marine Lab in Florida.

At AUSL, she will divide her time between research and extension activities in support of the oyster farming industry. Her primary areas of interest are oyster health and seafood safety.

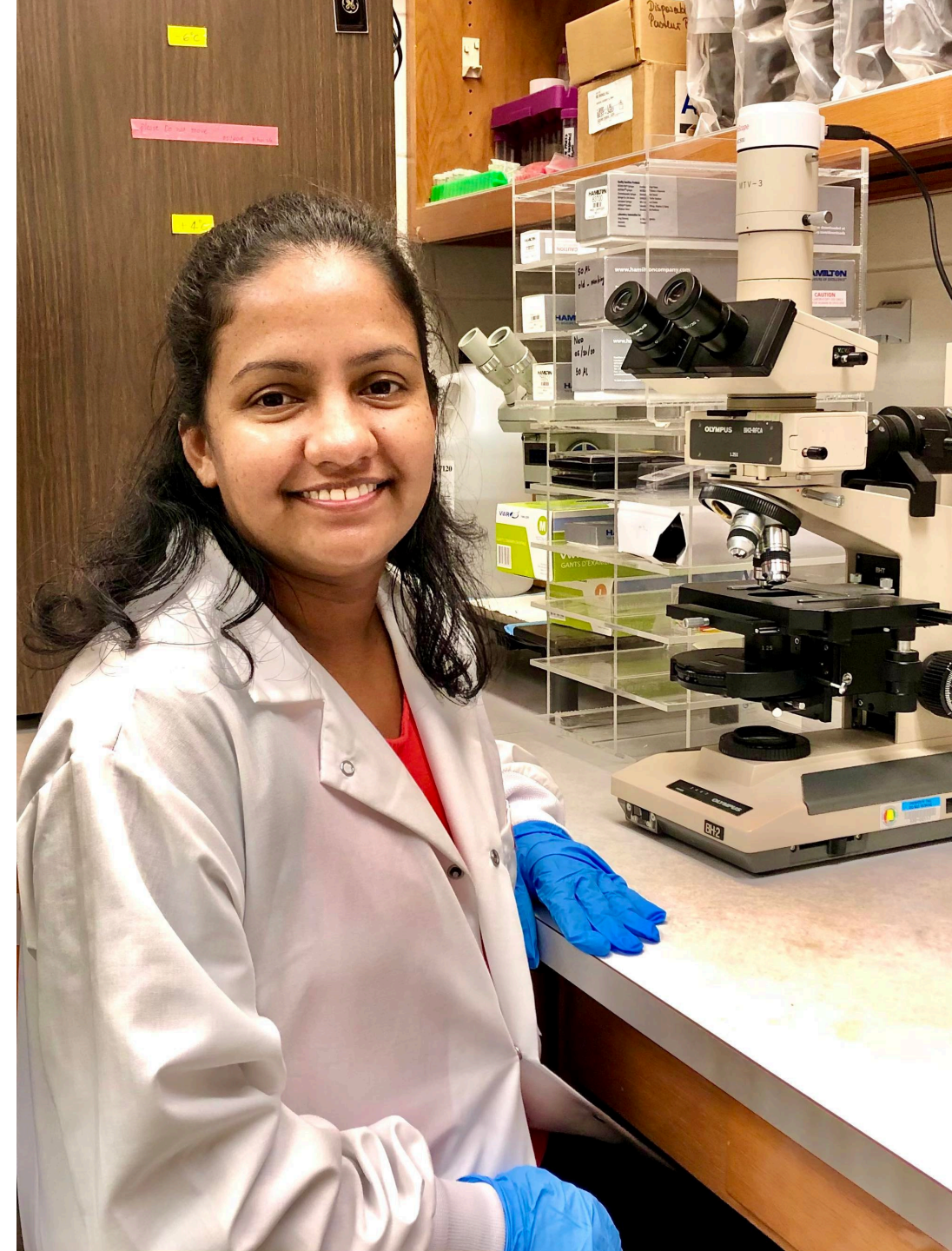
NEW MS GRADUATE



Elijah Lamb recently completed the requirements for the MS in our program. His committee co-chairs were Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright. Shannon Brewer and Laura Bilenker served as committee members.

His thesis is entitled “Using multiple approaches to evaluate the effects of flow regulation on fishes in the Tallapoosa River, Alabama”.

His career goal is to work for a state or federal natural resources agency.



AWARD WINNER

Darshika Hettiarachchi was recently recognized at the 2021 College Graduate Research Poster Showcase for her poster entitled *Producing xenogenic channel catfish with cryopreserved testes and ovarian tissues of blue catfish*.

Darshika is from Sri Lanka and is a PhD student working in the labs of Rex Dunham and Ian Butts.

She holds a BS from the University of Ruhuna in Sri Lanka and a MS from our program.

She hopes to have a career as a researcher in the field of aquaculture.



AWARD WINNER

Kayla Boyd was recently recognized at the 2021 College Graduate Research Poster Showcase for her poster entitled *Energetic costs of PFAS exposure and depuration in the eastern oyster*.

Layla is from Menomonie, Wisconsin and is a PhD student working in Jim Stoeckel's lab.

She holds a BS from the University of Wisconsin – Stout in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.

She hopes to have a career in oyster aquaculture and extension.



NEW MS STUDENT

Max Rubino will soon join Matt Catalano's lab. He is from Great Falls, Montana and holds a BS in Fish & Wildlife Management & Ecology from Montana State University.

For his thesis, he will estimate the population-level impacts of catch-and-release bass fishing in Alabama.

His career goal is to conduct population-level research in fisheries.



NEW MS STUDENT

TJ Pullen will soon join Matt Catalano's lab. He is from Ponder, Texas and holds a BS in Fisheries & Aquatic Ecology from Oklahoma State University.

For his thesis, he will estimate the population-level impacts of catch-and-release bass fishing in Alabama.

His career goal is to be an inland fisheries manager for Texas Parks & Wildlife.



NEW MS STUDENT

Natalie Coash will soon join Matt Catalano's lab. She is from Grand Rapids, Michigan and holds a BS in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point.

For her thesis, she will estimate the population-level impacts of catch-and-release bass fishing in Alabama.

Her career goal is to remain in fisheries research.



NEW MS STUDENT

Samantha Young will soon join Matt Catalano's lab. She is from Wellsboro, Pennsylvania and holds a BS in Marine Science from the University of South Carolina.

For her thesis, she will estimate the exploitation rates of greater amberjack off the southeastern US.

Her career goal is to work in fisheries management to maintain positive growth trends within fish populations.

NEW MS STUDENT

Jamie Rogers will soon join Shannon Brewer's lab. She will be co-advised by Steve Sammons. Jamie is from Ypsilanti, Georgia and holds a BS in Biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology.

For her thesis, Jamie will study the life history of the shoal bass in the Lower Flint River Basin in Georgia.

Her career goal is to support conservation in the southeastern United States.

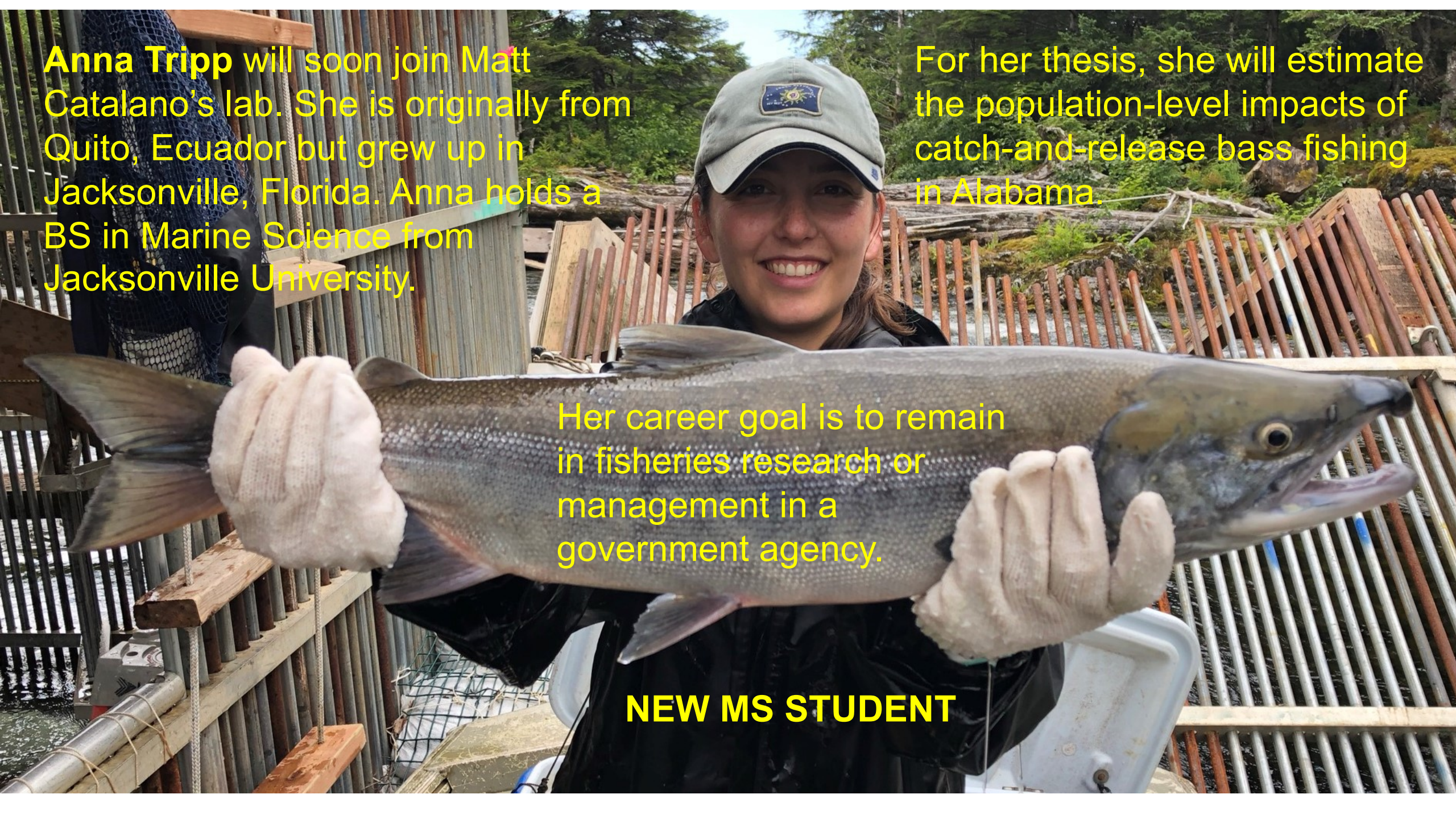


Anna Tripp will soon join Matt Catalano's lab. She is originally from Quito, Ecuador but grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. Anna holds a BS in Marine Science from Jacksonville University.

For her thesis, she will estimate the population-level impacts of catch-and-release bass fishing in Alabama.

Her career goal is to remain in fisheries research or management in a government agency.

NEW MS STUDENT



GRANTS & CONTRACTS STILL COMING IN!

The SFAAS faculty continue to attract grants and contracts to support our research and extension activities.

FY 21	\$7.0 million
FY 20	\$8.1 million
FY 19	\$7.2 million
FY 18	\$6.1 million
FY 17	\$6.7 million
FY 16	\$7.3 million
FY 15	\$6.2 million

The School accounted for 36% of College grant activity between FY 15 and FY 21.

Aquaculture Education YouTube Channel

This channel, created by SFAAS Associate Extension Professor David Cline, received more than 100,000 views this year and provided more than 6,600 hours of education for viewers from around the world.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/clinedj1>

