

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 12 / January 2022

Happy new year everyone! I hope everyone has a safe and productive 2022.

With the last issue of *Newsreel*, we tried a different way of reaching the School’s alumni. Instead of trying to send the issue directly, we used Hubspot Email, a service the College subscribes to for mass emailing. We sent an email to 815 alumni with an embedded link to the *Newsreel*. Only 104 alumni actually clicked the link to open the *Newsreel*. I suspect people are just being careful with email from an unknown sender. Please help spread the word that an email by me from Hubspot is indeed from the School. An alternate way to get to the *Newsreel* is to simply use the link below.

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

You can find past *Newsreels* at

<https://agriculture.auburn.edu/research/faas/newsletters/>





**A GATHERING
ALUMNI, FRIENDS & CURRENT MEMBERS OF SFAAS
AQUACULTURE 2021 – SAN DIEGO**



The College of Agriculture and School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences will host a gathering / reunion for all current members, alumni & friends during the Aquaculture 2021 conference in San Diego.

The event will be held at the Town & Country Hotel on March 1 from 8:00 to 9:00 pm in the Sunset (1-3) room. Beer, wine and soft drinks will be provided.

If you are attending the conference, please make time in your schedule to drop by.

We anticipate having a couple dozen faculty members, staff & students at the conference, so it is a good opportunity for generations to meet!

NEW PhD GRADUATE & STAFF MEMBER



Leticia Fantini Hoag recently completed her PhD under the direction of Terry Hanson. Her committee members were Luke Roy, Ian Butts, and Bill Walton.

Dr. Hoag's dissertation title was "Bioeconomic analysis of catfish produced in in-pond raceway systems".

She has joined the staff at the EW Shell Fisheries Center and will lead fish production activities.



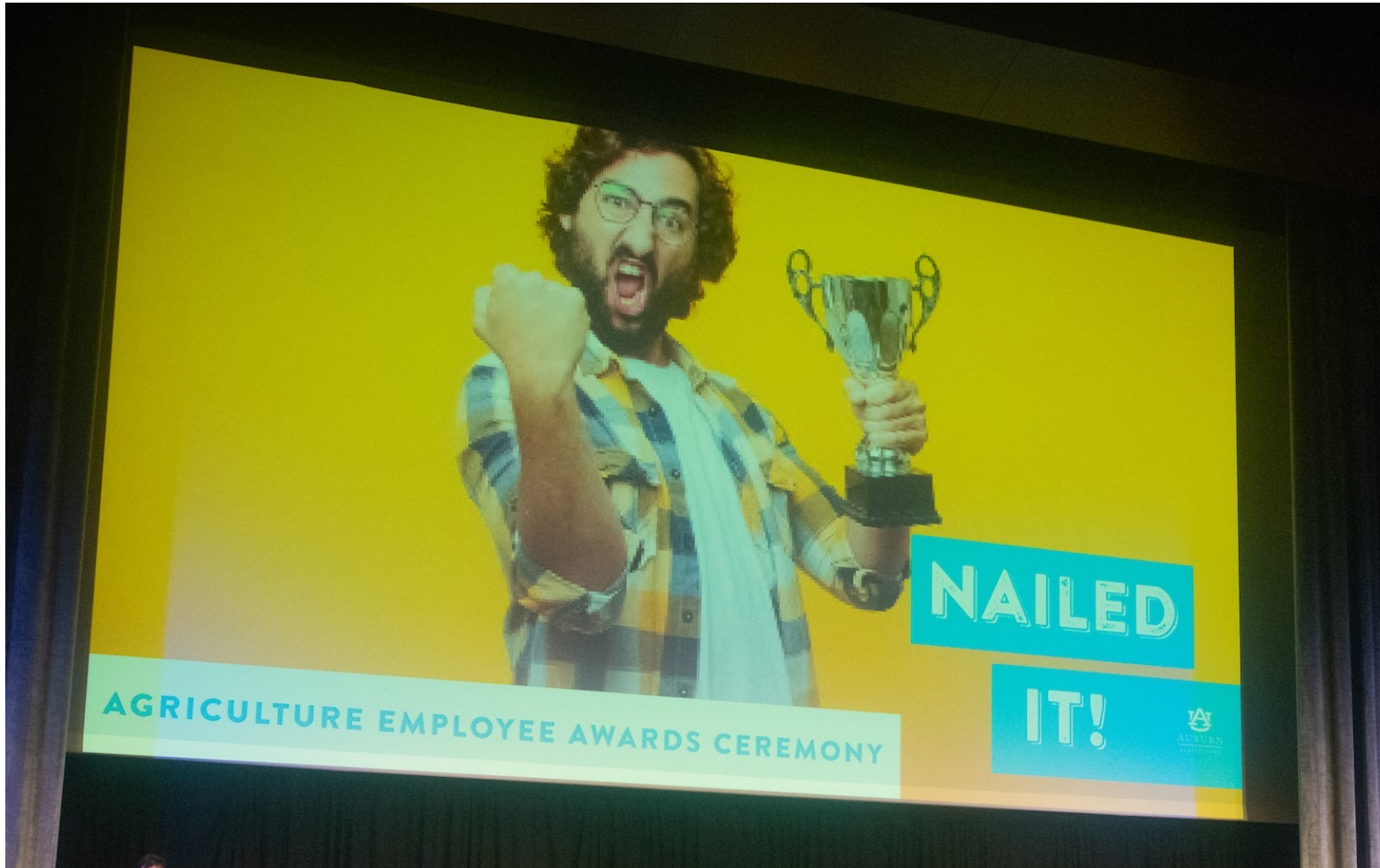
NEW PhD STUDENT

Courtney Harrison has joined the labs of Tom Bruce and Eric Peatman to pursue a PhD. Her dissertation topic will be the development of a vaccine to control *Flavobacterium columnare*.

She holds a BS in Animal & Nutritional Sciences from West Virginia University and a MS in Fish & Wildlife Sciences from Michigan State University.

Her career goal is to work in and further develop the field of aquatic animal health.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE GRANTSMANSHIP AWARDS

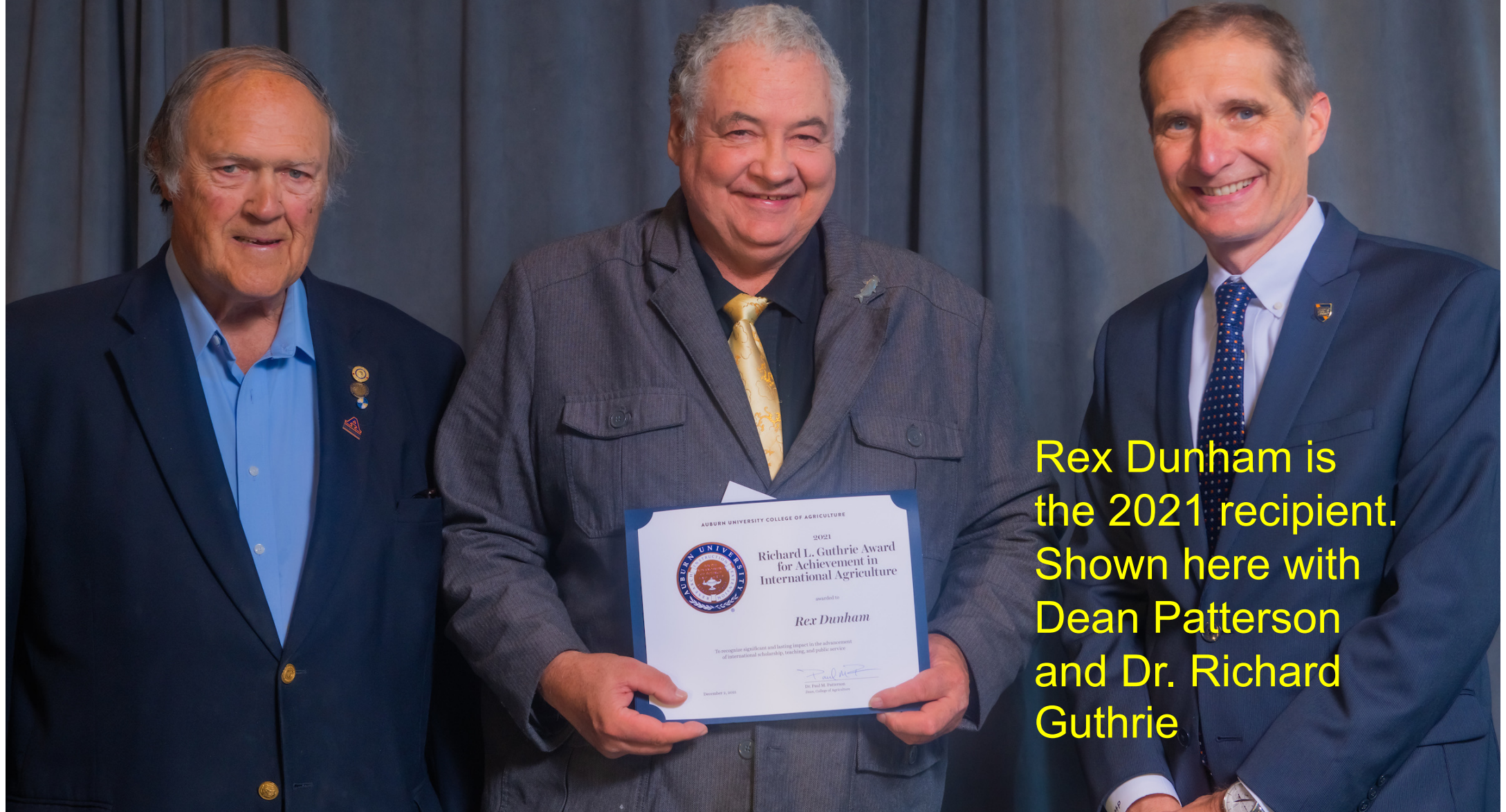


Once again, SFAAS faculty and staff were major players during the annual recognition of the College's top grantsmen. Seven of thirteen recipients were from SFAAS.

Shannon Brewer
Allen Davis
Dennis DeVries
Scott Rikard
Jim Stoeckel
Steve Szedlmayer
Rusty Wright

Well done!

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
RICHARD GUTHRIE AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURE**



Rex Dunham is the 2021 recipient. Shown here with Dean Patterson and Dr. Richard Guthrie

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE DEAN'S RESEARCH AWARD



Ian Butts is the 2021 recipient. Shown here with Dean Patterson and Dennis DeVries (representing the School)

DAVID PARTRIDGE MEMORIAL AWARD



Purpose: To help support MS students studying fisheries that exemplify David (MS '94)

PARTRIDGE AWARD WINNER



Ehlana Stell is one of two **Partridge Award** winners this year.

She is from Booneville, Mississippi and is pursuing a PhD with Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright as her advisors.

Her research topic is the impact of dams on fish swimming behavior and physiology.

Her career goal is to hold a university faculty position in which she split her time between research and teaching.



HOMER SCOTT SWINGLE MEMORIAL AWARD

***Presented to students
who exhibit academic
excellence, scholarship,
leadership & personal
integrity***

PARTRIDGE & SWINGLE AWARD WINNER



Matt Lewis is both a corecipient of the Partridge Award and recipient of the Swingle Award for PhD students.

Matt is from Geneva, Alabama. His dissertation advisor is Eric Peatmen, and his research topic is a genetic assessment of Alabama's redeye bass.

His career goal is to join academia and continue his research on native bass.



SWINGLE AWARD WINNER – MS LEVEL

Chris Rotar is the winner of the Swingle Award for MS students.

He is from Missoula, Montana. At AU, he is being advised by Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright. His thesis topic is the use of otolith microchemistry and population genetics to evaluate movement trends and dam passage rates of several fishes in the Alabama River.

After graduation, he hopes to be a fisheries biologist in a state or federal agency.



GRADUATE SCHOOL THESIS AWARD

The Graduate Council has selected **Darshika Hettiarachchi** and **Andrew Johnson** to receive the 2021-2022 **Master's Thesis Award**.

Selections were based on clarity, scholarship, methodology, and contributions to the discipline.

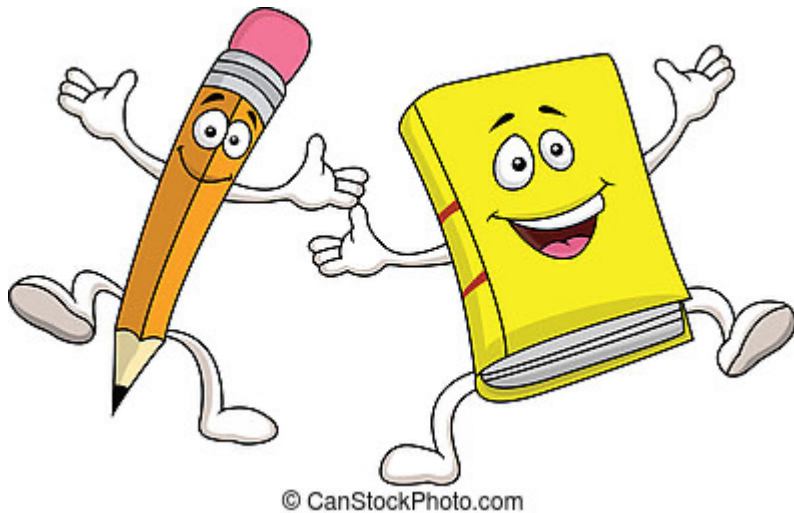
Andrew's MS advisors were Rex Dunham and Amit Morey. Darshika's were Rex Dunham and Ian Butts.

Both have gone on to PhD programs – Darshika here at AU and Andrew at WVU.



JOURNAL ARTICLES

The SFAAS faculty, staff & students continue to publish widely. So far, 101 journal articles have been published with a 2021 date. A few more are probably still to come.



The most frequently used journal was:

Journal of the World Aquaculture Society

followed by:

North American Journal of Fishery Management

Aquaculture Nutrition

Aquaculture

North American Journal of Aquaculture

NEWS FROM AUMERC

Oyster Gardening in the spotlight

- AP reporter Janet McConnaughey compiled a piece highlighting oyster gardening efforts in Mississippi and Alabama
<https://www.npr.org/2021/12/15/1064390637/volunteers-are-growing-oyster-gardens-to-help-restore-reefs>
- The piece shows the diversity of programming around the country with a focus on our regional efforts in citizen involved restoration
- * Kimberly Henderson Hedrick (past AU MS student *early 2000s*)
- *Rayne Palmer (AU MS student/AUMERC employee)
- *Conrad Horst (AU MS student/AUMERC employee)

ALUMNI UPDATE

Zach Taylor (MS, 2019) is currently a Fisheries Technician at the Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Center at Virginia Tech. The Center cultures and stocks native mussels as part of conservation efforts in Virginia.

He is shown here with Virginia's First Lady, Pamela Northam, who has an interest in conservation and conservation education.

A short video of the Center and Zach at work can be seen here:

https://vtx.vt.edu/videos/k/2021/08/1_491g5aw6.html

