

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”
Number 13 / February & March 2022

Spring is about here in Auburn! Everyone is planning for spawning season and a busy summer ahead.

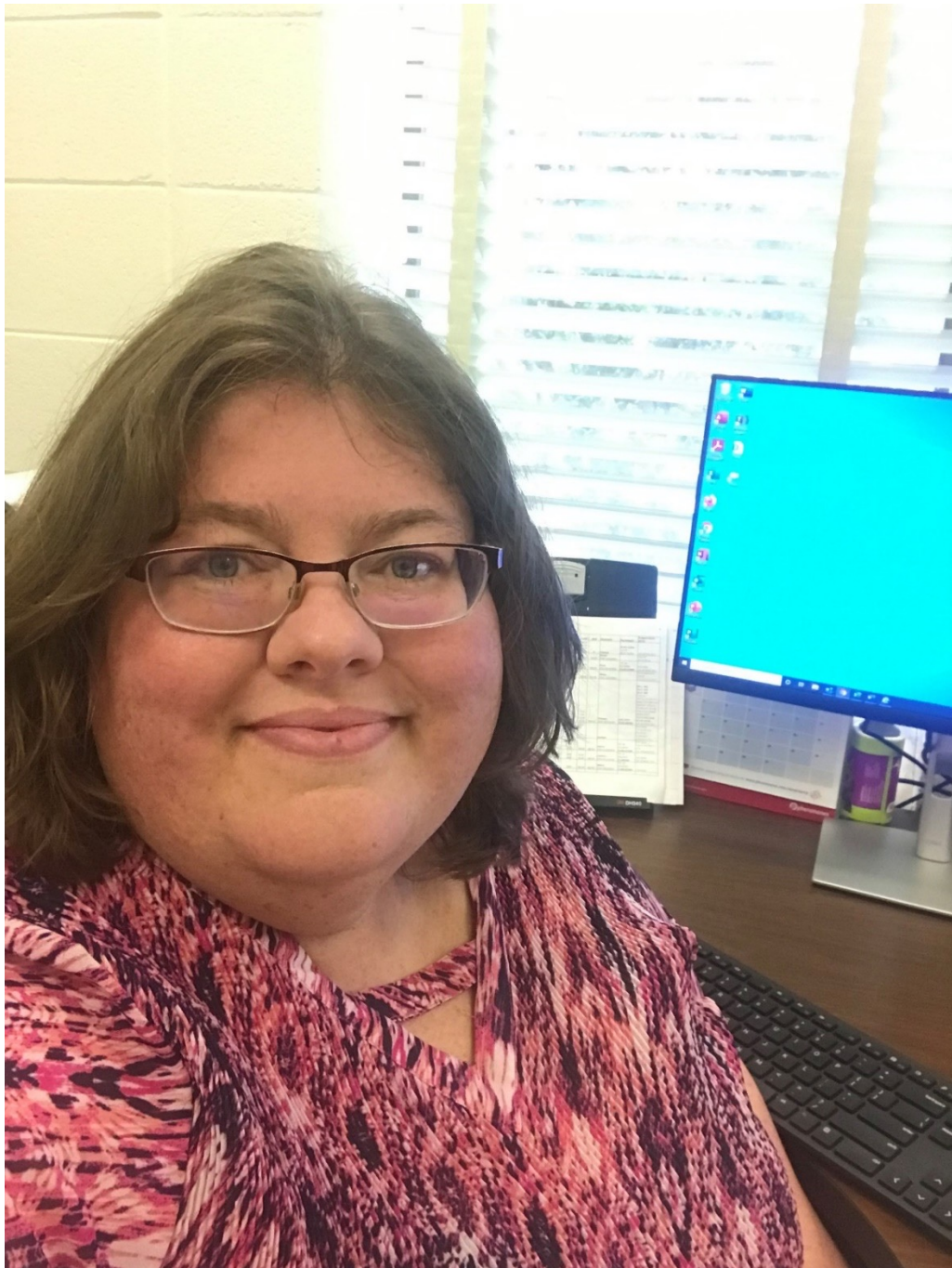
In this issue of *Newsreel* we introduce several new members of our staff, report on awards received by faculty and students, and sadly report on the passing of a former research associate and a former faculty member.

Also, please take note of the announcement of the annual David Partridge Bass Tournament.

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

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





NEW MEMBER OF SWINGLE OFFICE STAFF

Kimberly Coutwright has joined the Swingle office staff to take care of human resources needs.

She is from Warrensburg, Missouri. Before coming to Auburn she served as an event coordinator for the University of Central Missouri.

Kimberly and her husband decided to “move somewhere warm”. They have family in Auburn and both were offered good jobs ... so here they are!

NEW MEMBER OF SWINGLE OFFICE STAFF

Elizabeth Kerr Adams has joined the Swingle office staff as the receptionist and multiple-job doer.

She was born and raised in Auburn and claims to have always been an Auburn fan.

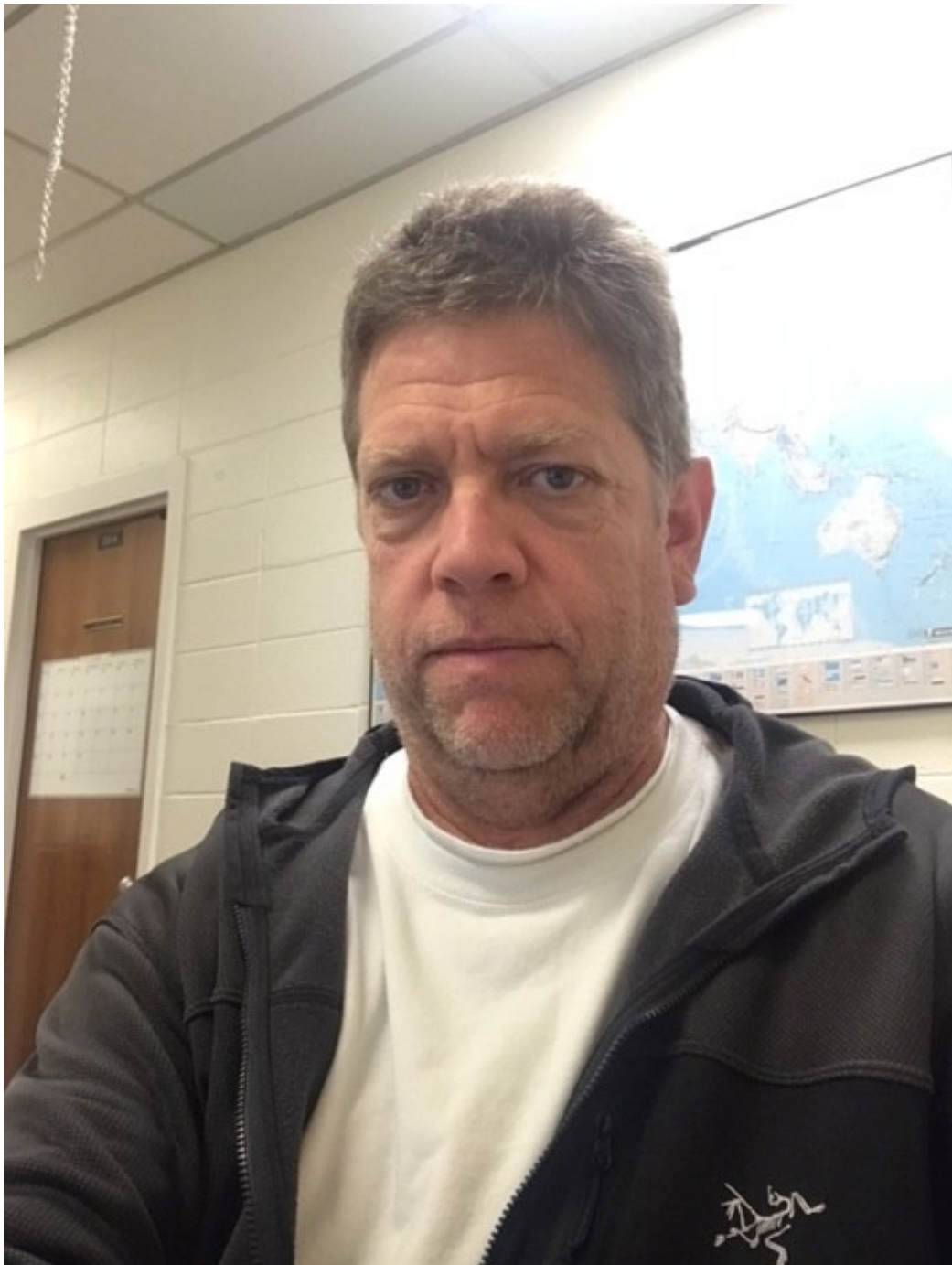
She is shown here with her three kids – Blake (13), Brayden (10), and Hannah (8).



NEW MEMBER OF SWINGLE OFFICE STAFF

Brian Brewer has joined the office staff as a part-time TES employee to help us keep up while we restaff.

He is originally from Kansas City. Brian describes himself as “a dedicated husband and father of two children, youth baseball/softball coach, and aspiring pizza chef and brewmaster”. He also is a retired fisherman, but indicates he may come out of retirement soon.

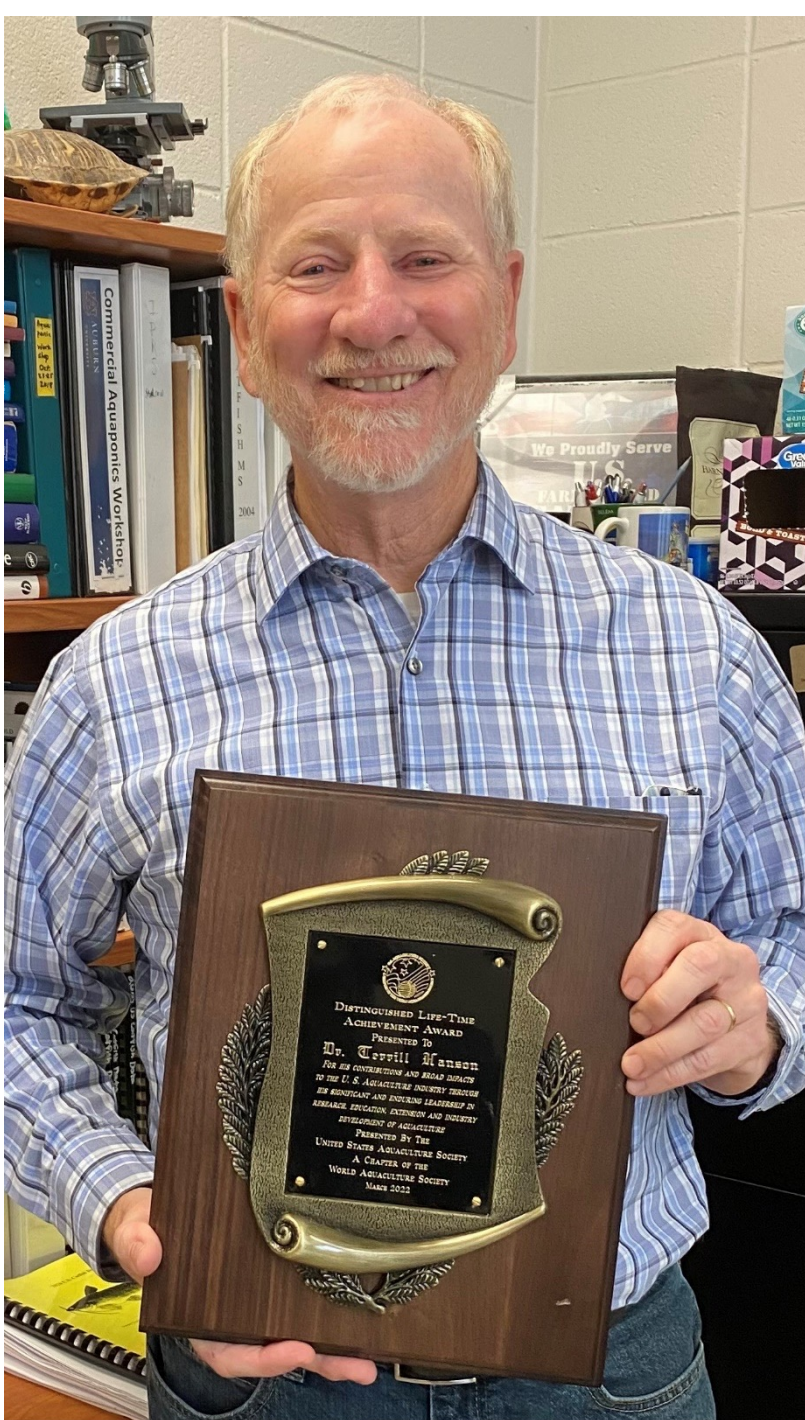




NEW MEMBER OF NORTH AUBURN STAFF

Amber Bordano is the newest member of the North Auburn staff, replacing recently retired Valerie Klein as the Station's administrative assistant.

She is originally from Washington State, but most recently from Fort Benning. "My family has chosen Auburn as the last stop in our military journey".



USAS AWARD WINNER

Terry Hanson recently received **The Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award** from the United States Aquaculture Society.

The award recognizes an individual who has made contributions and broad impacts throughout his / her career to aquaculture in the US through research, education, extension and / or industry development. The award recognizes a long-time commitment of service to aquaculture that is deemed highly significant and enduring.

Terry recently announced that he will retire in October.

MORE USAS AWARD WINNERS

Along with Terry Hanson, **Mike Masser**, a former SFAAS faculty member, also received the **Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award** from the US Aquaculture Society. **David Cline**, an associate extension professor in SFAAS, received the

Distinguished Service Award.



The Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding personal contributions to the U.S.A.S. and/or the U.S. aquaculture industry. This award emphasizes significant leadership and overall impact in research, education, extension, or industry development in the field of aquaculture.



NEW PRESIDENTIAL GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW

Samantha Donohoo has been awarded a Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship by Auburn University. She will pursue her PhD work in Nathan Whelan's lab.

Samantha is from Blackfoot, Idaho, holds a BS in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii, and is completing a MS at San Francisco State University.

Her career goal is to become a curator at a research-oriented natural history museum.

PASSING



We recently learned that **Margarita “Dayday” Hopkins** died in November of 2021 after battling ALS for four years. She was a research associate in FAA from 1975 to 1979 focusing on aquacultural economics and marketing of tilapia and Asian carps.

Born in the Visayan islands of the Philippines, she grew up in a bamboo and palm thatched house on the beach; obtained her bachelor’s degree from a local college and an M.S. in agricultural economics from Xavier University on the island of Mindanao. After Auburn, she eventually became a government economist and was responsible for agriculture and natural resource development on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Dayday is survived by her husband, three children and 11 grandchildren.

William (Bill) Shelton died late last year. He had been a faculty member in our School (then FFA) during the 70's and 80's. He left Auburn to move to the University of Oklahoma. During his career, he published more than 140 research papers, focusing on early life stages, reproductive biology, and sex manipulation of many species.

He was involved for several Years training Peace Corps volunteers and was an Air Force transport pilot during the Vietnam war. Bill also served as editor of the *North American Journal of Aquaculture* for 14 years and was a fellow of the American Fisheries Society.

PASSING



WINNING PHOTO

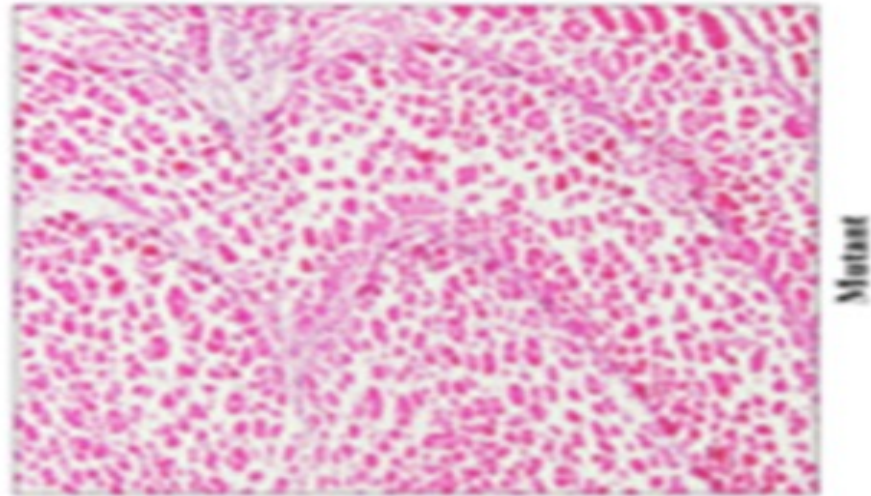
Jenna Crovo,
postdoc in Carol
Johnston's lab,
recently won
Honorable
Mention in the
ADCNR photo
contest.

Fighting Tricolor
Shiners in Shoal
Creek in the
Talladega National
Forest



NEW USDA-NIFA GRANT

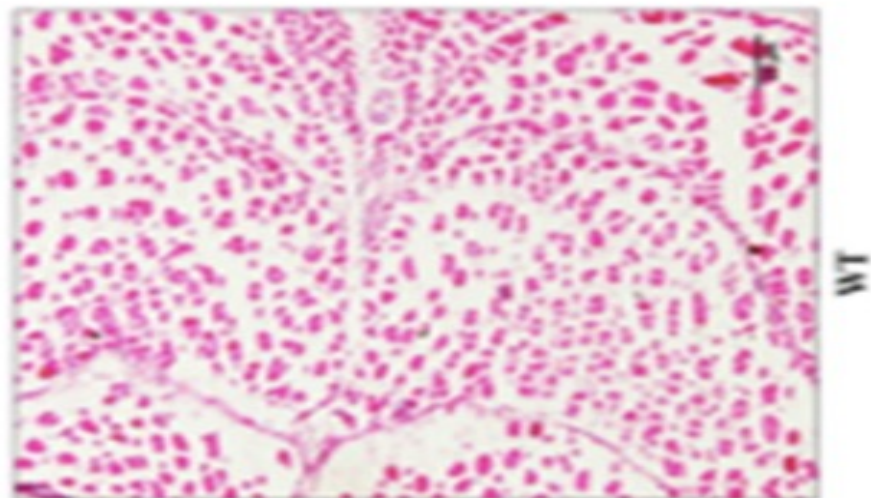
Rex Dunham, Tim Bruce & Baofung Su recently received a \$650,000 grant from USDA-NIFA to study growth, carcass traits and disease resistance in myostatin gene-edited channel catfish and hybrid catfish.



MEG

**Gene Edited
Wild Type**

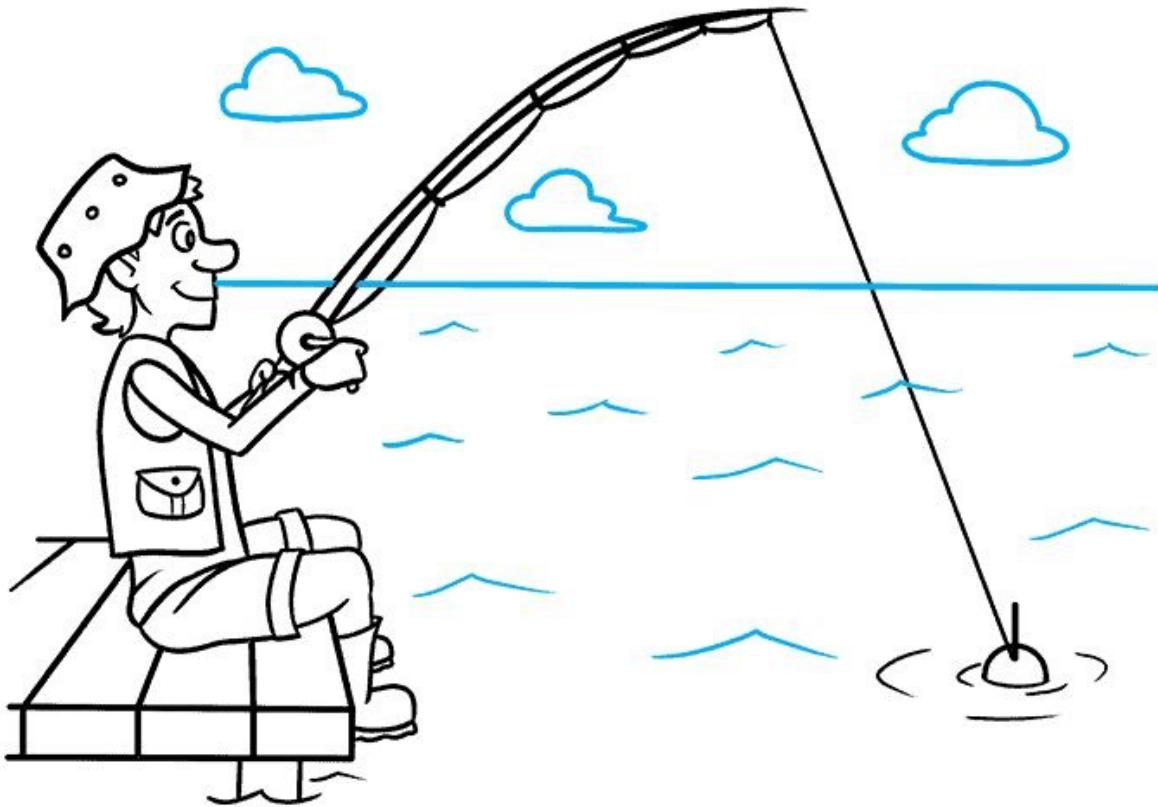
The goal of the work is to compare the growth, feed conversion, disease resistance, carcass yield and texture of gene edited and wild type fish.



WT

Preliminary results indicated that gene edited fish grow very fast and have extra muscle fibers compared to wild type (see figures). Disease resistance is an important consideration because the myostatin gene in catfish is involved with modulation of the immune system.

DAVID PARTRIDGE BIG BASS TOURNAMENT / REGISTRATION



The annual **David Partridge Memorial Fishing Tournament** will be held at North Auburn on April 30.

Proceeds this year will go toward establishing the Mike Maceina Scholarship Endowment.

Registration opens online only at 7 am on April 2nd.

www.davebigbass.com

Contact Graves Lovell for more information (334 844 8959)