

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”
Number 15 / May & June 2022

In this issue of *Newsreel*, we sadly announce the death of one of our graduate students, David Pardo Hernández, who died in an accident on a farm where he was conducting his thesis research. His family and members of the School were devastated. Many members of the University worked to help his family deal with the tragedy. Luke Roy deserves special recognition. He flew to David’s native Colombia to return his possessions and ashes to his family.

This issue also welcomes several new students and recognizes a 1950 (yes, that is correct) graduate.

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

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





PASSING

David Pardo Hernández died tragically in late May in an on-farm accident in West Alabama where he was conducting his MS thesis research.

He was from Bogotá, Colombia and held a B.S. in Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Science from the University of Tolima in Colombia. Prior to the accident, David planned to begin a Ph.D. at Auburn in the Fall.

Auburn will be awarding him a posthumous M.S. degree at the graduation ceremony this summer.

His thesis committee members were Luke Roy (chair), Allen Davis, Anita Kelly, and Ian Butts.

NEW PHD GRADUATE



De Xing recently defended his dissertation. Rex Dunham served as his major professor, and Charles Chen, Ian Butts, and Anthony Moss served as his committee members.

His dissertation topic was elevating Omega-3 fatty acids in channel catfish using multiple transgenes to alter biosynthesis pathways.

After graduation, De Xing plans to move into a postdoctoral position and eventually a permanent position in genetics research.



NEW PhD STUDENT

Malik Muhammad Kamran will soon join Ian Butts' lab.

He is from Layyah, Punjab, Pakistan. Malik holds a B.Sc. in Zoology from Government College University in Lahore, Pakistan and a M.Phil. In Zoology from Quaid I Azam University in Islamabad.

He plans to build a dissertation around the topics of reproductive physiology and health in catfish.

His goal is to return to Pakistan and become a professor in one of his country's top-ranked universities.



NEW PhD STUDENT

Crystal Lodi Conde will soon join the laboratories of Tim Bruce and Anita Kelly.

She is from Belo Horizonte, Brazil and holds a MS in Aquaculture & Fisheries from the Fisheries Institute of the University of Sao Paulo. Crystal also holds a veterinary degree from the University Center of Belo Horizonte.

Her dissertation will focus on the development of vaccine delivery methods for catfish.

Crystal's goal is to have a career in fish health research.



NEW MS STUDENT

Nicholas Barnes will soon join Jim Stoeckel's lab.

He holds a BS in Biology from Central Methodist University in Fayette, Missouri.

Nicholas' thesis topic has not yet been defined, but he hopes to have a career in toxicology.

NEW MS STUDENT



Michael McDonald will soon join Alan Wilson's lab.

He is from Fillmore, New York and holds a BS in Environmental Geosciences from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

His thesis work will investigate the relationship between zooplankton population dynamics and cyanobacterial blooms.

His career goal is to become a research scientist and work either at a university or in a government lab.



NEW MS STUDENT

Jenifer Howell will soon join Alan Wilson's lab.

She is from Cincinnati and holds a BS in Environmental Science from Georgetown College.

Her thesis project is not yet defined but will revolve around algae and water treatment.

She hopes to develop a career in aquatic chemistry, focusing on algal growth and treatment.



NEW MS STUDENT

Kate Merrill will soon join Alan Wilson's lab.

She is from Washington Township, New Jersey and holds a BS in Environmental Science from Rowan University.

Her thesis project is not yet defined but will revolve around harmful algal blooms.

She hopes to develop a career in mitigation of the harmful effects of algal blooms to humans and wildlife.



NEW MS STUDENT

Ashley Hennessey will soon join Alan Wilson's lab.

She is from West Palm Beach, Florida and holds a BS in Biology from Florida State University.

Her thesis project is not yet defined but will revolve around zooplankton control of harmful algal blooms.

She hopes to develop a career as a "principal research scientist".

SFAAS HISTORY LESSON



Have you ever wondered how the School logo came to be?

Back in 1977, The Department of Fisheries & Allied Aquacultures held a contest to create a logo. **Paul Laurenstein** (MS, 1977) “had a sudden inspiration” and created the logo we have today just before the contest deadline.

He was inspired by a photo of hybrid carp (left) that he took while in the Peace Corps in Nepal in 1974.

The logo was a “renegade” until 2019 when officially recognized, thanks to the efforts of Allen Davis, by AU President Jay Gouge

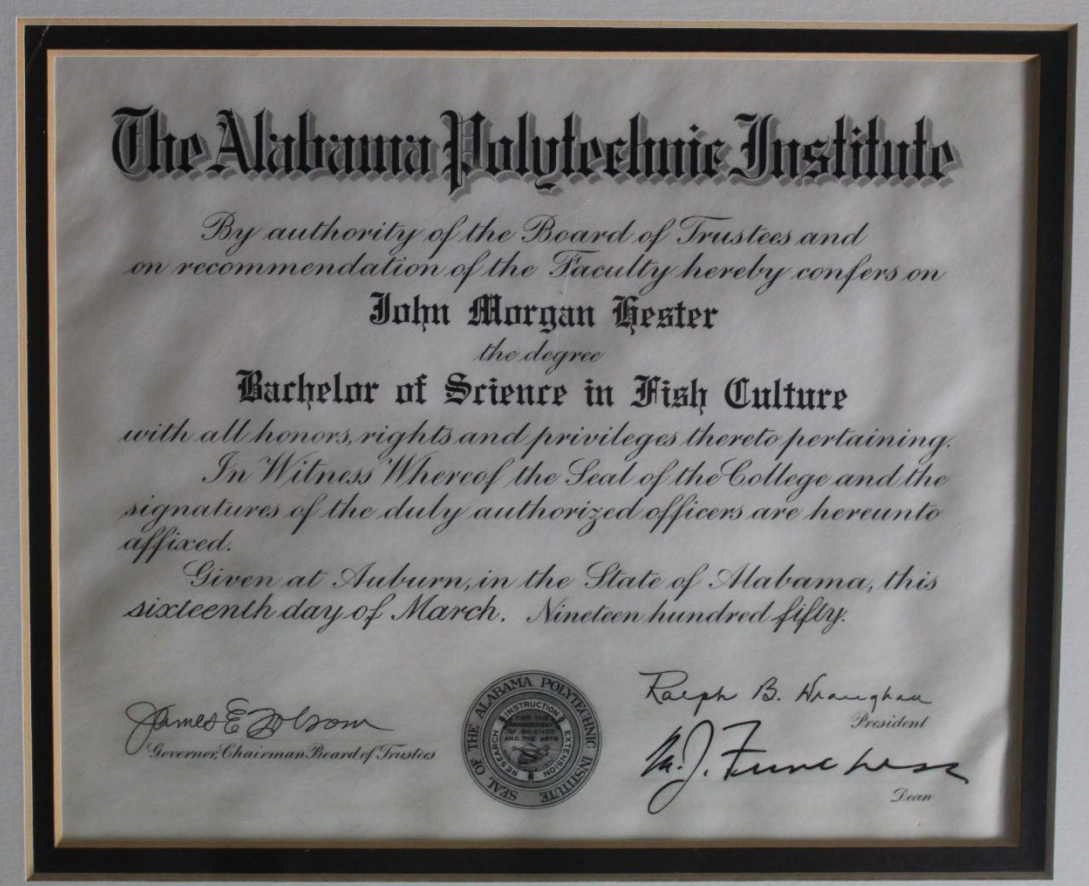
A group of approximately 20 people, including staff and firefighters, are standing on a grassy area. In the background, there is a pond with a fountain spraying water. The group consists of several men in dark blue firefighter uniforms, several men in light-colored polo shirts, and two women in casual attire. One man on the right is wearing a dark blue apron over a white shirt. The scene is outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

FISH FRY FOR THE FIRE FIGHTERS

The staff at EW Shell fried fish for the Auburn Fire Department to say thank you for their quick response to what turned out to be a false alarm. Over 30 fire fighters arrived at the North Auburn pavillion in five fire trucks.

John Hester recently stopped by the Shell Fisheries Center. Mr. Hester is a 1950 graduate of our program and holds a **BS in Fish Culture**. **ALUMNUS VISIT**

His career included seven years with what is now ADCNR managing public fishing lakes and thirty years with the USFWS in Decatur and Atlanta. He has been retired since 1986 and is proud of his family which he says consists of three generations of fishermen.



NEW SK GRANT

Missy Partyka (PI) and Rusty Grice (co-PI) recently received a two-year, \$300,000 grant from the **NOAA Saltonstall-Kennedy** program.

The title of the project is “Empowering growers while growing capacity: research, testing, and training to address microbiological impediments on shellfish aquaculture”

Off-bottom oyster growers often face regulatory closures following adverse environmental events (e.g., excessive rainfall) to avoid the marketing of potentially contaminated oysters. Identifying a safe time to resume marketing is critical. This project will seek to increase capacity of the industry to have their oysters tested so they may safely resume marketing.

