

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 18 / November & December 2022

In this issue of *Newsreel* we have a little bit of everything – new graduates, new students, recognitions of our students and faculty, updates on our retired people, and a new baby!

I hope everyone has a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Please keep information coming, so we can let everyone know of things that are happening.

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

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



NEW PHD GRADUATE



Matt Lewis recently defended his dissertation entitled “Genetic Assessment of Alabama’s Redeye Bass (*Micropterus coosae*)”.

His major professor was Eric Peatman and his committee members were Jim Stoeckel, Todd Steury, and Ben Beck.

Matt was a recipient of an AU Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship.

After completing a postdoc at AU, he plans to pursue a faculty position.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Leila Strebel recently defended her thesis entitled “On-Demand Feeding and the Response of Pacific White Shrimp to Varying Dietary Protein Levels in Semi-Intensive Pond Production”.

Her major professor was Allen Davis and her committee members were Jim Stoeckel and Luke Roy.

Leila has accepted a position teaching aquaculture at the high school she attended.

NEW MS GRADUATE

Logan Bern recently defended his thesis on the topic of gene editing and xenogenesis for growth and reproductive enhancement.

His major professor was Rex Dunham and his committee members were Ian Butts and Timothy Bruce.

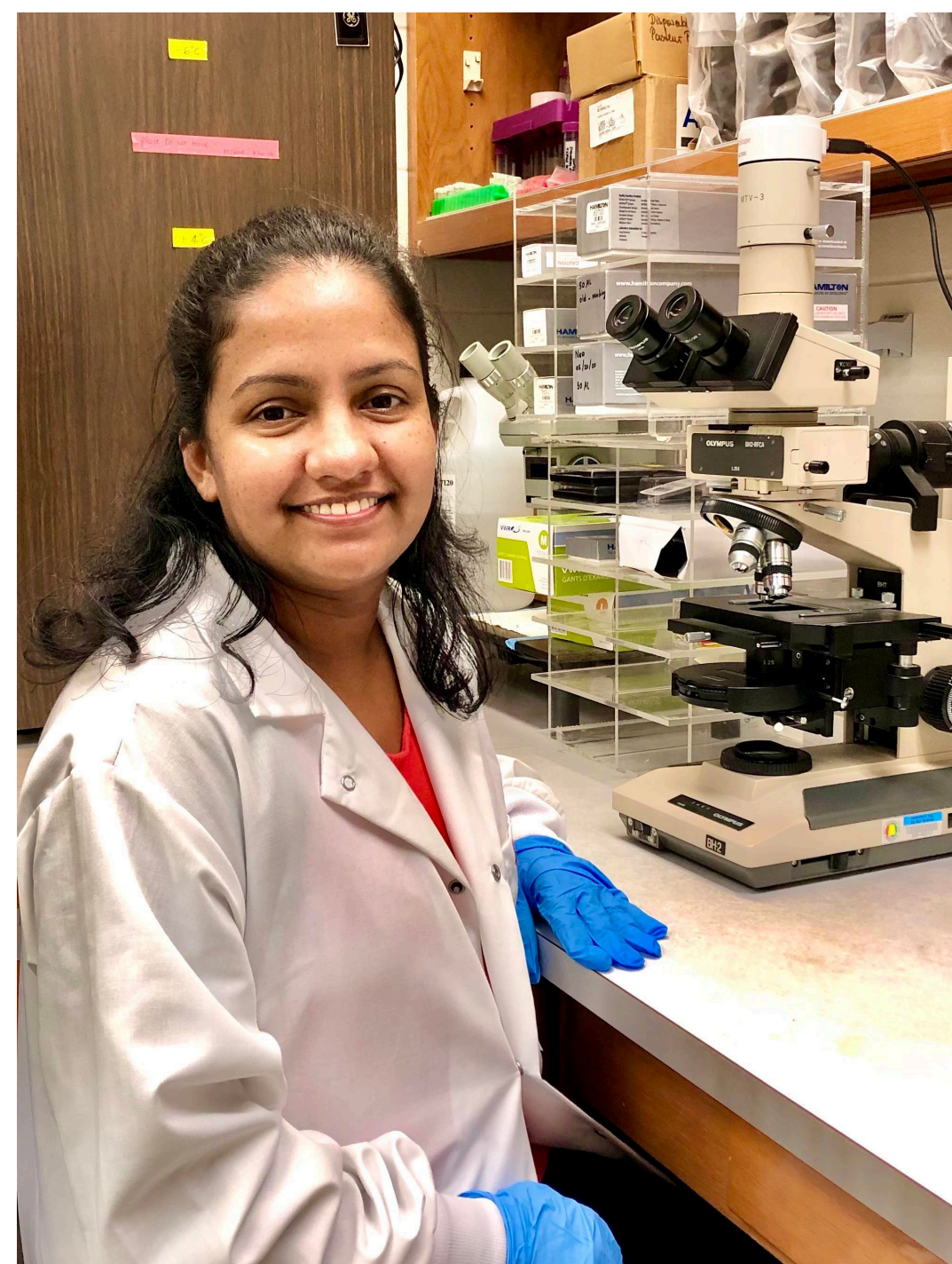
Logan's career goal is to become a fish hatchery manager.



RECOGNITION

Darshika Udari Hettiarachchi was recently recognized in the College of Agriculture Graduate Student Research Poster Showcase for her poster on the *effect of host age on the colonization and proliferation of blue catfish donor stem cells in hybrid catfish production*.

Darshika is a PhD student working under the direction of Rex Dunham and Ian Butts. Her career goal is to be a researcher in the field of aquaculture.





RECOGNITION

Helen Montague was recently recognized in the College of Agriculture Graduate Student Research Poster Showcase for her poster entitled “*In vitro* fertilization of channel catfish eggs with cryopreserved blue catfish sperm and implications for gene banking”

Helen is a MS student in Ian Butts’ lab. Her career goal is to be a reintroduction biologist utilizing cryopreservation to establish gene banks for aquatic species.



NEW PHD STUDENT

Misha Soman will soon join Rex Dunham's lab. She holds a Bachelor of Fisheries Science from Kerala University of Fisheries & Ocean Studies in Kerala, India and a Master of Fisheries Science from the Central Institute of Fisheries Education in Mumbai.

Her dissertation will address the use of CRISPR/Cas9 mediated gene editing to enhance growth of channel catfish.

Mish's career goal is to conduct aquaculture research using cutting-edge technologies.



NEW PHD STUDENT

Andrew Collins will soon join Tham Hoang's lab. He is from Sylacauga and holds a BS from Auburn in organismal biology and a MS from Jacksonville State University in biology.

His dissertation will address microplastic pollution and its potential impact on the Alabama River.

Andrew's career goal is to work as an ecologist.

VISITING SCIENTIST

Dr. Zizi Ibrahim Elbialy will be visiting and working in Rex Dunham's lab for the next six months. She is an Associate Professor of Biotechnology on the Faculty of Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences at Kafrelsheikh University in Egypt.

Her visit is sponsored by the Egyptian Mission Sector of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Dr Elbiali plans to investigate the ability of extracted fish AMP to inhibit the growth of Nile tilapia pathogens *in vitro*.



AU's Southeastern Cooperative Fish Parasite & Disease Lab and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission were recently designated an Outstanding Sport Fish Restoration Program by the Fisheries Administration Section of the American Fisheries Society.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Full story: .


<https://fas.fisheries.org/2022/08/21/outstanding-sportfish-restoration-winners-for-2022/>

EMERITUS RECOGNITION

Earlier in the year, the Brazilian publication *Panorama da Aquicultura* published an article wishing **Len Lovshin** a happy 80th birthday.

The article recognized Len, along with John Jenson and Tom Popma, for their work in the development of tilapia aquaculture in Brazil.

Len retired in 2003 and now lives in Tennessee with his wife Nancy, a Brazilian he met in his early years in Brazil. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.



<https://panoramadaaquicultura.com.br/category/edicao-186/>

MORE ON THE MEETING IN VIET NAM

SETAC Globe recently published an article on the environmental meeting held in Viet Nam and chaired by Tham Hoang: Capacity Building and Engagement in Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development: The Case of Vietnam – SETAC Globe



SUNBELT AG EXPO

David Cline (left) explains the SFAAS aquaponics teaching system to several attendees at the 2022 Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Georgia. About 2,500 people visited the aquaculture exhibits.



Photo by Karen Booker



VISITOR

Gary Jensen (2nd from right) visited campus recently and had lunch with (left to right) Joe Tomasso, Terry Hanson, Karen Veverica, Randell Goodman, John Jenson, and Claude Boyd. Gary holds a MS and PhD from our program and was a faculty member from 1979 to 1983.

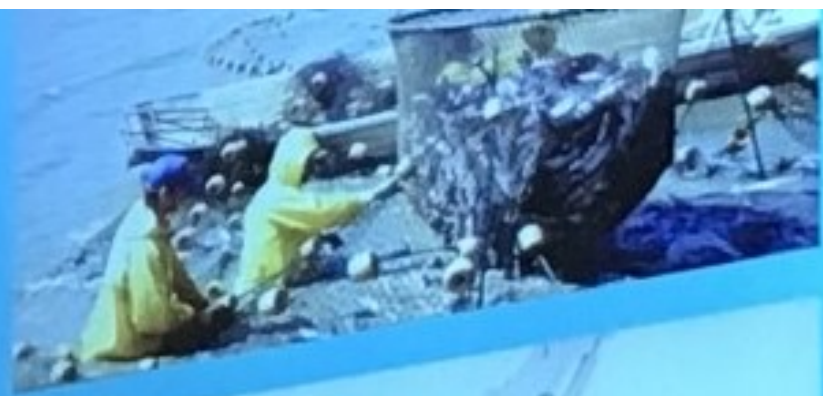
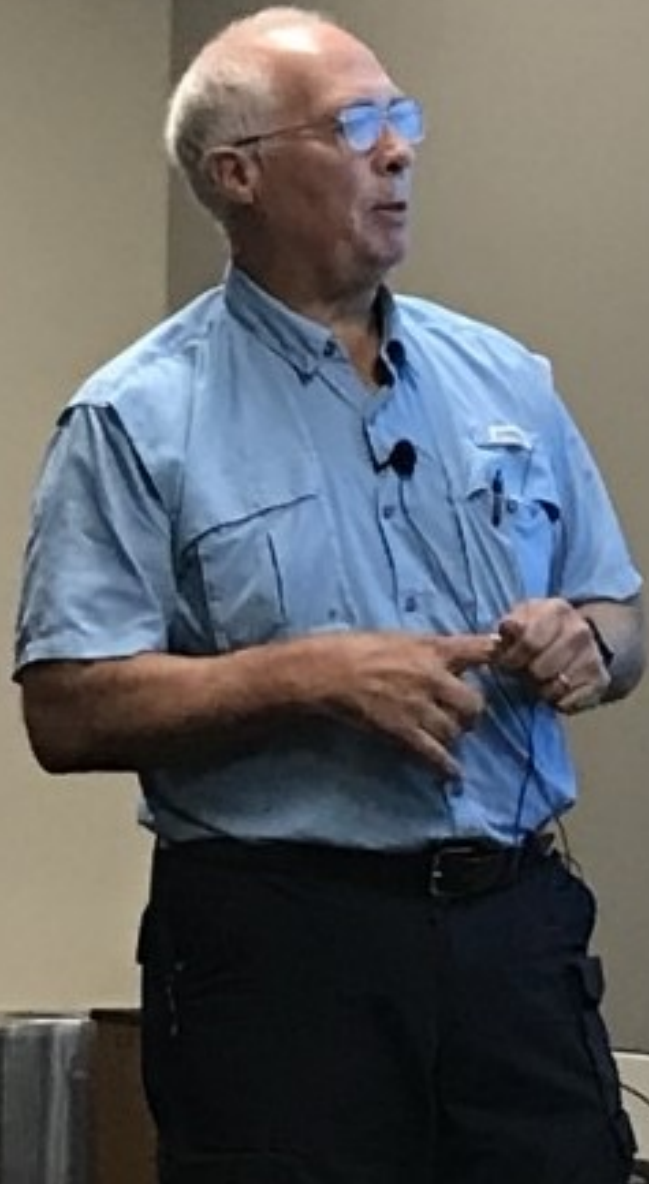


NEW BABY

Jesse James, Research Associate I at the Alabama Fish Farming Center, and his wife, Jessica, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, **Jaycie Monroe**.

Also pictured is Jaycie Monroe's brother, Jenson, who appears happy to have a sister.

RETIREE UPDATE



Greg Whitis stays active – teaching an Ollie course on aquaculture at the University of Alabama