

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 21 / April & May 2023

This issue of *Newsreeel* highlights several students who completed their graduate degrees this semester. Congratulations to all, and best wishes for the future.

We also note the passing of Len Lovshin, a longtime faculty member.

Please keep sending things in, so we can let people know what is happening...

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

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





NEW PhD GRADUATE

Aya ElSeadawy recently defended her dissertation. Allen Davis served as her major professor. Jim Stoeckel served as her co-advisor. Luke Roy, Claude Boyd, and Nahla Shoukry served as her committee members.

Aya's dissertation evaluated management strategies for biofloc systems to produce Pacific white shrimp in low salinity waters. She also evaluated thermal tolerance of Pacific white shrimp.

Dr. ElSeadawy has accepted a postdoctoral position at Purdue University and hopes to someday secure a faculty appointment at a university where she can continue studying nutrition and stress physiology.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

Darshika Hettiarachchi recently defended her dissertation. Rex Dunham and Ian Butts served as her co-major professors. Anthony Moss and Paul Dyce served as her committee members.

Darshika's dissertation work enhanced the efficiency of hybrid catfish production using xenogenesis.

Dr. Hettiarachchi plans to take a postdoctoral position.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

Stephanie Velasquez recently defended her dissertation. Allen Davis served as her major professor. Luke Roy, Bill Daniels, and Lee Chiba served as her committee members.

Stephanie's dissertation work focused on the utilization of different diet formulations for marine fish and shrimp.

Dr. Velasquez has accepted an academic position at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Helen Montague recently defended her thesis. Ian Butts served as her major professor, and Rex Dunham and Luke Roy served as her committee members.

Her thesis topic was quantifying male reproductive performance of blue catfish to improve hatchery production of hybrid catfish.

After graduation, Helen hopes to utilize cryopreservation to establish gene banks for aquatic species.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Allison Wise recently defended her thesis. Tim Bruce served as her major professor, and Ben LaFrentz, Mark Liles, and Anita Kelly served as her committee members.

Her thesis work looked at co-infective bacterial pathogens in channel catfish.

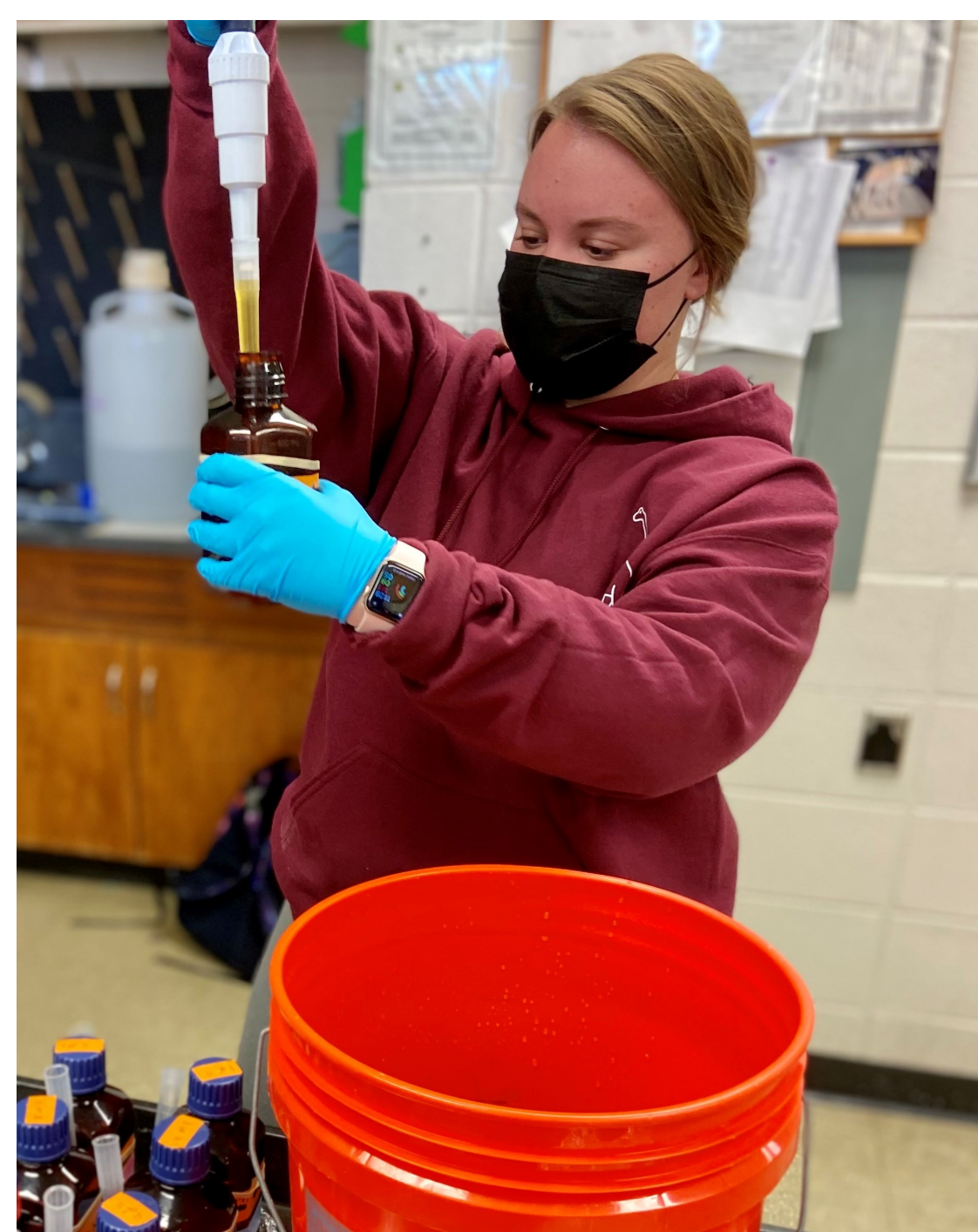
After graduation, Allison will pursue a PhD in our program while working full time at the USDA-ARS Aquatic Animal Lab on the Vet School campus.

NEW MS GRADUATE

Ansley Hamid recently defended her thesis. Kevin Wang served as her major professor, and Tham Hoang and Thorsten Knappenberger served as her committee members.

Her thesis title was “Phosphorous in aquaculture ponds: Controlling techniques and its bioavailability for Cyanobacteria”.

Ansley has accepted a position as an environmental investigator for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.



NEW MS GRADUATE



Bryson Hilburn recently defended his thesis. Carol Johnston served as his major professor, and Katelyn Lawson and Mary Freeman served as his committee members.

His thesis topic was the potential effect of cryptic tolerant species on the index of biological integrity.

After graduation, Bryson will spend the summer working for ADCNR and hopes to continue studying systematics and ecology of southeastern fishes.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Khan Quoc Nguyen recently defended his thesis. Allen Davis served as his major professor. Tim Bruce and Luke Roy served as his committee members.

His thesis work evaluated the effects of probiotic-supplemented feeds on growth, blood chemistries, and expression of immune function genes in channel catfish.

Khan plans to continue his education in our PhD program.

NEW MS GRADUATE



Benjamin Birdsall recently defended his thesis. Shannon Brewer served as his major professor. Dennis DeVries and Matt Catalano served as his committee members.

His thesis title was “Factors related to occupancy and detection and population demographics of bighead carp and silver carp in the lower Red River catchment”.

Ben has accepted a job as a fisheries biologist for Avista Power in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

NEW MS GRADUATE

Samuel Krebsbach recently defended his thesis. Kevin Wang served as his major professor. Anne Ojeda and Dongye Zhao served as his committee members.

His thesis title was “Sorptive removal of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from water by biochars”

Samuel has accepted a job as an environmental scientist with Brice Environmental in Alaska.





NEW MS GRADUATE

Paul Ramsey recently defended his thesis. Shannon Brewer served as his major professor. Dennis DeVries and Steve Sammons served as his committee members.

His thesis title was “Nursery Habitat and Hatch Dates of Large River Fishes of the Lower Red River Catchment”.

After graduation, Paul hopes to become a fisheries biologist for a state or federal agency.



NEW MS GRADUATE

James Tuttle recently defended his thesis. Anita Kelly served as his major professor. Luke Roy, Ian Butts, and Tim Bruce served as his committee members.

His thesis title was “Examination and Evaluation of the Persistence of Virulent *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, and *Flavobacterium covae* Within the Sediments of West Alabama Commercial Catfish Ponds”.

After graduation, James plans to begin a PhD program focusing on aquatic animal diseases and disease management.

A REUNION OF TIGERS

Allen Davis connected with three former graduate students at VIV ASIA 2023 in Bangkok.

Noe Noe
Lwin

Romi
Novriadi

Sirirat
Chatvijitkul



VIV ASIA 2023

BANGKOK, THAILAND, IMPACT
8-10 MARCH

In co-location with
mont pro
AS

NUTRITION CLASS REUNION

At the recent VIV ASIA 2023 conference in Bangkok, **Allen Davis** connected with some former students from a nutrition class he taught at Can Tho University in Vietnam.





AWARD WINNER

Saranya Anantapantula won first place in the student oral presentation competition at the US Aquaculture Society conference in New Orleans.

Her presentation described a meta-analysis of treatments to control algal blooms.

Saranya is a junior at Spring-Ford High School in Pennsylvania, and has been working in Alan Wilson's lab.

After high school, she plans to pursue a degree in environmental engineering and hopes to have a career developing solutions to environmental challenges.



PASSING

Len Lovshin passed away on March 29 at his home in Tennessee.

After serving in the Peace Corps in Togo for two years, Len took his PhD from our program and then joined the faculty and spent six years in Brazil where he introduced Nile tilapia culture. He spent an additional 35 years as a faculty member directing the MAq program.

An obituary can be found here:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/oanow/name/leonard-lovshin-obituary?id=51553080>

LEN LOVSHIN TEACHING A LAB CLASS

