

# THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

## Number 24 / September to December 2023

In this issue of *Newsreel* we recognize several students who recently completed their degrees. We also recognize several visitors and students who have won awards – and welcome a new baby.

Sadly, we also note the passing of Rita Carswell, a longtime member of the Swingle administrative staff.

It has finally cooled off, and the pond crew at North Auburn is starting to relax and not worry about D.O. so much. This means that Christmas is not far away. Everyone, please have a happy and safe holiday.

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

You can find past *Newsreels* at

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





## NEW PhD GRADUATE

**Triet Nhat Truong** recently defended his dissertation. The topic was the taxonomy, systematics, and life cycles of digeneans infecting freshwater fishes.

His major professor was Ash Bullard. Anita Kelly, Nathan Whalen, and Stephen Curran served on his committee.

Triet hopes to secure a university faculty position.





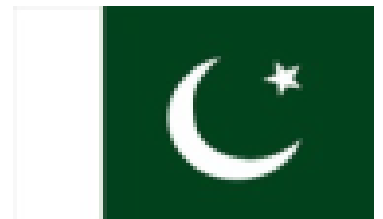


## NEW PhD GRADUATE

**Sidra Nazeer** recently defended her dissertation. The topic was the use of high-protein distiller's dried grain in practical diets for three species.

Her advisor was Allen Davis. Luke Roy, Bill Daniels, and Lee Chiba served on her committee. Tanzeel Rehman served as an outside reader.

Sidra is currently seeking a postdoctoral position and hopes to have a career in academia.







## NEW PhD GRADUATE

**Micah Warren** recently defended his dissertation. The topic was the taxonomy, and systematics of fish blood flukes.

His major professor was Ash Bullard. Jon Armbruster, Paul Johnson, Steve Curran, and Nathan Whelan served on his committee. Mike Miller served as an outside reader.

Micah has accepted a postdoctoral position with Ash Bullard and hopes to find a place in academia.







## NEW PhD GRADUATE

**Steven Ksepka** recently defended his dissertation. The topic was the taxonomy, systematics, and histopathology of Myxozoan parasites of fishes.

His major professor was Ash Bullard. Jon Armbruster, Steve Curran, and Nathan Whelan served on his committee. Mike Miller served as an outside reader.

Steven has accepted a postdoctoral position with Ash Bullard.





## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Suzanne Tenison** recently presented her MS (non-thesis) project. The topic was the potential use of Eastern red cedar extracts as algicides.

Her advisor was Alan Wilson. Kevin Wang and Rusty Wright served on her committee.

Suzanne hopes to work in an aquatic biology lab.







## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Evelyn Pieper** recently defended her thesis. The topic was the impact of seasonal thermal stress on the Texas Hornshell.

Her advisor was Jim Stoeckel. Rusty Wright and Hisham Abdelrahman served on her committee.

Evelyn has accepted a position as an ecologist at Arcadis, a consulting company in Atlanta.







## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Jessica Radich** recently defended her thesis. The topic was the effects of acute thermal stress on the Texas Hornshell.

Her advisor was Jim Stoeckel. Matt Catalano and Kaelyn Fogelman served on her committee.

Jessica plans on continuing to develop her current career with the USFWS in the area of unionid health in local watersheds.







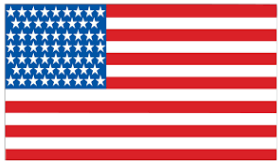
## NEW MS GRADUATE

**MacKenzie Tackett** recently defended her thesis. The topic was the impact of salinity and seasonality on reproductive physiology of diploid and tetraploid eastern oysters.

Her advisor was Ian Butts. Jim Stoeckel and Andrea Tarnecki served on her committee.

MacKenzie will soon become the chief scientific officer at an algae company.





## NEW MS GRADUATE



**Chris Smith** recently defended his thesis. The topic was biotic and abiotic factors affecting paddlefish distribution in Dannelly Reservoir and the Cahaba River.

His advisors were Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright. Shannon Brewer served on his committee.

Chris hopes to have a career as a state or federal fisheries biologist and “stay in big river work”.





## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Jacob Al-Armanazi** recently defended his thesis. The topic was development of xenogenesis techniques for triploid catfish.

His advisor was Rex Dunham. Ian Butts and Tim Bruce served on his committee.

Jacob hopes to have a career in fish production.





# AG ROUNDUP COOKING CREW, FRIENDS & FAMILY







## VISITOR

**Shafaq Fatima** recently visited the EW Shell Fisheries Center. Dr Fatima is from the Lahore College for Women in Pakistan.

She is shown here with Leticia Fantini and Larry Lawson.

## VISITORS

**Bamidele Omitoyin** and **Emmanuel Ajani** from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria recently visited the EW Shell Fisheries Center.

Dr. Omitoyin is a professor of aquaculture specializing in aquatic pollution and toxicology. He is also a co-PI for a USDA-FIL Project on aquaculture and rural communities.





## NEW EPA GRANT

**PJ Waters, Kevin Wang, and Rusty Grice** recently received a three-year, \$687-thousand grant from the **US Environmental Protection Agency**. They will study the relationship between oyster reef enhancement and nutrient pollution / wastewater discharge.







## THESIS AWARD

A special committee of the Graduate Council selected **Samuel Krensbach** for a 2023-2024 Master's Thesis award. The award recognizes a thesis that will make a significant contribution to its respective discipline. Selections were based on the clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, and contributions to the field or discipline.

Samuel is a student in Kevin Wang's lab. His thesis is entitled "Sorptive Removal of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) from water by biochars".





## THESIS AWARD

A special committee of the Graduate Council selected **Ansley Hamid** for a 2023-2024 Master's Thesis award. The award recognizes a thesis that will make a significant contribution to its respective discipline. Selections were based on the clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, and contributions to the field or discipline.

Ansley is a student in Kevin Wang's lab. Her thesis is entitled "Phosphorus in Aquaculture Ponds: Controlling Techniques and its Bioavailability to Cyanobacteria".





## NEW MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

**James Morgan Pattillo** was born at 12:40 am on October 8, 2023 to Allen and Kandice Pattillo. Length: weight was 21.5 inches and 8lb 1oz.

The family now lives in Ankeny, Iowa.

Allen was a PhD student with Terry Hanson a few years ago.







**Bill Daniels (far right) and the Aquaculture Production class at Can Tho University in Vietnam**





## **PASSING**

**Rita Carswell** died recently after a brief illness.

Rita worked in the Swingle office for the past ten years and had planned to retire in December.

She will be fondly remembered for all of the help she provided to Pls with their grant budgets and her informal position as the director of SFAAS social activities.

