

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”

Number 25 / January & February 2024

We are well into Spring semester with a great deal of activity at all of our locations. Almost a hundred graduate students and record grants and contracts, are keeping the faculty and staff busy.

Next week, the US Aquaculture Society meets in San Antonio and, as is usually the case, Auburn will have a large contingent of people attending.

We are starting to hear more from the alumni. Please keep the information coming!

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



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



NEW POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Islam Radwan has joined Kevin Wang's lab. He is from Egypt and holds BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from Alexandria University. He also holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Previously, Islam served as a postdoc at Kyushu University and as a research scientist with the USEPA in Cincinnati.

While with us, he will be working on fate, transport, and environmental implications of PFAS and neonicotinoids.



NEW POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Le Van Ve will soon join Alan Wilson's lab. He is from Vietnam and holds a PhD in Environmental Biotechnology from the Korea Research Institute of Bioscience and Biotechnology.

While with us, he will be working on harmful algal blooms and microbial interactions.



NEW PhD STUDENT

Gabriela Agreda Lopes recently joined Alan Wilson's lab.

She is from Colombia and holds a BS in Biology from Universidad Nacional de Colombia and a MS in Biology from Uppsala University.

Gabriela's dissertation topic will be in the general area of plankton ecology.

She hopes to have a career in academia doing applied research.



NEW MS STUDENT

Alec Hess recently joined Andrea Tarnecki's lab. He is from Brunswick, Maine and holds a BS in Marine Science from the University of Maine.

His research will focus on oyster microbiology – particularly, the human pathogenic *Vibrio* bacteria.

Alec hopes to have a career supporting the aquaculture industry.



NEW MS STUDENT

Jon McCoy recently joined Rex Dunham's lab. He is from Houston, Texas and holds a BS in Marine Biology from the University of North Alabama.

His research will be in the areas of gene editing and xenogenesis.

Jon hopes to have a career in fisheries conservation.



NEW MS STUDENT

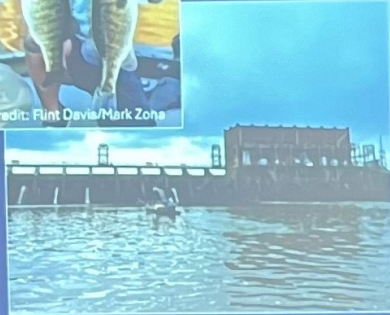
Ahmed Ashraf recently joined Rex Dunham's lab. He is from Egypt and holds a BS in Aquaculture Technology from Suez University.

His thesis project has not yet been defined but will be in the general area of fish genetics.

Ahmed hopes to have a career as a researcher and educator.

Management Interest

- Important life stage
- Economic value
- Species of concern
- Lack of information



PRESENTATION AWARD



Garrison Forrester was recognized for the best undergraduate presentation – runner up at the recent Southern Division AFS meeting in Chattanooga.

His presentation was on factors related to hatching and growth of shoal bass and largemouth bass in the lower Flint River catchment

ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR GRANTS AND CONTRACTS



The SFAAS faculty continues to be successful in obtaining funding to support their research and extension programs.

FY 23	\$12.2 million
FY 22	\$10.2 million
FY 21	\$ 7.0 million
FY 20	\$ 8.1 million
FY 19	\$ 7.2 million
FY 18	\$ 6.1 million

ALUMNUS VISIT

**Hugh Thomforde
(PhD, 1990) visited
Swingle Hall in
January. Here he is in
the Philippines last
year working with
pond owners.**



RETIREEES OUT AND ABOUT

**Karen & Greg
Whitis**

**Gail & David
Crosby**

Greg Whitis, David Crosby and their spouses recently met for dinner in Raleigh. Greg is retired from AU and David is an alumnus of our program and retired from Virginia Tech.

NEW GRANT

PJ Waters recently received a three-year, \$883 thousand award from the RESTORE program through the City of Gulf Shores to establish a shellfish restoration park in Little Lagoon.

The project will expand oyster gardening in Little Lagoon by applying farm scale practices to restoration initiatives. Additionally, water quality will be monitored with the goal of determining the likely shellfish classification regions of LL, and identifying areas which may be eligible for classification to allow shellfish activities, including farming.





PASSING

We recently learned of the passing of **Ray Scott** on May 8, 2022. In 1959, he received a bachelor's degree from Auburn in business administration.

After selling insurance for a few years, he became a full-time bass fisherman and had a major influence in sport fishing. He was the first to organize bass tournaments and formed the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. In 1971, he established the Bassmaster Classic.

His obituary can be found here:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/18/sports/ra-y-scott-dead.html>