

THE SFAAS “NEWSREEL”
Number 26 / March & April 2024

Classes are ending and we are starting to see seniors walking around campus wearing caps and gowns looking for the perfect place for a picture. Up at North Auburn, preparations are being made to spawn fish and stock ponds.

Spring is here and all of our facilities are busy. With nearly a hundred graduate students and record grants and contracts, the place is a madhouse.

Everyone seems happy...

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



You can find past *Newsreels* at

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

NEW PhD GRADUATE

Ehlana Stell recently defended her dissertation. The topic was using physiological indicators to quantify the effects of stream alterations on fishes.

Her advisors were Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright. Joe Tomasso and David Smith served on her committee. Mark Liles served as an outside reader.

Dr. Stell will remain in Auburn at the Fish Ecology Lab supported by an ORISE fellowship in association with the US Army Corps of Engineers.



NEW PhD GRADUATE

Kayla Boyd recently defended her dissertation. The topic was the energetic cost of selected environmental conditions in the Eastern oyster.

Her advisor was Jim Stoeckel. Tham Hoang, Moises Bernal de Leon , Andrea Tarnecki, and Bill Walton served on her committee.

Dr. Boyd will remain at the Auburn University Shellfish Lab as a Research Fellow.





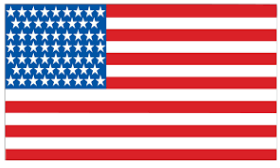
NEW MS GRADUATE

Adela Nicole Araujo recently defended her thesis. The topic was the relationship between aeration and production during the farming of Pacific white shrimp

Her advisor was Allen Davis. Jim Stoeckel and Luke Roy served on her committee.

Adela has accepted a position as a Research Trainee at Biomar Norway.





NEW MS GRADUATE



Nathaniel Steffensmeier recently defended his thesis. The topic was the effects of rostrum injuries on paddlefish in the Alabama River.

His advisors were Dennis DeVries and Rusty Wright. David Smith and Steven Rider served on his committee.

Nathaniel has accepted a position as a fisheries biologist for the Indiana DNR.



NEW MS GRADUATE

Natalie Coash recently defended her thesis. The topic was evaluating tradeoffs between economics and fishing quality in fishing tournaments.

Her advisor was Matt Catalano. Todd Steury and Wayde Morse served on her committee.

Natalie has accepted a position as a Coldwater Research Specialist with the Missouri Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit and the Missouri DNR.



NEW MS GRADUATE



Jamie Rogers recently defended her thesis. The topic was spawning and early ecology of riverine shoal bass and largemouth bass.

Her advisor was Shannon Brewer. Dennis DeVries, Katelyn Lawson, and Stephen Golladay served on her committee.

Jamie has accepted a position as a Research Associate in the Aquatic Sciences Lab at the Jones Center at Ichauway in Newton, Georgia.





NEW STAFF MEMBER

Liina Leslie recently joined the AUMERC staff as an Office Supervisor.

She graduated from University of South Alabama with a B.A. in Human Services and has worked for small businesses managing administrative tasks, providing data analysis and financial coordination.

Liina will provide badly needed administrative support to all SFAAS activities on the coast.



NEW STAFF MEMBER

Sherri Maner has joined the Swingle office staff on a part-time TES appointment to help with business activities.

Sherri is a retired AVP of Operations (financial), coming to Auburn from Johns Creek, Georgia. She enjoys exploring the outdoors, relaxing at the beach, tailgating at AU and spending time with her husband, three daughters and two grandsons. Sherri loves everything AU which is why she is excited about joining the Fisheries staff.

NEW STAFF MEMBER



Grace Valentine recently joined the AUMERC staff as a Research Assistant I.

She graduated from the University of Delaware with a BS in Marine Biology.

Grace will be working primarily on a nutrient pollution project funded by EPA, as well as other Extension programs at AUMERC.

Along with her career interests in coastal ecology, she enjoys running, reading, and scuba diving.



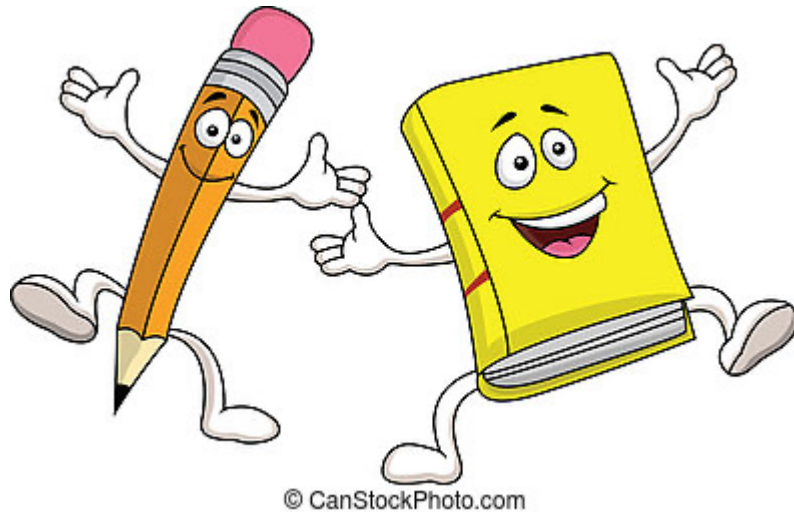
ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

Tham Hoang chaired the 4th International Conference on Environmental Pollution, Restoration, and Management in Vietnam during spring break.

A suggestion from the conference to the Minister of Natural Resources was to develop environmental quality criteria specific for ecosystems in Vietnam.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

The SFAAS faculty, staff & students continue to publish widely.



2023	106
2022	115
2021	101
2020	77
2019	71
2018	78



RECOGNITION

Two of Alan Wilson's MS students were recently recognized at the "AU This is Research Symposium".

Ashley Hennessee won first place for STEM posters, and **Michael McDonald** won best poster in the College of Agriculture.



RECOGNITION

Kayla Boyd (center) and **Natalie Coash** (right) were recently recognized as the winners of the **David Partridge Memorial Scholarship**.

The award was presented by Associate Dean Amy Wright (left).

RECOGNITION



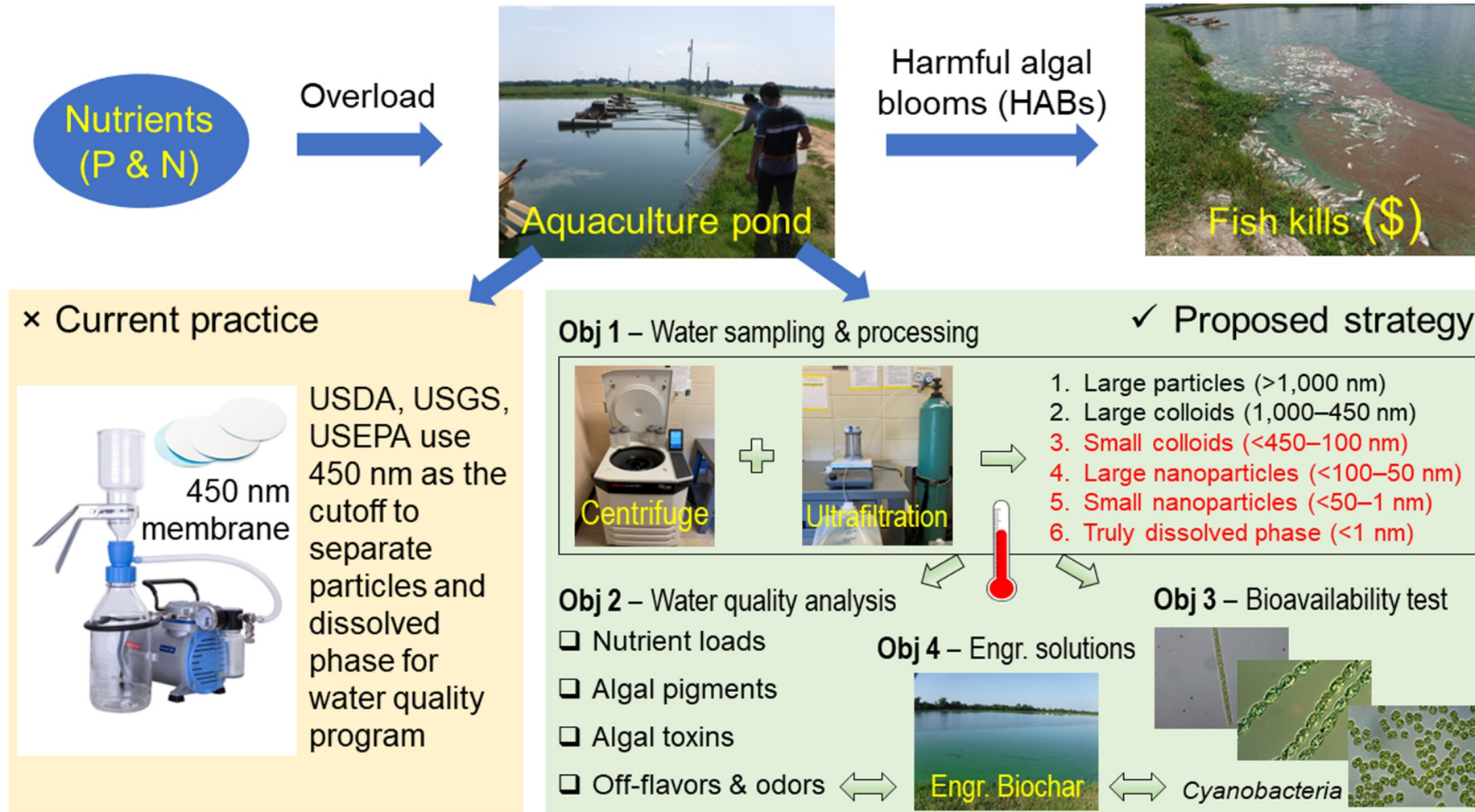
Nicole Tripp (center) and **Triet Truong** (left) were recently recognized as the winners of the **Swingle Award**.

Garrison Forrester (not shown) was also a recipient.

The award was presented by Associate Dean **Amy Wright** (right).

NOTABLE GRANT

Kevin Wang and **Alan Wilson** recently received a \$445,000 grant from USDA-NIFA for “Elucidating Nutrient Load and Bioavailability to Cyanobacteria in Catfish Ponds for Sustainable Aquaculture”





BEFORE AND AFTER

Many of us took advantage of the pandemic to not get a haircut on a regular basis. Luke Roy took it to the extreme...

