

**THE SFAAS NEWSREEL**  
**Number 30 / November & December 2024**

Exams are over and graduation was this weekend. The ponds are cooling down and students are preparing for Christmas visits with families and friends.

In this *Newsreel*, we recognize several new graduates.

I continue to work with Andrew Rypel, our incoming Director, to ensure a smooth transition in the spring.

I hope everyone has happy and safe holidays.

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



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



## **A GATHERING ALUMNI, FRIENDS & CURRENT MEMBERS OF SFAAS AQUACULTURE 2025 – NEW ORLEANS**



The College of Agriculture and School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences will host a gathering / reunion for all current members, alumni & friends during the Aquaculture 2025 conference in New Orleans.

The event will be held on March 7, 2025 at the Marriott Hotel on Canal Street from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. More details will come soon.

If you are attending the conference, please make time in your schedule to drop by.

We anticipate having a couple dozen faculty members, staff & students at the conference, so it is a good opportunity for generations to meet!



## NEW PHD GRADUATE

**Veronica Alston** recently defended her dissertation. Rex Dunham served as her major professor, and Charles Chen, Ian Butts, and Anthony Moss served as her committee members.

Her dissertation topic was the use of biotechnology to improve reproduction of North American catfishes.

After graduation, Veronica will be an assistant professor at Tuskegee University.





## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Kate Merrill** recently defended her thesis. Alan Wilson served as her major professor. Xing Fang, Andrew Barrick and Jackie Opfer served as her committee members.

Her thesis topic describes the relationship between initial nutrient conditions and glyphosate exposure with regard to phytoplankton growth.

Kate has accepted a position as a Water Resource Specialist with Sage Services, a consulting group in Philadelphia.



## **NEW MS GRADUATE**

**Ashley Hennessey** recently defended her thesis. Alan Wilson served as her major professor. Tham Hoang, Kevin Wang, Anita Kelly, and Katharine Horzmann served as her committee members.

Her thesis topic describes optimal copper application rates for the control of harmful algal blooms.

Ashley will soon start in the PhD program in Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences at the University of Florida,





## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Kate Pottle** recently defended her thesis. Rex Dunham served as her major professor. Ian Butts and Tim Bruce served as her committee members.

Her thesis research described some factors affecting the efficiency of xenogen production in catfish..

Kate plans to continue in the Dunham lab as a PhD student.





## NEW MS GRADUATE

**Nicole Tripp** recently defended her thesis. Jim Stoeckel served as her major professor. Lindsey Reisinger and Tim Bruce served as her committee members.

Her thesis research described factors affecting distribution and prevalence of white spot syndrome in red swamp crayfish.

Nicole has accepted a position as Project Manager for an NSF-funded project in the Department of Geosciences at Auburn. The project focusses on water security and health of private well users on the Gulf Coast.



## **NEW MS GRADUATE**

**Shelby Walker** recently defended her thesis. Luke Roy served as her major professor. Ian Butts, Anita Kelly, Taryn Garlock, and Larry Lawson served as her committee members.

Her thesis research compared production of largemouth bass in traditional earthen ponds and split ponds.

Shelby has accepted a position as a research associate in our school where she will continue to work on improving the efficiency of warmwater aquaculture.





## **NEW MS GRADUATE**

**Aiden Maddox** recently defended his thesis. Shannon Brewer served as his major professor. Robert Mollenhauer and Dennis Devries served as his committee members.

His thesis described movement and habitat selection of bighead and silver carps in the lower Red River catchment.

Aiden hopes to find an “agency” position in the US.





## **NEW MS GRADUATE**

**Nick Barnes** recently defended his thesis. Jim Stoeckel served as his major professor. Matt Catalano and Chris Bonvillain (Nicholls State University) served as his committee members.

His thesis project studied environmental influences on burrowing behavior in red swamp crayfish.

Nick has accepted a contract position as Freshwater Mussel Propagation Biologist for the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources. He will be stationed at the Harrison Lake National Fish Hatchery in Charles City, Virginia.





## **NEW MS GRADUATE**

**Dan Bryant** recently defended his thesis. Shannon Brewer served as his major professor. Ian Butts and Matt Catalano served as his committee members.

His thesis described age, growth, and reproductive biology of buffalofishes in the lower Red River catchment.

Dan hopes to find an agency position in his home state of Colorado.



## **NEW MS GRADUATE**

**Michael McDonald** recently defended his thesis. Alan Wilson served as his major professor. Luke Roy, Tham Hoang, and Katherine Horzmann served as his committee members.

His thesis project reevaluated copper sulfate pentahydrate dosing for harmful algal bloom control.

Michael has accepted a position with the US EPA as a Biologist. He will work with states and tribes to implement strategies to meet federal water quality criteria.



## VISITORS FROM NEPAL



Larry Lawson, David Cline (taking the picture), and Leticia Fantini Hoag recently hosted a group of scientists from Nepal at the EWSFC