

THE SFAAS NEWSREEL

Number 31 / January & February 2025

Winter is here! Auburn received three or four inches of snow in January. Classes were held remotely for a couple days and everyone enjoyed the rare treat.

In this issue of *Newsreel*, we wish two of our people a happy retirement, recognize award winners, and welcome some new people.

Let us know how you are doing – we need pictures and news

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 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Napolean / Lafayette Room.

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!



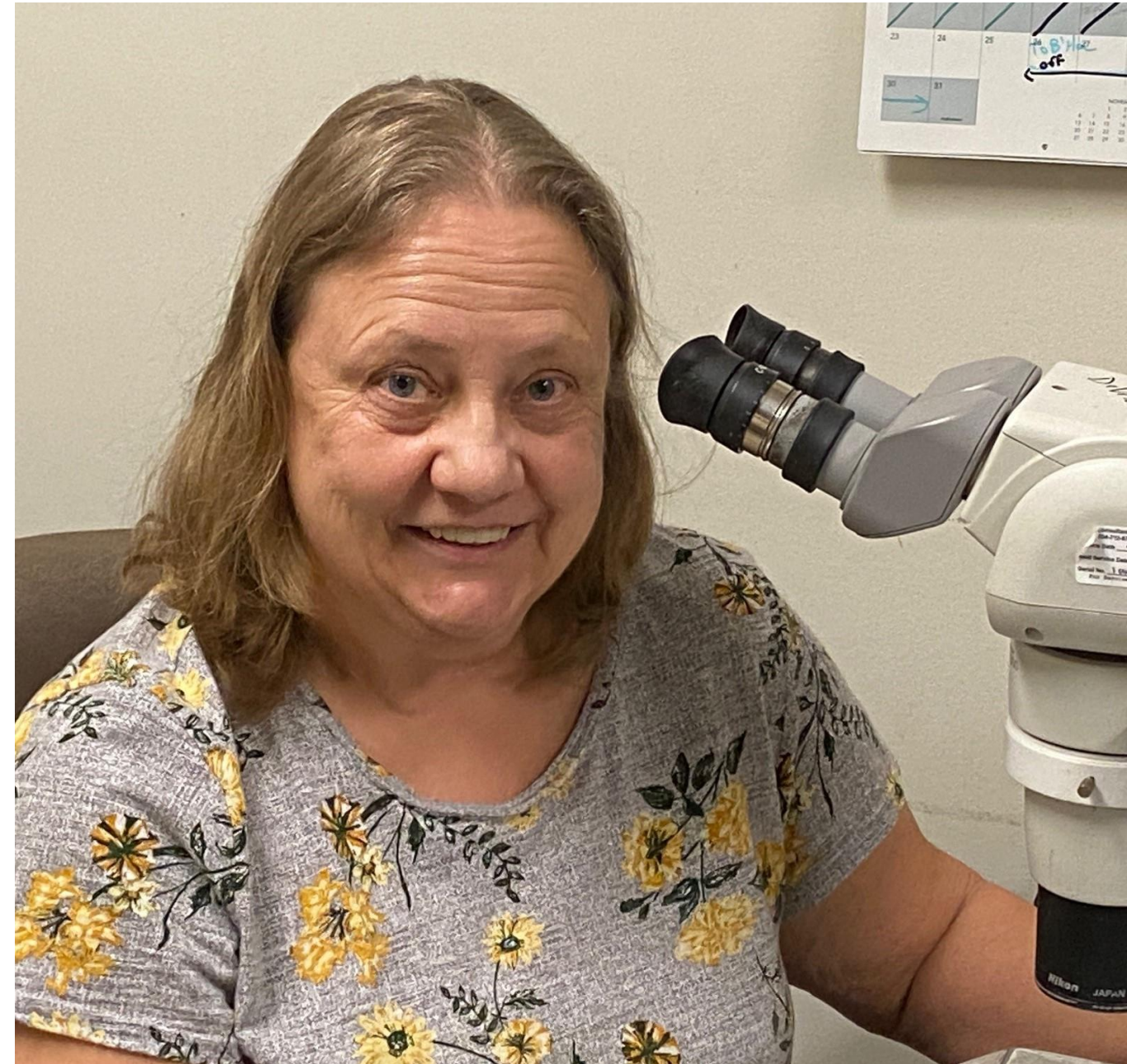
RETIRING

Steve Szedlmayer retired at the end of December after 34 years as a faculty member in our School. He spent that time studying and teaching marine fish ecology on the coast of Alabama.

Steve took his PhD from the College of William & Mary in 1988 and spent time as a postdoctoral fellow at Rutgers University before joining the Auburn faculty.

He has been recognized as a Professor *emeritus* by Auburn University and, in his retirement, plans to continue studying fish ecology and publishing a backlog of research findings.

RETIRING



Tammy DeVries retired at the end of December after almost 32 years as a research technician and lab coordinator at the Ireland Center.

Her duties included processing fish collections, counting plankton samples, aging fishes, calorimetry, determining enzyme activities, and stable isotope analyses. Tammy also coordinated field activities so the students would have what they needed when they needed it.

Tammy will continue working part-time at the Ireland Center, but many of the faculty and staff have already said they will miss her daily presence.



SWINGLE AWARD WINNER

Kate Pottle is the winner of the 2024 Swingle Award at the MS level. She is from Wilmington, North Carolina and recently completed her MS thesis work in Rex Dunham's lab.

Kate is planning to begin a PhD dissertation project in the Dunham lab and has a career goal of using aquaculture to help feed a growing population and mitigate climate change impacts.



SWINGLE AWARD WINNER

Abdulmalik Oladipupo is the winner of the 2024 Swingle Award at the PhD level. He is from Nigeria and is a second-year doctoral student working with Anita Kelly and Tim Bruce.

Abdulmalik hopes to have a career in fish health research.



MACEINA AWARD WINNER

Sam Delaney is the winner of the 2024 Maceina Award. He is from Enterprise, Alabama and is a MS student working with Shannon Brewer.

Sam's major interest is sportfish management. He hopes to become a district biologist with a state agency in the Southeastern US.



PARTRIDGE AWARD WINNER

Samantha Young is a winner of the 2024 Partridge Award. She is from Wellsboro, Pennsylvania and is doing her thesis work in Matt Catalano's lab.

Sam hopes to work in the areas of fisheries stock assessment and marine conservation.



PARTRIDGE AWARD WINNER

Ashley Hennessey is a winner of the 2024 Partridge Award. She is from North Palm Beach, Florida and did her thesis work in Alan Wilson's lab.

Ashley will soon join a PhD program at the University of Florida. Her career goal is to become an extension professor focused on water quality.



NEW MS STUDENT

Marie Tan has joined Tim Bruce's lab to pursue a MS. She is from Singapore and holds a BS in Marine Biology from James Cook University in Australia.

Marie's thesis will focus on immunology and vaccine development.

She hopes to pursue a PhD after completing her MS and teach or work in the area of fish health.



NEW MS STUDENT

Savannah Saeger has joined Tim Bruce's lab to pursue a MS. She is from Buckner, Illinois and holds a BS in Marine, Freshwater, and Environmental Biology from Ohio University.

Savannah's thesis work will involve combining vaccines and probiotics to try and improve survival of catfish exposed to infectious agents.

She hopes to have a career in fish conservation.

NEW MS STUDENT

Renee Hintz has joined Jim Stoeckel's lab to pursue a MS. She is from Cary, Illinois and holds a BS in Environmental Science from the University of South Carolina.

Renee's thesis work will focus on the production of monosex *Procambarus clarkii* for sustainable aquaculture production.

She hopes to have a career as a fisheries biologist.





NEW MS STUDENT

Teresa David has joined Rex Dunham's lab to pursue a MS. She is from Nigeria and holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Technology in Fisheries from the Federal University of Technology in Minna, Nigeria.

Teresa's thesis work will further develop ongoing projects on cathelicidin and desaturase.

She hopes to pursue a PhD after her MS degree and have a career in academia.



NEW MS STUDENT

Laura Hooper has joined Andrea Tarnecki's lab to pursue a MS. She is from Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and holds a BS in Biology from Meredith College.

Laura's thesis work will focus on the interactions of shorebirds and oyster aquaculture – particularly, ways to deter birds and the potential of birds to infect oysters with human pathogens.

Her career goal is to work in the field of oyster restoration on the east coast.

MORE NEWS FROM SFAAS



The *Newsreel* is not the only place to read about SFAAS activities.

The **Alabama Fish Farming Center** in Greensboro publishes the *Alabama Fish Farming Newsletter*

(<https://agriculture.auburn.edu/research/faas/alabama-fish-farming-center/affc-newsletters/>).

The **Auburn University Marine Extension & Research Center** and the **Auburn University Shellfish Lab** publish *Auburn on the Coast*

(<https://agriculture.auburn.edu/research/faas/auburn-on-the-coast-newsletters/>).

Check 'em out!

AQUATIC TOXICOLOGY IN SFAAS



Hoang's Lab

1: Tyler Wojichowski, 2: Pabasari Mallikarachchi, 3: John Ikyoive, 4: Celia Slaughter, 5: Alison Boardwine, 6: Tham Hoang, 7: Stephen Duke, 8: Ellis Nabi, 9: Sean Parham, 10: Sayem Ahmed, 11: Andrew Barrick, 12: Safeer Hashmi