

# THE SFAAS NEWSREEL

## Number 32 / March 2025

Things are humming along in the School with preparations being made for the Spring field season and stockings. Our main concerns are the future of our federal colleagues and our federal funding. We are hoping for the best and preparing for the worst.

Dr. Andrew Rypel will take over as director of the School at the end of March. We have included some information on Andrew in this edition. I will be returning to the lab and classroom. I have enjoyed my ten years as director – working with a lot of good people and together trying to tame the giant Auburn bureaucracy.

Joe Tomasso  
Professor & Director



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



## NEW SCHOOL DIRECTOR

**Andrew Rypel** will take over as Director of the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences at the end of March.

He holds a MS from our program and a PhD from the University of Alabama. His most recent academic position was as the Peter B Moyle and California Trout Endowed Chair, and director of the Center for Watershed Studies at the University of California - Davis.





## PROMOTED

**Nathan Whelan** has been promoted to **Associate Research Professor**, effective October 1, 2025.

Nathan is an employee of the USFWS. Through a memorandum of understanding, he joined us in 2018 as an assistant research professor. His research focus is on conservation genetics.

Nathan holds a BS from Truman State University and a PhD from the University of Alabama. He did a postdoc at Auburn to make up for the doctorate at Alabama.



## **SNOW DAY AT NORTH AUBURN**

**Snow fell in Auburn in January.  
Shown here is S-6 a couple  
days after the “blizzard”**





# 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 24	\$12.9 million
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



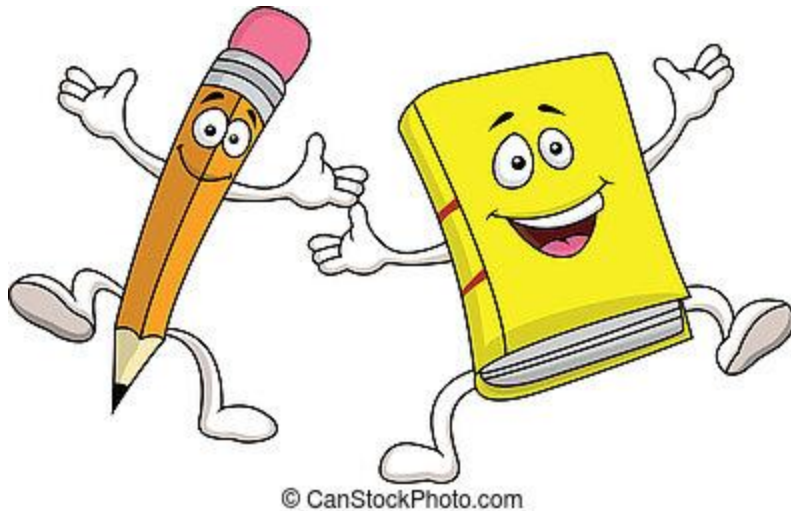
**YA DON'T SEE THIS  
VERY OFTEN!**

**The Auburn University  
Shellfish Lab on  
Dauphin Island during  
the “Blizzard of 2025”**

***Photo by: Luke Matvey***

# JOURNAL ARTICLES

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



2024	116
2023	106
2022	115
2021	101
2020	77
2019	71
2018	78





## **SPEAKING OF SNOW DAYS**

**Here is Leticia Fantini checking oxygen in raceways during the “blizzard of 2018”**





## COLLEGE AWARD WINNER

**Leticia Fantini-Hoag** is the recipient of the 2025 **Outstanding College Professional Employee Award**. The award recognizes a staff member who has demonstrated outstanding service, is of an exceptional nature, and makes a positive impact on his or her program.

Leticia manages fish production at the EW Shell Fisheries Center. She is pictured here receiving the award from Interim Dean Art Appel.

## COLLEGE AWARD WINNER



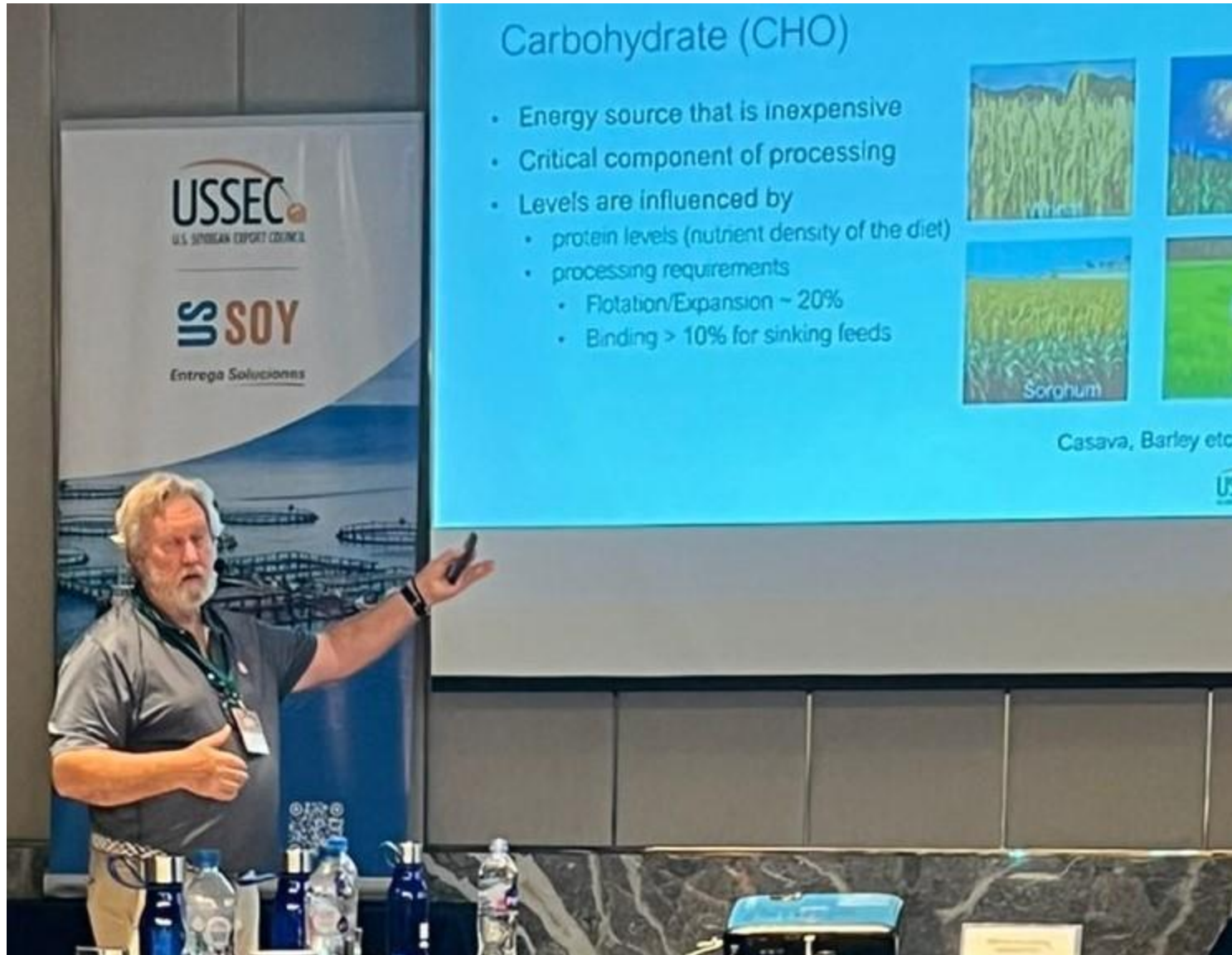
The College **Outstanding Publication Award** recognizes faculty members who publish work in a top-tier, peer-reviewed journal that has a major scientific or economic impact. **Allen Davis** and **Alan Wilson** were recognized for a paper they published with graduate student H. Galkanda-Arachchige.

The full reference is:

Galkanda-Arachchige, H., A. E. Wilson, and D. A. Davis. 2020. Success of fishmeal replacement through poultry by-product meal in aquaculture feed formulations: a meta-analysis. *Reviews in Aquaculture* 12(3):1624-1636.



## COLLEGE AWARD WINNER



### Carbohydrate (CHO)

- Energy source that is inexpensive
- Critical component of processing
- Levels are influenced by
  - protein levels (nutrient density of the diet)
  - processing requirements
    - Flotation/Expansion ~ 20%
    - Binding > 10% for sinking feeds



Casava, Barley etc.

**Allen Davis** is this year's recipient of the **Guthrie Award for Achievement in International Agriculture.**

The award is presented each year to recognize distinguished achievement in international teaching, research, or extension efforts in the College of Agriculture.

## **COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS**

Four of the twelve faculty members recognized by the College of Agriculture for their grantsmanship were from our School!

**Ash Bullard  
Rex Dunham  
PJ Waters  
Nathan Whelan**





## NOTABLE GRANT

PJ Waters & Missy Partyka recently received \$1,199,827 from ADCNR (through the Natural Resources Damage Assessment Program) for a 5-year study to determine why oysters are not populating the Swift Tract on the east side of Mobile Bay.

Activities will include: detailed water quality analyses, classification of potential fouling organisms, current larval and settlement sampling, flow patterns that would impact larval movement, and installation of brood stock aggregates.





## **PASSING**

**Nathan Ryan Hartline** died unexpectedly on January 28<sup>th</sup> of this year.

Nathan received an MS from our program in 2016. Rusty Wright and Dennis DeVries were his advisors.

His obituary can be found here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/gadsden-al/nathan-hartline-12221067>