

## 2023 USAS Student Subunit Annual Report

Kentucky State University  
400 E Main Street Frankfort, KY 40601

### I. Membership

#### a. Number of Members: 20

#### b. Officers (names and emails)

President: Vincent Teye

Vice President: Oluwafemi Adebayo

Secretary: Sandhya Lamichhane

Treasurer: Sagun Chhetri

Advisor: Dr. Noel Novelo

Other (specify):

#### c. Subunit's Recommendation for \$250 Travel Award to Aquaculture America<sup>1</sup>

Ashton Schardt, graduate student of aquaculture and aquatic sciences.

Ashton showed great leadership and committed time and effort to the subunit by organizing several educational activities, field trips, and discussion forums for professional development for the subunit, students, staff and faculty at the Aquaculture Research Center, Frankfort, Kentucky, including invitations and presentations by guest speakers on oyster hatchery production and drone technology in aquaculture.

### Chapter Activities and Events

This year's activities and events included workshops, outreach, training, visitations, fundraising, trips, conference participation, awards received or given, fundraisers, workshops, collaborative efforts, guest speakers, meetings, and student and faculty socials, and estimates of how many members participated and how many others were impacted.

In 2023, the subunit invited guest speakers to address members on new technologies in aquaculture such as the use of drone technology in aquaculture production. The subunit organized and hosted an online seminar on oyster production with a guest speaker from The East Hampton Town Shellfish Hatchery, New York. The subunit made a field visit to the water department of the Louisville Zoo in Kentucky to get firsthand knowledge on their operations. We participated in fish processing and short video production activities to encourage healthy cooking for healthy living especially for socially disadvantaged Kentuckians as part of a Tilapia Extension Capacity Building Project. This activity was presented in the poster session of Aquaculture America 2023 in New Orleans with the topic 'Encouraging Healthy Lean Protein Choices from Local Farmed Based Tilapia Through the

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<sup>1</sup> From the [USAS Procedures and Policies](#): "Each year, up to four (4) USAS student subunits will be provided with matching funds from USAS to support travel to the Annual Conference. USAS (or industry partner) will provide up to \$250 in matching funds per subunit (\$1,000 total annual commitment). Each subunit will select one (1) student based on merit. Travel award recipients will be selected by the subunit. Each subunit may develop its own selection criteria but we suggest that priority be given to the following: 1. Is the student presenting or bringing a poster? 2. Does the student have other travel funds available? 3. Has the student contributed to the subunit and/or USAS overall (i.e., subunit officer, activities etc.)? 4. Has the student previously received funds from USAS? 5. In addition, subunits may elect to use an abstract competition."

Development of Educational Videos for Virtual Platforms,' and the presenter, Mr. Oluwafemi Adebayo, received the USAS Student Subunit Travel Award 2023. The subunit engaged in professional development by participation at Conferences of the World Aquaculture Society, Kentucky Academy of Science (KAS), and Women of the Water Conference 2023. The subunit supported seven members' oral and poster presentations at the KAS Conference 2023. Lastly, an election was held for new executives to take charge of the subunit activities, to ensure continuity, and to plan and to implement activities to fulfill objectives as stated in the KSU USAS Subunit Bylaws.

**II. Chapter Changes from previous year (if applicable)**

Our number of memberships increased from 16 in 2022 to 20 in 2023.

We also elected our new executive committee board for 2023-2024:

President: Vincent Teye

Vice President: Oluwafemi Adebayo

Secretary: Sandhya Lamichhane

Treasurer: Sagun Chhetri

Advisor: Dr. Noel Novelo

**III. Chapter Struggles/Concerns or areas for improvement**

Some areas for improvement are to create more planning committees to involve all members in all activities. One plan is to be more involved with social media and reaching out to other sub-units for collaborations. Additionally, we would like to get more undergraduate students involved. Another of our plans is to extend our activities to high schools where we can expose the high school students to what aquaculture is all about and the prospects in aquaculture. We are also looking at more programs beyond the four walls of the school or subunit members creating a forum where members can have interactions with captains of industry and be exposed to field activities in the aquaculture sector.

#### IV. Photos



Subunit members at Louisville Zoo Water Department receiving training.



Subunit members at Louisville Zoo.



Illustration of drone technology application in aquaculture during seminar on drone technology.





Subunit members assisting with fish transfer at largest largemouth bass farm in Kentucky.



Subunit members during oyster presentation by a guest speaker



Subunit members participating at Women of the Water Conference 2023 (left) and Kentucky Academy of Science (right).



New executive committee board for 2024-2025.





*Vincent Feje President*



*Oluwafemi Adebayo Vice president*



*Sandhya Punichhane Secretary*



*Sagun Chhetri Treasure*

**V. Treasurer's Report**

The sub-unit began the year with \$ 525.23 and ended with \$ 1777.87. The increase was through fundraising and partnership efforts with the local community including the Kentucky Aquaculture Association. These funds will be used for student lead educational and outreach activities.

**VI. Updated Bylaws (if applicable)**

N/A