

**2023 USAS Student Subunit Annual Report**  
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's USAS student subunit  
1200 North University Drive, Pine Bluff Arkansas 71601

**I. Membership**

**a. Number of Members: 25**

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

President: Hannah Knuckles

Vice President: Shuva Saha

Secretary: FMS Abdal

Treasurer: Hayden Wall

Advisor: Dr. Dayan A. Perera

Other (specify):

**c. Subunit's Recommendation for the \$270 Student Early Bird Registration Travel Award to Aquaculture America<sup>1</sup>**

a. Student member's name, email, what year they are, and major.

Michele Jones, second-year doctoral student, Aquaculture

b. Description as to why they are recommended for this award by your subunit.

Michele "Ele" Jones is a current Doctoral student in the aquaculture program at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. With a focus on fish nutrition, Ele also received her master's degree at UAPB under the guidance of Dr Rebecca Lochmann. Throughout her time at UAPB, Ele has mentored students, participated in subunit events, and held various officer positions in the subunit. Currently, alongside being a part-time student, she is working as a research associate. She has shown tremendous time management skills and always makes time to assist with subunit events or to help out her fellow students.

**II. Chapter Activities and Events**

This can include workshops, outreach, training, visitations, fundraising, trips, conference participation, awards received or given, fundraisers, workshops, collaborative efforts, guest speakers, meetings, socials, etc. Include estimates of how many members participated and how many others were impacted.

Six members attended Aquaculture America in New Orleans in February 2023. Posters and oral presentations were given.

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<sup>1</sup> From the [USAS Procedures and Policies](#): "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."

In March, seven members presented at the Arkansas Academy of Science hosted by UAPB. Several awards were taken home by members!

In March, we hosted guest speaker Dr Dave Straus, he spoke about his research in toxicology and about his time working at the USDA Stuttgart National Aquaculture Research Center.

In April, three members attended MANRRS in Atlanta. Networking with minorities in our and related fields took place as well as many workshops.

In April, members assisted in hosting the annual department fish fry, everyone in the department was invited and we all had fish and socialized.

In late May/ early June, one student member and two faculty members participated in a study-abroad trip to Ghana. The focus was on aquaponics, fish nutrition, fish genetics, and water quality.

In July, seven students helped with the Hutton Summit program that was hosted by UAPB this year. The Hutton Scholar program sponsors high school students with an interest in fisheries to travel to a university and interact with students and faculty members for several workshops, field trips, and demonstrations.

In August, seven members attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff's chancellor's ice cream social. The sub-unit hosted a table where members networked with students interested in aquaculture and fisheries.

In September, two student members and one faculty member participated in the 'Women of the Water' Meeting in Sarasota Florida, they both presented posters and learned valuable information from women in their field.

In September, the subunit hosted a tailgate for the UAPB's women's soccer team. We held a fish fry and afterward went and watched the game. Several students and faculty members attended this.

In September, one student and one faculty member attended the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Aquaponics Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Many workshops were attended and field trips to tour local aquaponic farms were given.

In October, five members attended the Delta Rivers Nature Center's wetlands and wildlife festival, where we handed out recruitment materials and explained to the local public what we do and how aquaculture and fisheries affect their everyday lives. Approximately 150 people stopped by the booth at this event.

In November, all student members and faculty participated in UAPB's 'Aquatic Sciences Day' This is an event where students get to present information on their current research to high school students who are preparing to enter college.

In November, We hosted guest speaker "Chelsea Gilliland" who is Arkansas' Large River Fisheries Biologist who works with Arkansas Game and Fish. She spoke about her journey in fisheries and how she got to where she is. She also provided students with invaluable advice on how to get the most out of their graduate programs.

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

Change in number of members, activities, types of activities, social media, growth, etc.

Our number of memberships increased from 19 to 25. Our student involvement has gone up overall. We attended a new conference and became more involved with campus activities. Our social media has grown in activity.

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

We want to improve our student involvement. We also want to become more regularly active in on our social media accounts.

**V. Photos**



**(Officers Hayden Wall and Levi Olhausen attending the department's booth at the Wetlands and Wildlife Festival.)**



**(Officers Hannah Knuckles and Levi Olhausen attending the department's booth at the Wetlands and Wildlife Festival)**

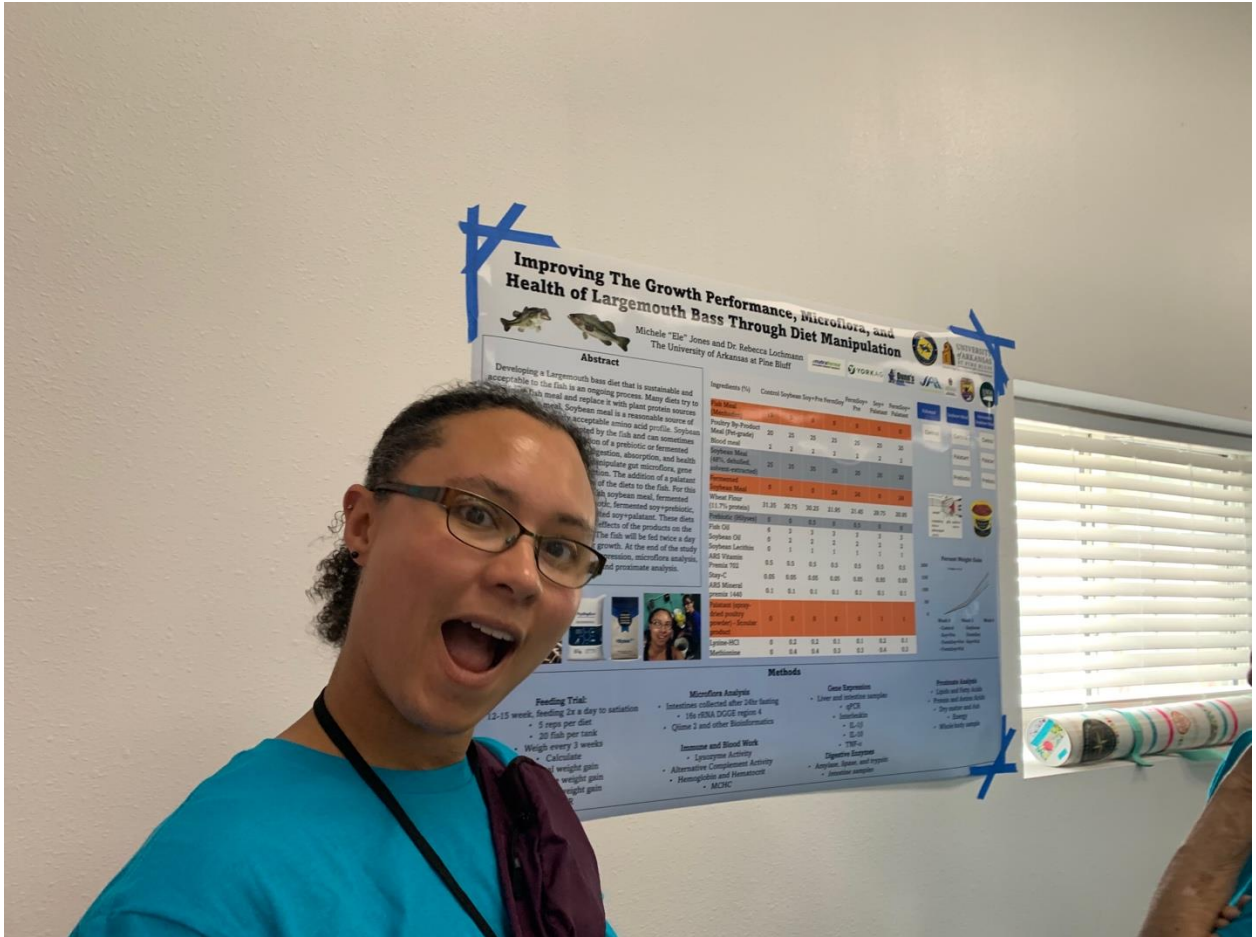




**(High school students gathered to see the Aquaponics display at UAPB's Aquatic Sciences Day, Featuring advisor Dr Dayan Perera who is explaining the mechanics of the system to the students.)**



**(Departmental fish fry hosted by faculty and student members.)**



(Ele Jones and her research poster at the Women of the Water conference in Sarasota.)





**(Officers Hannah Knuckles and Levi Olhausen, running the department booth at the UAPB Chancellors Ice Cream Social.)**



**(Members Levi Olhausen and Glen Jackson, hosting the department booth at the UAPB Chancellors Ice Cream Social.)**





(Picture features all officers of the USAS Subunit and the AFS subunit at UAPB)

**VI. Treasurer's Report**

**The subunit has many fundraisers planned with plans to make shirts for all members. We do not charge as fee to members so all money comes from fundraising. We spent \$194 in the fall semester on meetings. Our ending balance for the fall semester is \$105.**

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