

**2023 USAS Student Subunit Annual Report**  
UF USAS Student SubUnit  
Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory, Ruskin, FL

**I. Membership**

**a. Number of Members: 4**

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

President: Travis G. Knorr  
Vice President: Olivia Markham  
Secretary: Brittney Lacy  
Treasurer: Katie Everette  
Advisor: Matthew DiMaggio

**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.  
Olivia Markham, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, PhD
- b. Description as to why they are recommended for this award by your subunit.  
Olivia has been actively researching aquaculture protocols of the Flame Hawkfish and Golden Domino Damselfish. She has shown incredible leadership and performs as a mentor for her peers at the UF Tropical Aquaculture Lab. She maintains a positive outlook despite challenges encountered during research.

**ci. Chapter Activities and Events**

All members (4) attended Florida Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Chapter Meeting in 2023 in St. Augustine, FL. There, they presented their research via posters and oral presentations.

Four members attended the Women of the Water conference in Sarasota, FL where 2 members gave oral presentations.

UF Extension Agent Eric Cassiano routinely brought student tours to the UF TAL facility in which USAS Student Subunit members participate in showcasing facility features and describe objectives.

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

Chapter graduated one master's student and gained two research assistant graduate students.

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

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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."

Suggesting more community involvement. Hosting workshops, social activities, and community services, aimed at fellow community students and young aquaculture professionals.

**IV. Photos**

Spawning activity of Golden Domino Damselfish recorded by Casey Murray and shared by The Rising Tide Conservation via Facebook post. Link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/949204162769009>

**V. Treasurer's Report**

No monies were collected nor disbursed during the course of the year.

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

N/A