

New Faculty Spotlight

Jeremy Bechelli

Department of Biology



Jeremy Bechelli is a new faculty member here at Sam Houston within the Biology Department. Bechelli teaches General Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Virology and Immunology

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Jeremy Bechelli earned his Bachelor's degree in Biology from The University of New York College at Brockport State, located in Western New York. He received his Master's degree in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Rochester then moved to Texas where he earned his Doctoral degree in Experimental Pathology, at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, Tx.

When asked why he wanted to work at Sam Houston State University, Dr. Bechelli explained that Sam Houston State is the perfect place for him because, SHSU provides the ability to work in both the classroom and in the laboratory. He explained how his undergraduate mentor helped him get through the most difficult material by using laboratory research as a foundation for science in general. Dr. Bechelli's mentor guided him through understanding difficult topics by relating the material to real world matters. He was then inspired, through research, to continue on his educational journey and he now seeks to inspire his students to do the same. He encourages them to become active in research early, so that they can better understand the world around them.

Jeremy Bechelli's research interest is centered around tick-borne infectious diseases, such as rickettsial infections and the Colorado tick fever virus. As tick-borne infectious diseases increase across the nation, along with new tick species, researchers are realizing that the ticks they once believed to be harmless pests are actually carrying several pathogens (harmful microorganisms). Dr. Bechelli focuses on one major factor; how the cells of a host react to the infectious disease, including cell death mechanisms and inflammation in endothelial cells. More information on his research, including his leading questions, can be found on his website.

<https://thebechellilab.com/>

Interesting Facts

Any Hobbies? “Well, I am currently watching Schitts creek, it’s a very funny Netflix series. I am also watching a Mexican series on Netflix called La Casa de Las Flores and am patiently waiting for the next season of Game of thrones. I also grow orchids and other interesting plants like mandrakes. I am very interested in the folkloric use and cultural value plants serve. For example, plants used in religious ceremonies or as folk healing medicine. People used to have to rely on plants for so many reasons including medicinally, religiously and other cultural usage; this is called Ethnobotany!” (If this interests you, he has a few books on this in his office!!) And then, the occasional times when I attempt to paint using water colors.”

Music? “Well, I listen to a very diverse selection of music, anywhere from Spanish Folk to Classical Indian music. I listen to bands such as, Of Monsters & Men, The Civil Wars and an Indian musician named Ravi Shankar.” (Who he then chose to play until the interview ended!)

First Job? “When I was younger my parents owned multiple pizza & Ice cream shops, so my first job was at one of their Pizza parlors! I can make a mean pizza!!”

Daily Schedule? “Most mornings I have an English muffin and a decaf coffee for breakfast. My typical work schedule is Monday through Friday, 7am to 6/7pm and at least a few weekends a month. Just the other Sunday, I was in my office until 9pm working on a grant submission. I typically spend 74% of my time teaching in the classroom, the teaching labs, dealing with graduate students and having office hours. And the other 26% being in the lab working on my research, usually with my students.”