**Chelsea S. Thorn**

Department of Biology

Texas A&M University

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**Education**

**Ph.D.** in **Biology**, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, 2021-Present.

Committee Chair: Charles Criscione. Committee Members: Heath Blackmon, Brian Davis, Kira Delmore.

**M.S.** in **Biology**,Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, 2018-2021.

Thesis:Comparison of Endohelminth Parasites in Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) and Spotted Gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*) from Sabine Lake.

Committee Co-Chairs: Drs. Tamara Cook and Autumn Smith-Herron. Committee Members: Drs. Jerry Cook and Amber Ulseth.

**B. S.** in **Biology**, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas**,** 2015-2017. **Minor**: Chemistry

**A.S.** in **Chemistry,** Blinn College, College Station, Texas, 2011-2014.

**Experience**

**Teaching**

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Department of Biology, Texas A&M University, 2021-Present

* Courses taught: Introductory Biology 111, Introductory Biology 112 Honors, Biology 214: Genes, Ecology, and Evolution.
* Redeveloped curriculum and laboratory manual for Biology 112 Honors.
* Created instructional videos for Biology 111 and 112 to aid new graduate teaching assistants.

**Graduate** **Teaching Assistant**

Department of Biological Sciences, Sam Houston State University, 2018-2021.

* Courses taught: Zoology, Parasitology, and Histology.

**Research**

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Criscione Lab, Texas A&M University, 2021-Present.

* Sampled geckos, fish, and aquatic invertebrates from streams across the southeastern United States by hand-capture, seine, dip net, and electrofishing.
* Necropsied geckos, crayfish, shrimp, and fishes to collect parasite specimens.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies, Sam Houston State University, 2018-2019

* Developed and implemented training protocols with the PIs to instruct graduate and undergraduate assistants on projects being done in the lab, including field sampling techniques for fish, invertebrates, herpetofauna, and water.
* Instructed other research assistants and volunteers how to sort and identify fishes, invertebrates, and various herpetofauna.
* *Bluehead Shiner Project*: Sampled, sorted, and identified fish specimens. Trained undergraduate research assistants in these tasks.
* *Camp Bowie Invertebrate Survey*: Sampled, sorted, and identified terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate specimens. Trained graduate and undergraduate research assistants in these tasks. Assisted with placement in museum collections.
* *Camp Bowie Herpetofauna Survey*: Collected, field-identified and PIT tagged turtle and terrapin specimens to track movements. Field-identified and counted frog, toad, turtle, and snake specimens.
* *Clean Rivers Program, Houston Galveston Area Council*: Quarterly water sampling of rivers and creeks in the San Jacinto River and Winter’s Bayou watershed. Trained undergraduate research assistants.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies, Sam Houston State University, 2016-2017.

* Developed and implemented training protocols with the PIs to instruct graduate and undergraduate assistants on projects being done in the lab, including field sampling and identification techniques for fish and invertebrates.
* Instructed other research assistants and volunteers how to sort and identify fishes, and invertebrates.
* Assisted graduate students in the lab with their thesis research.
* *Bluehead Shiner Project*: Sampled, sorted, and identified fish specimens. Trained undergraduate research assistants in these tasks.
* *Camp Bowie Invertebrate Survey*: Sampled, sorted, and identified terrestrial and aquatic invertebrate specimens. Trained graduate and undergraduate research assistants in these tasks. Assisted with placement in museum collections.
* *Clean Rivers Program, Houston Galveston Area Council*: Assisted in quarterly water sampling of rivers and creeks in the San Jacinto River and Winter’s Bayou watershed.
* *Comanche Springs Pupfish Breeding Project*: Assisted in experimental specimen maintenance and data processing.

**Presentations and Posters**

**Thorn, C. S.,** Criscione Charles D.The complete genome of the gecko tapeworm, *Oochoristica javaensis*. Oral Presentation. *Presented at: American Society of Parasitologists (2023).*

**Thorn, C. S.,** Criscione Charles D.The complete mitochondrial genome of the gecko tapeworm, *Oochoristica javaensis*. Poster. *Presented at: Ecological Integration Symposium (2023),**Student/Postdoc Research Conference (2023).*

**Thorn, C.S.,** Smith-Herron, Autumn J., Cook, Tamara J. Endohelminth parasites of alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) and spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*) from Sabine Lake. Poster. *Presented at: American Society of Parasitologists (2022), Southwestern Association of Parasitologists (2022).*

**Thorn, C.S.**, Balaraman, R., Chacko, J. Islas, A., Abouelela, A., Ogbojo, D. Compound Light Microscope Tutorial. Video. *Sam Houston State University (2020)*

**Thorn, C.S.**, McNeese, H. Title IX and FERPA Roundtable. Graduate and Undergraduate Instructor Academy. Invited Presenter. *Sam Houston State University (2019).*

**Thorn, C.S.**, Gary, K. P., McWilliams, J., Hargrave, C.W. Current Status of Bluehead Shiner (*Pteronotropis hubbsi*) in Texas. Poster. *Presented at: American Fisheries Society (2017)*

**Publications**

**Thorn, C.S.,** Maness, R.W., Hulke, J.W., Delmore, K.E., Criscione, C.D. (2023) Population Genomics of Helminth Parasites. Journal of Helminthology.

**Thorn,C.S.**, Smith-Herron, A. J., Cook, T. J. (2023) Endohelminth parasites of alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) and spotted gar (*Lepisosteus oculatus*) from Sabine Lake. Comparative Parasitology. *In progress*.

**Scholarly Reviews**

Journal of Helminthology

**Certifications**

* CITI IACUC Wildlife Research, 2022.
* CITI IACUC Working with Fish in Research Settings, 2018.
* CITI IACUC Conflicts of Interest, 2022.
* CITI IACUC Physical Science Responsible Conduct of Research, 2022.
* CITI IACUC Working with the IACUC, 2022.
* Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies Wetland Delineation Certification, 2018.

**Grants, Fellowships, and Awards**

* Marc Dresden Travel Award, American Society of Parasitologists 2023.
* 1st Place Student Poster Competition, Ecological Integration Symposium 2023.
* Aviles-Johnson Fellowship, Texas A&M University. 2021-2024.
* Texas A&M University Graduate School Scholarship. Texas A&M University, 2021.

**Service and Outreach**

Darwin Day. Texas A&M University. Community outreach, 2023.

Parasitology on the Green. American Society of Parasitologists. Community outreach, 2022.

Tri Beta Biological Honors Society. Oral presentation on graduate school, reading scientific papers, and CV preparation for undergraduates in the biological sciences, 2020.

Entergy Grant to Sam Houston State University. Produced and distributed hand sanitizer and reusable face masks to schools, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, law enforcement, and hospitals, 2020.

Microscopy Training Tutorial Video. Wrote, directed, and presented a microscopy tutorial video for use by students at Sam Houston State University, 2020.

President, Biological Sciences Graduate Student Organization, Sam Houston State University, 2019-2020.

Bio-Lunch. Founded and organized a weekly lunch for Biology graduate students to present papers, discuss current research, and practice presentation skills, 2019-2021.

Graduate and Undergraduate Instructor Academy. Graduate Instructor. Sam Houston State University, 2019.

Habitat Restoration at Sam Houston State University Biological Research Field Station. Maintained habitat for the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, 2018-2021

**Organizations**

American Society of Parasitologists. 2020-Present.

Southwestern Association of Parasitologists. 2020-Present.

Biology Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M University. 2021-Present

Biological Sciences Graduate Student Organization, Sam Houston State University. 2018-2021.

* President 2019-2020

American Fisheries Society. 2017-2020.