

Marissa Celeste Perales

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ACADEMIC HISTORY

August 2005 – Present **University of North Texas, Denton, TX**
Major: Psychology
Anticipated Graduation: December 2008

August 2003 – May 2005 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**
Major: Brain & Cognitive Sciences

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Comorbidity of psychological and physical health disorders, particularly in chronic illness populations
- The etiology, assessment, and treatment of chronic stress and pain behavior
- Primary prevention of chronic illness, specifically, identifying and minimizing psychosocial factors that predispose individuals for risk of acquiring chronic illness
- Coping mechanisms, depression, stress, and quality of life in chronic illness and substance abuse populations

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

January 2008 – Present **Eugene McDermott Center for Pain Management**
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW)
Research Associate to Dr. Robert Gatchel, Research Director
Participant recruitment; data collection, entry, and analysis; score and interpret collected data; establish rapport with participants and schedule baseline, medical, physical therapy, behavioral medicine, and case management appointments; create and maintain participant medical charts; coordinate with staff at UTSW and community hospitals and clinics; contribute to scholarly writing and publications

Center for Psychosocial Health (CPH)
University of North Texas

May 2008 – Present

Office Manager to Dr. Mark Vosvick, Director

- Prepare and facilitate weekly meetings (present business before 25-35 research assistants and faculty)
- Mentor CPH members in research design, hypothesis development, and submitting abstracts to national conferences
- Screen, interview, and conduct orientation for new CPH members
- Maintain CPH website: <http://www.unt.edu/cph>
- Communicate with CPH faculty, students, and psychology department via email and phone

May 2008 – Present

Research Assistant to Dr. Mark Vosvick, Director

Contribute to all stages of current and future projects:

- PROJECT COPE: **Project Manager**. Assisted in production of IRB application, constructed computer-based survey using Questionnaire Development System (QDS), designed and taught protocol for survey administration, supervise participant recruitment efforts, schedule participants, communicate with and coordinate CPH members, faculty, and the Department of Psychology for data collection, create and update SPSS databases from collected data, analyze and interpret data
- PROJECT FORGIVE: Assisted in survey construction using QDS, assisted in participant recruitment, facilitated and administered baseline surveys at the Resource Center of Dallas, analyze and interpret data
- GROWING UP POSITIVE: Participant recruitment, data collection of QDS surveys, transcription of participant interviews
- STIGMA BURDEN: Assisted in literature search for future project
- PROJECT VOICES: Cleaned and analyzed data of 288 HIV+ individuals in the DFW metroplex using SPSS

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Perales, M., Vosvick, M., & Chng, C.L. Romantic Attachment Style, Self-Esteem, and Forgiveness: Correlates of Depression in College Students. *In prep.*

Perales, M., Haggard, R., & Gatchel, R. Variability in Cortisol Levels in Acute Low Back Pain Patients. *In prep.*

Perales, M. & Vosvick, M. *Romantic Attachment Style, Self-Esteem, and Forgiveness: Correlates of Depression in College Students*. **Poster presentation** at the Association for Psychological Science's 20th Annual Convention in Chicago, IL in May 2008.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- October 2007 – Present
- Santé Center for Healing**
Mental Health Technician
- Provide basic care to dual-diagnosis, emotionally disturbed, chemically dependent, and mentally ill patients; apply effective mental health techniques for communicating with persons with mental disorders; understand, interpret, and apply relevant laws and regulations; establish effective working relationships with patients, their families, and community representatives; keep accurate medical records and follow oral and written instructions
 - Assist in the coordination of services, including assessment, planning, monitoring, documenting, and evaluating services provided
 - Identify the personal needs of patients; observe and record condition and behavior and report significant changes to the appropriate authority, observe and identify a variety of clinical problems; assess and monitor detox patients as necessary
 - Provide crisis intervention and provide a behavioral role model for patients by using effective mental health techniques
 - Assist with admitting psychiatric histories and ongoing treatment and discharge planning procedures

RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRAINING/SKILLS

- January 2008
- Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Training**
- Definitions of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

- Procedures for Reporting Abuse
- Rights of the Mentally Ill / How to Access Care
- Family of Origin and Shaming
- Understanding the Long Term Effect of Abuse

Courses sponsored by Santé Center for Healing

December 2007

CPI Training

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training emphasizing early intervention and nonviolent methods for preventing and managing disruptive behavior

December 2007

Heartsaver First Aid Training

- Adult First Aid
- Adult/Child CPR with Mask
- Adult/Child AED

Courses sponsored by the American Heart Association

November 2007

Health and Safety Training

- Emergency Procedures
- Detoxification Principles and Procedures
- Infection Control
- Overview of Addiction
- Understanding Addictive Thinking

Courses sponsored by Santé Center for Healing

August 2007

Seminar Instructor, Introduction and Application of Questionnaire Development System 2.4, Center for Psychosocial Health

January – May 2007

Teaching Assistant to Dr. Mark Vosvick, Spring 2007

PSYC 4300/5300 Psychosocial Issues in HIV/AIDS

- Organize weekly reading material
- Reserve videos and books at campus libraries
- Communicate and assist class members

December 2006

Volunteer and Attendee, “Transforming Mental Health Services in Texas: Building Bridges between Cultural Competence and Evidence-Based Practices,” CE credits 12, at the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health’s 14th Annual Robert Lee Sutherland Seminar in Houston, TX

- July 2006 **NIH Certification Training**
Course on Human Participants Protection Education for Research Teams, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- June 2006 **HIPAA Training**
Course sponsored by UTSW Medical Center addressing policies and procedures with respect to protected health information

PUBLIC SERVICE

- January 2008 – Present **The Gabriel Project**
Crisis Counselor
Assist expectant mothers with friendship and coordination of health care, transportation, housing, and material needs. Perform basic mental health care, coordinate with local pregnancy help centers, refer client to appropriate level of care if necessary.
- March 2004 – Present **Alpha Phi Sorority**
Director of Philanthropy 2004-2005
Participated in fourteen sorority philanthropy projects benefitting Cardiac Care and the Alpha Phi Foundation. Raised over \$35,000.
- October 2007 **AIDS Arms LifeWalk**
Team Captain
Worked with 30 individuals to raise money for HIV/AIDS services in North Texas and walk in the annual LifeWalk fundraiser in Dallas, TX. Raised over \$600.
- March – December 2006 **UNT Best Buddies Chapter**
Director
Worked to enhance the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- June 2007 – January 2008 **Peak Automation, Keller, TX**
Project Manager & Engineer

Design and manufacture customized automated equipment for small component and semiconductor handling. Provide turn-key solutions for custom applications and custom process integration, such as automated test handlers.

July 2006 – June 2007

The Westin Stonebriar Resort, Frisco, TX

Gift Shop Manager

Retail layout, merchandise selection and ordering, coordinating between two Gift Shop locations and hotel management, payroll, accounting, scheduling employee shifts and time off, limited concierge services

February – June 2006

Gift Shop Employee

Customer service, retail, receiving merchandise, sending charges to resort staff.

May – August 2005

Maverick Engineering, Inc., Corpus Christi, TX

Civil Engineering Intern / Engineer Technical I

May – August 2004

Proposal and contract development, data entry using extractions from AutoCAD programs, engineering analysis of upcoming projects, structural analysis of existing projects.