

# Marissa Celeste Perales

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## ACADEMIC HISTORY

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- August 2005 – Present      **University of North Texas**, Denton, TX  
Major: Psychology  
Anticipated Graduation: May 2009
- August 2003 – May 2005      **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA  
Major: Brain & Cognitive Sciences

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- 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

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- May 2007 – Present      **Center for Psychosocial Health (CPH)**  
**University of North Texas**  
*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 2006 – 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 HEALTH:** Assisted in IRB production and scale selection. QDS survey development and construction, assisted in recruitment efforts.
- **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

**Eugene McDermott Center for Pain Management**

**University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW)**

January –June 2008

*Research Associate* to Dr. Robert Gatchel, Research Director

Head 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

#### PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

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Perales, M., Vosvick, M., & Chng, C.L. Romantic Attachment Style, Self-Esteem, and Forgiveness: Correlates of Depression in College Students. *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 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Chicago, IL in May 2008.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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##### **Santé Center for Healing**

October 2007 – April 2008

*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

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- 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

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- 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

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- 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.