

Jennifer Kay Leach

Email: jenniferkayleach@gmail.com



EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Psychology (Area I: Learning, Cognition, Instruction, and Motivation)

Master of Arts in Program Evaluation

Anticipated graduation date: May 2013

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Master of Education in Counseling (College and University Counseling focus)

Completed: May 2004

University of North Texas, Denton, TX

GPA: 3.77

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

Completed: August 2001

Texas State University-San Marcos, TX

GPA: 3.63, Major GPA 3.8

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Instructor—January 2011-Present

EDP 310-Individual Learning Skills, Educational Psychology Department, The University of Texas at Austin

- Teach students from various disciplines across the university at all levels of progress (Freshman-Senior)
- Provide instruction covering cognition, learning, motivation, and self-regulation
- Help students develop awareness of current study strategies
- Provide standards for reflecting on the results of those strategies in order to develop more strategic learning behaviors
- Support students in becoming more self-regulated learners
- Provide lectures of key concepts, guided practice, reflective questioning, small group and whole class discussions
- Conduct pre- and post-assessments of student motivation, cognition and learning behaviors
- Provide regular individual feedback via written comments and face-to-face meetings
- Continuously update online resources for student use

Graduate Assistant—September 2009-January 2011 and Summer 2011
Longhorn Link Program, The University of Texas at Austin

- Met with selected first-generation, low socioeconomic status, and/or disabled UT students to provide additional support services
- Met with program participants to offer individual or group assistance with academic and personal advising, career and graduate school counseling, and financial aid counseling
- Assisted program staff in planning and implementing program workshops
- Assisted program with referrals and interventions
- Assisted with updating program web pages
- Assisted Director in coordination and implementation of special projects and activities
- Assisted program staff in following up on participants academic progress
- Assisted with program database entry and document all student contacts
- Assisted with program evaluation and federal/institutional reporting
- Developed and conduct programs and workshops
- Provided group and individual tutoring for Psychology and Statistics

Academic Advisor I—September 2007-August 2009
Texas State University-San Marcos, College of Liberal Arts

- Assisted Psychology majors and pre-majors with course schedules and selection of courses for each semester
- Maintained files for majors
- Provided preliminary advising to prospective students
- Talked with students who were having problems in their major(s) and/or minor(s) and discussed options or alternatives
- Advised probation and suspension students
- Assisted with all aspects of graduation processions of students
- Assisted with evaluation, processing, and completion of Degree Audit Reports (DARS) for all students in Liberal Arts
- Coordinated with academic departments and advising centers regarding students' questions or problems
- Attended Bobcat Days, assisted with conducting orientation sessions, and assisted with group advising during advance and late registration
- Maintained policy and procedures files and student files for the advising center
- Provided administrative assistance to the Director of the advising center
- Collected, collated and maintained assessment data regarding the number of students advised, and/or contacted by telephone, e-mails, etc., in addition to other assessment data as necessary
- Provided referral to appropriate student and academic services

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- Collaborated with faculty and staff in the Psychology department on course offerings and program requirements

Academic Advisor I—September 2004-September 2007

Texas State University-San Marcos, Round Rock Higher Education Center (RRHEC), Round Rock, TX

- Advised students on courses needed for eight separate degree programs from six different Colleges
- Provided students with information about application procedures and requirements
- Developed and coordinated information sessions for prospective student and training sessions for Austin Community College (ACC) advisors and counselors about RRHEC programs and processes
- Attended fairs and events to promote the growth of the RRHEC and recruit prospective students
- Revised and updated Transfer Planning Guides
- Created monthly reports of student contact information
- Maintained a budget for the student activities committee

AWARDS/HONORS

Joseph L. and Katherine D. Henderson Foundation Scholar, The College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin—2011-2012

Alexander Caswell Ellis Fellowship in Education, The College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin—2009-2010

Gates Millennium Scholars Program: Full tuition/expenses to attend Texas State and UNT—2000-2004

Texas State University's College of Liberal Arts Award for Academic Excellence—2000 and 2001

Dean's List—Spring 1997, Fall 1999, Spring 2000, Fall 2000, Spring 2001

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Currently, I am exploring the roles of motivation, cognition and students' interest in academic choices and satisfaction with those choices. Specifically, I have examined the correlation of these constructs as they relate to college student retention and academic major decision-making. I am interested in the decision-making strategies and orientations students engage in while choosing a major. In addition, I have conducted research on the role of academic entitlement among college students as it relates to beliefs and actions expressed through interactions with faculty and staff. I plan to investigate whether

entitlement is a trait or state variable.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Primary Investigator—Fall 2010-Present

Under Erika A. Patall, Assistant Professor

- Examining the relationship among effort, post decision-making counterfactual thinking, and academic major satisfaction
- Conducting correlational, multiregression, meditational, and factor analyses
- Developed the Academic Major Counterfactual Thinking Scale (AMCTS)
- Preparing publication for submission

Co-Investigator—Spring 2010-Present

Under Marilla Svinicki, Professor

- Examining the effects of academic entitlement among college students
- Examining the relationship between autonomy and academic entitlement
- Conducting correlational and multiregression analyses
- Preparing publication for submission

Co-Investigator—Fall 2009-Present

Under Claire Ellen Weinstein, Professor

- Member of the Community College Longitudinal Research (CCLR) Study team
- Examining the cognitive and motivational factors that affect community college student achievement and retention
- Provided historical background for the term “first-generation” and the impact of first-generation status on college student success for paper presentation
- Preparing a publication examining the ability of several “at-risk” variable to predict academic achievement and student retention

Data Collector—Fall 2009

Under Daniel Robinson, Professor

- Visited classrooms and recorded instances of classroom response system devices during lectures

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript in preparation

Leach, J. K. & Patall, E. A. (in preparation). *Maximizing and counterfactual thinking in academic major decision-making.*

Submitted for publication

Book chapter

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Weinstein, C. E., Jung, J., Krause, J. M., Dacy, B. S., **Leach, J. K.** (2011). Strategic learning: Helping students become more active participants in their learning. In K. Agee & R. Hodges (Eds.), *CRLA handbook for training peer tutors and mentors*.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

“Relationships Among First-Generation Status, SES, Strategic Learning, Achievement and Retention”

Paper presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA)

Richmond, Virginia—October 28-31, 2009

“Academic Entitlement: General Trait or Situated in a Context”

Paper present at American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting
New Orleans, LA—April 8-12, 2011

WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“Communicating Well is Fun”

Explosion of Leading Ladies: Preparing Yourself for Success

Round Rock Higher Education Center, Round Rock, TX—April 23, 2007

“All in Unison: Community Colleges and Universities Creating a Successful Transfer”

National Academic Advising Association Region 7 Conference

Austin, TX—March 9, 2007

Austin Community College Transfer Advisor Workshop

Texas State University-San Marcos, Round Rock Higher Education Center, Round Rock, TX—2006 and 2007 (Annually)

College Planning Information Session

Texas State University-San Marcos, Round Rock Higher Education Center, Round Rock, TX—2004-2007 (Quarterly)

MEMBERSHIPS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Bobcat Pride Scholarship Fund Committee (Founding Member)—2010-Present

- Information and Technology Chair

American Educational Research Association—2009-Present

- Member-Division C: Learning and Instruction
- Member-Division J: Post-Secondary Education
- Member-Motivation in Education Special Interest Group

National Certified Counselor—2004-Present

Alliance (Texas State’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Faculty/Staff Organization)—2007-2009

- Secretary

Texas State Advising Council—2006-2009

- Round Rock Committee—2006-2008
- Transfer Issues Committee—2008-2009

Texas Academic Advisor Network—2004-2009

National Academic Advising Association—2004-2009

Texas State Athletic Progress Rate (APR) Improvement Plan Committee—2007-2008

Round Rock Higher Education Center Pathways Committee—2005-2007

Psi Chi National Psychology Honor Society—Lifetime Member since 2000

Golden Key International Honor Society—Lifetime Member since 2000

PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Institutional

Texas State University-San Marcos (in attendance)

Appropriate Release of Information—The Who, What, When, and How—April 18, 2008

Allies Facilitator Training—December 7, 2007

Allies of Texas State—November 11, 2005, March 28 and November 11, 2007

EEO Training for Employees: Non-supervisors—November 30, 2007

Culture of Care Retention Initiatives at Texas State—November 1, 2007

QPR: Suicide Prevention Training—October 7, 2007

The College Student Mental Health Crisis: What Faculty and Staff Need to Know—September 20, 2007

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People—May 9, 15, and 18, 2007

How is Your Financial Health—February 7, 2007

Anger Management—October 31, 2006

The Office Battlefield: Don't Become a Casualty of Workplace Violence—April 6, 2006

Stress Management: Working at the Heart of the Matter—March 27, 2006

Creating Successful Online Student Service Programs—November 3 and 17, 2005

Admissions: Minding Your P's and Q's—January 25, 2005

How to Maximize Your Financial Aid—October 26, 2004

Providing Legendary Customer Service—September 7, 2004

The University of Texas at Austin

McNair Scholar Mentor—Fall 2010

Educational Psychology Graduate Student Research Exchange at UT-Austin (Baylor University visiting)—February 26, 2010 (*in attendance*)

Educational Psychology Graduate Student Research Exchange at Baylor University —October 9, 2009 (*in attendance*)

Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment's Graduate Student Colloquium—September 12, 2009 (*in attendance*)

State and National

AERA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA—April 8-12, 2011

AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO—February 29-May 4, 2010

Texas Academic Advising Network (TEXAAN) State Conference—2005, 2006, 2008

National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region 7 Conference, Austin, TX—March 8-10, 2007

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Institute for the Study of Transfer Students Conference, Fort Worth, TX—January 28-30,
2007

SERVICES

Reviewing

AERA submission reviewer, Division J—2012 Annual Meeting