TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Laura C. Summerhill, MSW, MS. Ed, LCSW, PhD Title: Professor of Instruction

B. Educational Background

Degree	*Year*	*University*	*Major*	*Thesis/Dissertation*
PhD	2017	New York University	Clinical Social Work	Ethiopian Attitudes about Intercountry Adoption
M.S. Ed	1999	Bank Street College of Ed	Special Education	Demystification of Learning Disabilities
M.S.W.	1998	Columbia University	Social Work, Clinical Track	
B.S.W.	1994	Florida State University	Social Work	

C. University Experience

Position	*University*	*Dates*
Professor of Instruction	Texas State University	8/2024- present

Lecturer	Texas State University	1/2016 – 7/2024
Lecturer	Nyack College	1/2015 - 5/2017
Adjunct Lecturer	Texas State University	1/2012 - 12/2015
Adjunct Lecturer	University of New England	9/2013 - 6/2014
Adjunct Lecturer	New York University	1/2010 - 5/2010
Doctoral Teaching Assistant	New York University	8/2008 - 8/2010
Lecturer	Texas State University	8/2004 - 7/2007

D. Relevant Professional Experience

Position	*Entity*	*Dates*
Private Practice	Houston, TX	1/2023 - present
Adoption Social Worker	Adoptions from the Heart	8/2009 - 7/2017
Private Practice	Brooklyn, NY	6/2008 - 12/2012
Contract Social Worker	Texas Dept. of Family & Protective Services	3/2006 - 7/2007
Clinical Social Worker	Hays Co. Law Enforcement Center	10/2005 - 7/2007
Private Practice	San Marcos, TX	10/2005 - 7/2007
Clinical Social Worker	Jewish Board of Family & Children Services	10/2003 - 6/2004
Social Worker	KeySpan Energy	7/1998 - 7/2004

E. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Supervisor, State of Texas

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, State of New York

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

American Society of Clinical Hypnosis

National Board of Certified Clinical Hypnotherapists

EMDRIA

International Society of Accelerated Resolution Therapy

Rome Foundation for Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction

II. TEACHING

A. Teaching Honors and Awards:

- 2025 Favorite Professor, A.H. Nolle Chapter, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Texas State University
- 2022 Favorite Professor, A.H. Nolle Chapter, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Texas State University
- 2021 Favorite Professor, A.H. Nolle Chapter, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Texas State University
- 2017 Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Applied Arts, Texas State University
- 2016 Favorite Professor, A.H. Nolle Chapter, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Texas State University
- 2013 Favorite Professor, A.H. Nolle Chapter, Alpha Chi National Honor Society, Texas State University
- 2005 Outstanding Teacher of the Year for the College of Health Professions, Texas State University

B. Courses Taught:

Undergraduate courses taught include: Introduction to Social Work, Social Services in the Community, Social Work Practice I, Seminar in Human Behavior and the Social Environment II, Social Work Practice III, Beginning Field Practice, Advanced Field Practice, Special Topics: Building Cultural Competency in New York City, a two week onsite extension course held in New York City, May 2006, and University Seminar-freshman and transfer student orientation course.

Graduate courses taught include: Social Work Practice I, Social Work Practice III, Diagnostic Assessment, Advanced Social Work Practice I: Interventions with Individuals, Advanced Social Work Practice II: Interventions with Families, Advanced Social Work Practice III: Interventions with Groups, and Special Topics: Building Cultural Competency, a two week onsite extension course held in New York City, May 2006, Study in America: International Social Work in New York City, May 2018.

Graduate Online courses taught include: Human Behavior and the Social Environment Part II, Group Work in Social Work Practice, Administration and Leadership, and Diagnostic Assessment, Advance Social Work Research, Advanced Psychosocial Assessment, Motivational Interviewing, Advanced Social Work Practice with Families, and Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families, Spirituality and Social Work Practice, Foundation Social Work Practice II-Macro Practice, Human Behavior in Local and Global Social Environments, Social Work Practice III: Interviewing and Counseling, and Advanced Administrative Leadership II.

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

- Wilson, S.L. & Summerhill, L. (DST) (2013). Exploring birth countries: The mental health implications of heritage travel for children/adolescents adopted internationally. *Adoption Quarterly*, *16*, 262-278
- Summerhill, L. **(**2006). Childhood obesity. *Today's Child*, *5*(7), 46-47.
- Summerhill, L. (2006). Fertility options for hopeful parents to be. *Today's Child*, *5*(7), 60-62.
- Summerhill, L. (2004). Dealing with death. *Today's Child*, *3*(5), 40-42.
- Summerhill, L. (2004). Choosing a midwife. *Today's Child*, *3*(5), 62-63.

- Summerhill, L. (2004). Conquering your child's academic trouble. *Today's Child*, *3*(5), 4-46.
- Summerhill, L. (2003). Teens and Drug Use: What Parents Should Know. *Today's Child*, *2*(3), 65-67.
- Summerhill, L. (2003). Understanding and preventing SIDS. *Today's Child*, *2*(4), 28-29.
- Summerhill, L. (2003). The Parent Challenge: Getting Enough Sleep. *Today's Child*, *2*(4), 78-79.

B. Works not in Print

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

- Summerhill, L. The Impact of Funeral Home Negligence on Grief and Bereavement NASW/LA Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, 2023.

- Summerhill, L. The Impact of Funeral Home Negligence on Grief and Bereavement, Invited, International Conference on Death, Greif, and Bereavement, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 2023.

- Hawkins, C. A. & Summerhill, L. Spiritually relevant, culturally competent, and ethically based practice in current complex times. NASW/TX Annual Meeting, Galveston, October 2022.

- Hawkins, C. A. & Summerhill, L. Elevating Social Work through Spiritually Relevant Ethical Practice. NASW/TX Annual Meeting, Galveston, 2019.

- Hawkins, C. A. & Summerhill, L. Spiritually Relevant Social Work Education, Practice and Research: Looking Back, Looking Forward. CSWE Annual Meeting, Denver, 2019.

- Hawkins, C. A. & Summerhill, L. Elevating Social Work through Spiritually Relevant Ethical Practice. NASW/TX Annual Meeting, Galveston, 2019.

- Summerhill, L.C. Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Teleconference Network of Texas, April 2008.

- Summerhill, L.C. Case plan development: Infant Brain Development. Center for Children and Families Education Coordination Council-Texas State University training for Child Protective Services Foster/Adoptive Placement staff and Foster to Adopt parents. Belton, TX, April 2007.

- Summerhill, L.C. International Adoption: A look at Romania and Paraguay. Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, San Marcos, TX, November 2006.

- Summerhill, L. C., Tijerina, M. & Hawkins, C. A. Cultural immersion in New York: The world's most diverse city. Race, Ethnicity, and Place Conference, San Marcos, TX, November 2006.

- Tijerina, M., Summerhill, L. C. & Hawkins, C. A. Bridging diversity: Enhancing cultural awareness of BSW students through extension study. Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Inc., Los Angeles, CA, October 2006.

- Hawkins, C. A. & Summerhill, L. C. Spirituality in effective practice: Caring for families and for ourselves. New Mexico State University's17th Annual Family Preservation Institute, San Antonio, TX, September 2006.

- Biggs, M.J., & Summerhill, L. C. Grandparents parenting grandchildren. New Mexico State University's 17th Annual Family Preservation Institute, San Antonio, TX, September 2006.

- Summerhill, L. C. Case plan development: Play therapy as a tool to manage maladaptive behavior of children in foster care. Center for Children and Families Education Coordination Council-Texas State University training for Child Protective Services Foster/Adoptive Placement staff. Pfluggerville, TX, March 2006.

- Summerhill, L.C. Dealing with dramatic campers: Alfred Adler and the four goals of misbehavior. CAMPfrence, Kerrville, TX, March 2006.

- Biggs, M.J., & Summerhill, L.C. Grandparents raising grandchildren. NASW School Social Work Conference, Austin, TX, February 2006.

- Summerhill, L.C. Building resiliency in the face of academic failure and frustration: practical advice for parents and teachers. Learning Disability Association of Texas 41st Annual Conference, Austin, TX, November 2005.

- Biggs, M.J., & Summerhill, L. C. Grandparents parenting grandchildren. New Mexico State University's 16th Annual Family Preservation Conference, San Antonio, TX, September 2005.

D. Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

- Windsor Scholar, Bank Street College of Education, 1998
- Foster Care Prevention Project, Columbia University School of Social Work, 1997

IV. SERVICE

C. Community:

- Volunteer, Storybook Project, Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Houston, Texas, present
- Volunteer, ESL program, Literacy Advance of Houston, Houston, Texas, present
- Board Member, All Together Now: Adoptee-led Peer Support Group for Families 2014-July 2017
- Fundraising Committee Member, The Co-op School 2013 Gala, Brooklyn, NY
- Fundraising Committee Member, Ethiopia Reads 2012 Doyenga Library Project

- Mentor, New York Road Runners Team for Kids NYC marathon team, 2014, 2013, 2012
- Fundraising Committee Member, Ethiopia Reads 2011 Fundraising event, NY, NY
- New York Road Runners Team for Kids NYC fundraiser and marathon team member, 2012, 2011
- Social Worker, The Ties Program: Adoptive Family Homeland Travel, Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia, 2009
- Board Member, Family for Life, non-profit focused on empowering fathers and reuniting siblings separated by foster care, San Marcos, TX 2006
- Social Worker, The Ties Program: Adoptive Family Homeland Travel, Asunción, Paraguay, 2006
- Co-Chair, NYC Young Professionals Fundraising Committee for Wide Horizons for Children, Inc., Waltham, MA, 2003-2004
- Fundraising Committee member for various Heart Share Human Services events, 2000-2001
- Summer Service Trip Volunteer, Falciu orphanage in the District of Vaslui, Romania, 1999