TEXAS STATE VITA

Name: Kaila Paloma Gray Title: Lecturer

Department: Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies (OWLS)

ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Educational Background:

Master of Social Work	August 2024	University of Houston	Social Work	
Master of Arts	December 2018	Texas State University	Mass Communication	Thesis: "Parasocial Relationships: Examining Viewer's Connections with Characters in Television Series"
Bachelor of Science	December 2015	Texas State University	Electronic Media and Mass Communication	Minor: Media Studies Concentration: Multimedia Production

University Experience:

Grant & Program Coordinator – Strengthening Relationships/Strengthening Families, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
August 2024 – July 2025

Senior Program Coordinator & Communications, Writing, and Marketing Specialist – Center for Health Communication, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
August 2021 – April 2022

Publications Writer – The Graduate College, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
February 2019 – August 2021

Recruiting Coordinator – The Graduate College, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
July 2018 – February 2019

Graduate Assistant – The Graduate College at Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
May 2017 – July 2018

Relevant Professional Experience:

Senior Planner for Communications – Travis County Health and Human Services, Austin, TX
July 2025 – Present

Bilingual Case Manager – Meals on Wheels Central Texas, Non-Profit Organization, Austin, TX
September 2023 – August 2024

Social Work Graduate Student Intern (Generalist Field Practicum) – El Buen Samaritano, Non-Profit Organization, Austin, TX
August 2021 – May 2022

Film Club Teaching Assistant – Austin Film Society, Austin, TX
September 2015 – February 2016

TEACHING

Teaching Honors and Awards:

Teaching Award of Honor, Texas State University
Spring 2020

Courses:

CTE3321: Work-based Learning, Career and Technical Education, Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies (OWLS), Texas State University
Spring 2026 – Present

CTE3313P: Project Management, Career and Technical Education, Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies (OWLS), Texas State University
Spring 2025 – Present

OCED 3350: Introduction to Interdisciplinary Studies, Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies (OWLS), Texas State University
Fall 2021 – Present

OCED 4350: Adult Development and Career Exploration, Department of Organization, Workforce, and Leadership Studies (OWLS), Texas State University
Fall 2021 – Present

US 1100: University Seminar, Texas State University
Fall 2019 – Fall 2020

Teaching Professional Development Activities:

Social Work Field Instruction Training Certification, Texas State University
August 30, 2024

Online Teaching Certification, Texas State University
Fall 2020

Diversity 101, Texas State University
December 17, 2019

US 1100 Faculty Development, Texas State University
August 16, 2019

Supporting Transgender/Non-binary People in Higher Education Setting, Texas State University
July 23, 2019

New US 1100 Faculty Workshop, Texas State University
June 21, 2019

University Seminar Teaching Opportunity, Texas State University
March 7, 2019

Empowering First Gen College Students, Texas State University
February 14, 2019

Brief Updates Undoc/DACAmented Students, Texas State University
January 15, 2019

Survival Sign Language, Texas State University
November 26 – December 12, 2019

Transition from Service to Classroom: Helping Student Veterans Succeed at Texas State, Texas State University
September 11, 2018

LGBTQIA Allies Training, Texas State University
September 6, 2018

Shop Talk Certificate in Graduate and Career Professional Development, Texas State University
Spring 2018

SCHOLARLY

Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

Co-investigator – "Once a First-Gen, Always a First-Gen: Graduate College Initiatives for First-Generation Potential and Current Graduate Students"
Poster submitted to the 2020 Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) Annual Meeting.

Author – "Parasocial Relationships: Examining Viewers' Connections with Characters in Television Series"
Paper presented at the 10th Annual International Research Conference for Graduate Students at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX on November 14, 2018.

Co-author – "Young Millennials' Affinity Towards a Corporation and its Social Responsibility"
Paper presented at the 9th Annual International Research Conference for Graduate Students at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX on November 8, 2017.

Member – Selected for SXTXState 2018, a project of the graduate program at Texas State University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The team covers SXSW Interactive through online articles, social media, and digital video projects.

Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

Guest Lecturer – MC 4305: Theories of Mass Communication, Texas State University
September 5, 2019

Presenter – "Graduate College Communication", New Graduate Student Orientation, The Graduate College, Texas State University, Round Rock, TX
August 20, 2019

Presenter – "Graduate College Communication", New Graduate Student Orientation, The Graduate College, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
August 14, 2019

Presenter – "Graduate School and You", Graduate Information Sessions, The Graduate College, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
Summer 2018 – Spring 2019

Presenter – **"**Graduate School Overview" and "Funding Graduate School", Graduate Enrichment for Minority Students (GEMS) Program Event, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
October 27, 2018

Presenter – **"**Roads to Innovative Research", Honors College, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
October 26, 2018

Panelist – **"**Study Abroad Alumni Panel", Mass Communication Week, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX
October 16, 2018

Scholarly Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

Graduate School Scholarship, University of Houston
2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023, 2023 – 2024

Estavillo-Richey Staff Council Graduate Scholarship, Texas State University
2020 – 2021

The Graduate College Scholarship, Texas State University
Fall 2018

College of Fine Arts and Communication Scholarship, Texas State University
Summer 2018

International Education Fee Scholarship, Texas State University
Summer 2018

Summer Incentive Scholarship, Texas State University
Summer 2017

SERVICE

Institutional:

Leader – Family Campaign, University Advancement, Texas State University
Spring 2019

Volunteer – Welcome Tents, Retention Management and Planning, Texas State University
Spring 2019

Member – Graduate House Subcommittee for Graduate Student Events, Texas State University
Fall 2018

Professional:

Member – Phi Kappa Phi, Texas State University
Fall 2018 – Fall 2020

Member – Alpha Chi, Texas State University
Fall 2018 – Fall 2019

Community:

Volunteer – Meals on Wheels, Austin, TX
2002 – Present

Volunteer – School Fuel, San Marcos, TX
September 2019 – May 2020