



JENNIFER LEASE BUTTS, Ph.D.

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Dr. Lease Butts graduated with Honors from the University of Arkansas (B.A. History; minors in Music and Gender Studies). She stayed at the U of A to complete her M.Ed. in Higher Education (emphasis in Counseling). While at the University of Arkansas, Dr. Lease Butts worked for the Upward Bound program, helping first generation and low-income students prepare for college. In 1997 she moved to Georgia to work for the Advanced Academy of Georgia at the University of West Georgia. This program allows high school students to attend college early. Dr. Lease Butts worked in a variety of areas for the Academy, including Residential Life, Student Life and Organizations, Orientation, Advising, and Parent Relations. She left the Academy to pursue her Ph.D. at the University of Georgia, graduating in 2003 with a doctorate in Counseling and Human Development and Student Affairs Administration. Her specialty areas at Georgia were in Gifted Education and Qualitative Research. Dr. Lease Butts joined the Honors Program staff as Associate Director for Programs and Instruction in 2003. She also assumed the role of Director of Undergraduate Research in 2007. Dr. Lease Butts's research interests include Honors students and Honors Programs, the social and emotional development of gifted students, peer leadership and involvement, parents and the college student, assessment and research, and qualitative methodology. She currently teaches Honors courses on peer leadership and mentoring. She also is an adjunct faculty member in the HESA program in the Neag School of Education.