**SAYDE J. BRAIS**

*Ed.D. in Educational Leadership* 9201 University City Blvd.

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte* Charlotte, NC 28223

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**EDUCATION**

**The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**  **2023**

*Ed.D. in Educational Leadership: Higher Education*

**Dissertation:** Exploring Sense of Belonging Among First-Generation College,

Second-Generation Immigrant Students

*Chair: Dr. Ryan A. Miller*

**The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**  **2012**

*M.A. in Communication Studies: Organization Communication*

**Thesis:** Socialization and Membership Negotiation in a Church Setting

*Chair: Dr. Clifton Scott*

**The University of North Carolina at Charlotte 2010**

*B.A. in Communication Studies: International Public Relations with Honors;*

*Minor in Journalism*

**AREAS OF INTERESTS**

Minoritized Student Groups First-Year Learning Learning Communities Sense of Belonging

High Impact Practices Higher Education Leadership

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**

*Department of Communication Studies*

Associate Teaching Professor 2023-Present

Senior Lecturer 2019-2023

Lecturer 2013-2019

Adjunct 2012-2013

**Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Campus**

*Arts & Sciences Program*

Adjunct Spring 2013

**Public Speaking 2012-Present** *The University of North Carolina at Charlotte* *Charlotte, NC*

An undergraduate course designed to assist students in becoming more effective public speakers. Students learn to research and develop topics thoroughly, organize and support arguments efficiently, and utilize suitable delivery. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; oral assignments are created and administered; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**Communication Research Methods 2013-Present**

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

An undergraduate course that introduces students to the scientific, interpretive, rhetorical, and critical research methods used to study communication problems and processes with a focus on quantitative and qualitative communication research methods. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; discussion is facilitated through inquiry of knowledge, and use of exercises and activities; written assignments are created and administered; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**Business Communication 2014-Present**

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

An undergraduate course that introduces the nature and problems of individual, interpersonal,

and organizational communication in business. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; discussion is facilitated through inquiry of knowledge, and creation of exercises and activities; written and oral assignments are created and administered; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**First-Year Seminar**  **2018-Present**

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

An undergraduate course designed in a seminar-style with a project-based learning experience, to assist first-year students with developing leadership abilities, establishing personal passions and strengths, and learning to communicate them well to others, and figuring out how to use them in ways useful to society; and assisting with in the intellectual and social transition from high school to college by increasing involvement in the intellectual life of major department. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**Small Group Communication**  **2020-Present**

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

An undergraduate course focused on understanding and improving behavior in the group context by providing theories and applied learning opportunities for understanding and improving communication skills in small groups. Students study and apply the strategic and ethical uses of communication to build relationships and community. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**LEADS Colloquium**  **2021-Present**

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

Through a series of personalized activities, this course aims to enhance personal and professional development and encourage an entrepreneurial mindset that emphasizes initiative, adaptability, creativity, critical questioning, and problem solving. This course is offered through LEADS whose primary mission is to provide students in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences with opportunities to fully develop and articulate their potential as creative problem solvers, innovative leaders, and engaged citizens who are well prepared for their future endeavors. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**Introduction to Communication Theory** **2023-Present**

*The University of North Carolina at Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

An undergraduate course focused on understanding and improving behavior in the group context by providing theories and applied learning opportunities for understanding and improving communication skills in small groups. Students study and apply the strategic and ethical uses of communication to build relationships and community. A syllabus with a full and complete schedule of course events is created and maintained; participation and understanding of course material is facilitated through creation and dissemination of class activities; exams are created and administered to evaluate knowledge and understanding of course content; and individual student performance is evaluated at the conclusion of the course.

**TEACHING CERTIFICATES**

**The Essentials of Teaching Certificate April 2022**

*The School of Professional Studies UNC Charlotte*

**Post-Master’s Certificate in University & College Teaching December 2020**

*Department of Educational Leadership UNC Charlotte*

**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

**Faculty Advisor 2013-Present** *Communication Studies Department, UNC Charlotte* *Charlotte, NC*

Advise between 25-30 Communication Studies majors and Journalism minors. Provide guidance and advice regarding major curriculum requirements, based on individual’s concentration within the major, using a variety of advising tools. Ensure students are meeting all university and major requirements for graduation. Assist with study abroad paperwork, transfer credits, and other advising matters.

**Faculty Supervisor, Graduate Teaching Assistants 2017-Present**

*Communication Studies Graduate Program, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

Serve as faculty supervisor for up to two graduate teaching assistants (GTA) each semester for courses that include COMM 3100: Communication Research Methods and COMM 2100: Introduction to Communication Theory. Guide and mentor GTAs as they either teach labs or provide supplemental instruction to undergraduate students enrolled in respective courses. Duties include weekly meetings to discuss course activities, prepping and guiding GTAs through challenges or inquiries, providing constructive feedback on GTA’s grading efforts, where applicable, and offering additional project opportunities for GTAs to work on, time permitting. Provide voluntary teaching evaluations for GTAs teaching labs.

**Coordinator, SUCCESS Learning Community 2017-Present**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

Recruit, teach, and guide up to 25 first-year students within the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and University College. Plan and facilitate academic and social events, and campus resource presentations throughout the first-year of college to assist with successful transition into college life. Prepare and expose students to the power of problem-solving, creativity, leadership, and community engagement, all in an effort geared toward recognizing and verbalizing the value of a liberal arts and sciences degree.

**Faculty Fellow, LEADS Program 2017-Present**

*College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

The LEADS Program is an innovative, transdisciplinary program for College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) undergraduate students. Faculty fellows champion, teach, advise, and recruit LEADS students throughout their duration at UNC Charlotte, seeking to expose students to internship and experiential learning opportunities, and prepare students for the job market.

**Professional Studies Course Development 2023**

*Center for Teaching & Learning, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

Work with an instructional designer over 13 weeks to develop an asynchronous course with a Communication Studies focus for the Department of Professional Studies to be used as a permanent course within the program's curriculum.

**Faculty Fellow, Student Experience Project 2023-2024**

*Department of Communication Studies, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

Work on a team to adjust undergraduate curriculum to improve student access and time to graduation, contributing to the overall goal of creating an inclusive major that can serve all students. The team will work to enhance these efforts and provide faculty with resources to center equitable teaching practices across two courses (COMM 2100 and COMM 2104) that reach a majority of Communication Studies students.

**TOP Teacher, Teachers Observing Peers Program 2019-2020**

*Center for Teaching & Learning, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

The Teaching Observing Peers (TOP) Program provides UNC Charlotte faculty members with an opportunity to observe peers, identified as TOP Teachers, representing a variety of disciplines implementing interactive methods in a live classroom setting. TOP Teachers facilitate peer observations and subsequent debrief sessions with observing peers.

**Faculty Mentor, Communication Consultants 2017-2020**

Communication Across the Curriculum, UNC Charlotte *Charlotte, NC*

Served as a faculty mentor for undergraduate students nominated to serve as Communication Consultants for COMM 3100: Communication Research Methods. Duties included weekly meetings with consultants, prepping and guiding consultants through challenges or inquiries, providing constructive feedback on consultants’ work, and offering additional project opportunities for consultants to work on.

**Co-Investigator & Project Manager 2012-2013**

*Environmental Assistance Office, UNC Charlotte Charlotte, NC*

Served as liaison during semester-long collaboration with Communication Studies Public Relations course to create new and refreshed communication messages, tactics, and materials to be used by utility departments. Oversaw student presentations of materials to members of municipalities.

**ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

*UNC Charlotte, University-Wide*

Learning Community Program Steering Committee, Member 2023-Present

Provost’s Student Success Working Group, CLAS Faculty Representative 2019-2021

University Faculty Council, Department Representative 2015-2018

Nominations, Honors, & Awards Committee, Alternate 2016

*UNC Charlotte, College-Wide (CLAS)*

CLAS Faculty Council, Alternate 2021-2023

Anti-Racist Workplace Working Group, Member 2020-2021

*UNC Charlotte Honors College, Undergraduate Thesis Committees*

L. Shifflett, Psychological Sciences 2022

S. Ray, Communication Studies 2018

J. Smith, Communication Studies 2017

T. Whitaker, Communication Studies 2016

*UNC Charlotte, Communication Studies Department*

Ad-Hoc Professional Studies Committee, Member 2023-Present

Faculty Advisory Committee, Lecturer Representative 2021-Present

Ad-Hoc Department Chair Search Committee, Member 2020-2021

“COMM Day” Committee, Member (Chair, 2020-2021) 2014-2021

Ad-Hoc Core Curriculum Committee, Member 2017

Undergraduate Research Competition, Paper Reviewer 2017

Undergraduate Research Competition, Paper Reviewer 2016

Undergraduate Research Competition, Paper Reviewer 2015

Scholarship & Awards Committee, Member 2015-2017

Ad-Hoc Department Self-Study Committee, Member 2014-2015

*National*

NACADA Faculty-Advisor Steering Committee, Member 2019-2021

LCA Faculty Scholars Program Working Group, Member 2019-2020

**SCHOLARLY & PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Association for Study of Higher Education Annual Conference** *2023, Minneaplis, MI*

*Paper Presenter: “The Experience of Belonging Among First-Generation*

*College, Second-Generation Immigrant Students”*

**NCARE, Annual Conference** *2023; Greensboro, NC*

*Poster Presenter: “Exploring a Sense of Belonging Among FGC,*

*SGI Students”*

**National Communication Association Annual Convention**

*Co-Presenter: “Straight Talk About Communication Research 2019; Baltimore, MD*

*Methods” Short Course 2018; Salt Lake City, UT*

*2017; Dallas, TX*

**CTL: Service Learning & Engaged Scholarship Showcase**

*Poster Presenter: “Public Relations Practicum: A Case Study Showing 2015; Charlotte NC*

*How to Serve Students and Communities”*

**Annual NC Water Resources Research Conference & NCWRA Symposium**

*Paper Presenter:**“Tailoring Fats, Oil, and Grease Communication 2013; Raleigh, NC*

*Platforms to Fit the Needs of NC Utilities While Enhancing*

*the Message through Statewide Synergy” Research Presentation*

**GRANT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*Environmental Assistance Office, UNC Charlotte 2012-2013*

Served as co-investigator during a year-long research effort to improve communication and marketing techniques used by various North Carolina utility departments, in their efforts to target publics on proper methods of disposal of cooking Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG). Research duties included reviewing secondary research, and collecting primary data through interviews with various state municipalities.

**COMPLETED & PUBLISHED WORK**

Brais, S. J. (2023). *Exploring sense of belonging among first-generation college, second-generation immigrant students* (Doctoral dissertation). The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.

Brais, S. J. (2012). *Membership negotiation and socialization in a church setting* (Master’s thesis). The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC.

Brais, S. J., Guyer, R., & Rothberg, R. (2014). Tailoring fats, oil, and grease communication platforms to fit the needs of NC utilities, while enhancing the message through statewide synergy. *Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina.*

Davis, C., Stamper B., & Brais, S. J. (2017). *Workbook to accompany Straight Talk About*

*Communication Research Methods.* Dubuque, IA: Kendall-Hunt.

Long, S. D., Walton, F., & Brais, S. J. (2012). Applying dramaturgy to virtual work research. In S. D. Long (Ed.), *Virtual work and human interaction research* (pp. 277-285). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Rothberg, R., Brais, S. J., & Freitag, A. R. (2016). Improving grease disposal behavior: Combining the classroom, real-world experience, and service learning in a PR practicum. *Journal of Public Relations Education, 2*(2), 54-67.

**AWARDS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

*UNC Charlotte - Chancellor’s Recognition for Significant Contribution to Education*

Recipient *-* Selected by 10+ students in 2019 2014 - 2022

*UNC Charlotte - Teaching Excellence Award*

Honorable Mention2022-2023

*NCARE Annual Conference - 2023 Outstanding Poster Award*

Recipient2023

*2023 EHRA Performance Bonus*

Recipient 2023

*UNC Charlotte - Alpha Chi Omega Professor the Year*

Nominee 2019

*UNC Charlotte - Levine Scholar Seniors Banquet* Faculty Guest of Honor 2017

*UNC Charlotte - CHHS Faculty Teaching Award*

Nominee 2016

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION**

*UNC Charlotte*

Continuing Education, “Learning with Generative AI Tools” July 10-14, 2023

School of Professional Studies

Workshop, “Developing your Hybrid Course” July 13, 2020

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Fall 2020 Models Q&A with CTL” June 10, 2020

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “CXC Faculty Mentor: Developing Comm. Activities” January 28, 2020

Communication Across the Curriculum

Workshop, “Prospect for Success-Norming Session” September 16, 2019

Undergraduate Program

Workshop, “FERPA Refresher” July 24, 2019

Office of Legal Affairs

Workshop, “Viewpoint Diversity & Civil Discourse in the Classroom” March 19, 2019

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Enhancing Cultural Awareness” February 15, 2019

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Getting Started with Active Learning” February 13, 2019

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Introduction to Learning Objectives” January 28- February 4, 2019

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Using Feedback to Improve Teaching & Learning” January 21-28, 2019

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “LEADS Program-Alumni Professional Panel” November 7, 2018

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Workshop, “Syllabus 101” August 29, 2018

Center for Teaching & Learning

Seminar, “Worcester Poly Institute Problem-Based Learning” June 5-6, 2018

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Workshop, “First-Year Learning Common Read” May 16, 2018

Undergraduate Program

Workshop, “Learning Community Program Retreat-Writing & Assessing SLOs” May 15, 2018

Learning Community Program

Workshop, “Prospect for Success Prof. Development-Using Canvas Rubrics” May 4, 2018

Undergraduate Program

Workshop, “LEADS Program Professional Development-Integrating Feedback” March 13, 2018

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Workshop, “LEADS Program Professional Development-Core Competencies” Feb. 7, 2018

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Workshop, “Canvas Assignments & Gradebook” October 31, 2017

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Teaching with Poll Everywhere” October 17, 2017

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Career Center Lunch & Learn” October 17, 2017

University Career Center

Workshop, “Instructional Material, Universally Designed” February 28, 2017

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop,“2016 CxC Institute” May 16-17, 2016

Communication Across the Curriculum

Workshop, “Canvas-Moodle Transition” May 2016

Center for Teaching & Learning

Webinar, “Raising Flags & Completing Progress Surveys for Starfish Early Alert” Sept. 10, 2015

Center for Teaching & Learning

Workshop, “Using Laughter & Humor to Reduce Stress” March 18, 2015

Employee Health & Wellness

*National*

Webinar: “Coping During Uncertain Times” February 9, 2017

ComPsych Corporation

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

*American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2023-Present*

Strives to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to

education, and to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

*Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) 2023-Present*

A scholarly association dedicated to high education as a field of study supporting researchers

through dissemination of research in publications and its annual conference.

*National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) 2022-Present*

Drives innovation and evidence-based, student-centered practice throughout higher education,

nationally and globally.

*North Carolina Association for Research in Education (NCARE) 2022-Present*

Works to improve the quality of education in North Carolina through research and evaluation.

*The American College Personnel Association (ACPA) 2022-2023*

Values-centered leadership association that provides access to modern research and scholarship,

and promotes leadership at all levels through a racial justice and decolonization lens.

*Learning Communities Association (LCA) 2018-2019*

Committed to advancing college student learning, success, and development through networking, advocacy, research, and professional development within learning community theory and practice.

*National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) 2019-2020*

Promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students.

*National Communication Association (NCA) 2010-2019*

Largest national non-profit organization to promote communication scholarship and education.