



June 25, 2021

Dear NCA MCSR Mentors and Participants,

We are exactly one month away and counting down for the third Midcareer Scholars Retreat (MCSR) sponsored by National Communication Association and our Department of Communication at USF. I am so excited to welcome you to the 2021 NCA MCSR!

Having been a co-mentor at the 2018 NCA MCSR held at UIUC, I can assure you that this program is an incredibly rewarding career and personal developmental experience for everyone. Our participants at the second MCSR produced academic and trade book proposals, article submissions, chapters, and grant proposals. It hardly seems possible to accomplish so much and still develop great collegial and friendship relationships in less than a week. Our goal is to facilitate an experience for you that is just as—if not more—rewarding!! We thank NCA for having the foresight and commitment to faculty careers to offer such a wonderful opportunity for participants and for the mentors.

Although we are virtual this year, your mentors—Travis Dixon and Laura Ellingson--have collaborated on a schedule that resembles the usual MCSR but that also allows for the flexibility needed in an intense online experience. As a result, we'll check in with you for input on a daily basis so that we can reconfigure in ways that would be beneficial for you. Travis and Laura also wanted to mentor you together in the same physical location so both are travelling to Tampa for our retreat! Finally, I'll be requesting your addresses so that you can receive some gifts from USF before we begin our retreat. I'll also request your NCA application packets for the MCSR and any changes or updates in your plans so that Travis and Laura are familiar with your original and revised goals.

The attachment contains this welcome letter and provides other information that you'll need:

- (a) list of participants' and mentors' names and email addresses—p. 2,
- (b) the opening (Monday, 7-26-2021) events—p. 3,
- (c) the daily schedule (Tuesday-Thursday, 7-27-2021 to 7-29-2021)—p. 4, and
- (d) the last day (Friday, 7-30-2021) schedule and events--p. 5.

Please note that everything takes place in the Eastern Time (ET) zone and in Microsoft Teams.

We hope that you find the NCA MCSR rewarding and enjoyable!!! Please feel free to contact me via email (pmbuzzanell@usf.edu) or text/phone (765.414.0353) if you have questions!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrice M. Buzzanell".

Patrice M. Buzzanell, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair, Department of Communication, University of South Florida

Fellow and Past President: International Communication Association

Distinguished Scholar: National Communication Association

Past President: Council of Communication Associations

Organization for the Study of Communication, Language & Gender



2021 NCA MCSR Participants and Mentors

Participants (n=9):

- Dawna Ballard, University of Texas-Austin: diballard@utexas.edu
<https://commstudies.utexas.edu/faculty/dawna-ballard>
- Miranda Brady, Carleton University: MirandaBrady@cunet.carleton.ca
<https://carleton.ca/sjc/profile/brady-miranda/>
- Leslie Harris, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: harrisl@uwm.edu
<https://uwm.edu/communication/people/harris-leslie/>
- Rebecca Meisenbach, University of Missouri, meisenbachr@missouri.edu
<https://communication.missouri.edu/people/meisenbach>
- Ronnie Olesker, St. Lawrence University: rolesker@stlawu.edu
<https://www.stlawu.edu/people/ronnie-olesker>
- Erin Rand, Syracuse University: ejrand@syr.edu
<https://vpa.syr.edu/people/erin-rand/>
- Meghan Sanders, Louisiana State University: msand@lsu.edu
<https://www.lsu.edu/manship/people/faculty-staff/sanders.php>
- Kesha Morant Williams, Penn State Berks: kmm410@psu.edu
<https://berks.psu.edu/person/williams-kesha-morant>
- Jill Yamasaki, University of Houston: jsyamas@Central.UH.EDU
<https://www.uh.edu/class/communication/our-team/faculty/yamasaki-jill/>

Mentors (n=2)

- Travis Dixon, tldixon@illinois.edu
<https://communication.illinois.edu/directory/profile/tldixon>
- Laura Ellingson, lellingson@scu.edu
<https://www.scu.edu/cas/communication/faculty/laura-ellingson/>



Monday, 7-26-2021
Eastern Time Zone

7-25-2021 or
Before 2 pm
On

7-26-2021 Arrival at hotels or other work sites, lunch, and set up for writing and meeting!!

2 pm Welcome, Mentor Introductions, NCA MCSR Goals, Introductions of Participants and Individual MCSR Writing Objectives

Discussion about effective writing habits

Quickfire Challenge Writing Assignment

Break

5 pm Social time and Dinner

7 pm All Retreat Mentoring Session

10 pm Bed Time!!



Daily Schedule, Tuesday through Thursday, 7-27-2021 – 7-29-2021
Eastern Time Zone

8 am	Breakfast (we will set up a Teams invite starting at 7:30 am for anyone who wants company for breakfast!! No one is obligated to come to breakfast with others!)
8:30	Morning Writing Session
Noon	Lunch and Conversations
1 pm	Afternoon Writing Session
5 pm	Break
5:30– 6:30 pm	Dinner and Conversation
7-9 pm	All Retreat Mentoring and Social Sessions
10 pm	Bed Time!!



Friday, 7-30-2021
Eastern Time Zone

8 am Breakfast

8:30 Morning Writing Session

Noon Lunch and Conversations

1 pm Closing and Next Steps

All Session Discussion about How Participants Plan to Sustain Retreat Writing Habits and Goals (especially when doing administrative roles, editorships, and other service)

Quickfire Challenge

Afternoon Writing Session

4 pm Official Wrap-Up
Discussion/Completion of NCA MCSR survey by Mentors and Participants
Discussion of NCA Panel on MCSR