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Welcome Back

Michael Chouinard

Normandale Community College, Michael.Chouinard@normandale.edu

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FROM THE EDITOR

As August fades and we begin to speak wistfully of summer in the past tense, it can be easy to lose sight of what originally led us to build homes in academia. There is little time to reflect, after all, as this is the season of furious course preparation. There are assignments to update, syllabi to create, and ambitious summer to-do lists that just never seemed to shrink as quickly as our spring ambitions led us to believe they would.

Yet, in this mad flurry of activity, it is my hope that we will all find *some* time to reflect not only on the year at hand, but on our respective longer-term vocational journeys. What do we remember about our own journeys as students? What did we need most? What led us to stay in academia? What is it that we want our students to take from their educational experiences in our classrooms, on our stages, and as members of our teams? I believe the answers to these questions of *what* will remind us of our *why*.

I also hope you will find time to look over the important works found in this issue of the *CTAM Journal*, as they speak directly to our collective *why* at an organizational level. They highlight the important potential of our work as scholars and educators in communication and theater by demonstrating the significant practical applications of our field. Thematically, I believe they are woven together by the need to belong. How might guardians and educators communicate more effectively to make sure all students feel like they belong in the classroom? What can narratives about home shared by survivors and caregivers teach us about the connection between healing and belonging? To what extent does public speaking belong in courses outside the discipline, and what implications might this question hold for the discipline's place in the broader academic setting? These are a sampling of the many questions explored by the articles in this issue; I hope you will enjoy reading them as much as I have.

In addition to these new articles, which demonstrate the future directions of our discipline, I have taken the suggestion to include an article from the *CTAM Journal* archives. In discussing the journal, Larry and Roxy noted that many of the older issues include articles that remain directly relevant to key topics of today. One such article, shared with me by Larry, was originally published in 1985. Whether this is a flashback for you or brand new material, it provides valuable context and fascinating parallels to the present.

Of course, this issue would not have happened without the unseen efforts of so many. Thank you to all who submitted; while the review process can be grueling, I am grateful to have been on the receiving end of quality work, kind exchanges, and a great deal of patience. Thank you to my brilliant associate editors for dedicating your time and mental energy to providing outstanding feedback. Thanks also to those in the organization who continually offered to help in any way possible. Finally, thank you to the individuals who offered specific expertise to this first-time journal editor: Dan Cronn-Mills, Larry Schnoor, Jim Dimock, Todd Holm, Scott Branton, Keith Green, Roxy Janke, and Chad Kuyper.

When I was asked to take over the journal late in 2017, this issue seemed at once close and very far away. It proved to be the latter, but I am thrilled to share that the wheels are back in motion and the *CTAM Journal* is back online!

Happy reading,

Mike Chouinard, Editor

Communication & Theater Association of Minnesota Journal