Additional Front Matter

Kaleidoscope Editor
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Few people get to see behind the scenes of Kaleidoscope: A Graduate Journal of Qualitative Communication. Manuscripts are often reviewed by one faculty reviewer and one student reviewer. If accepted or asked to revise and resubmit, authors are paired with an associate editor to develop their pieces into the final state that you will see in the following pages. Usually, this process takes a few months. Then, we print. The final copy of Kaleidoscope is only a part of the story of what it took to produce it. There are so many people to thank for getting volume 22 to this point.

Thank you to our faculty advisor, Dr. Craig Gingrich-Philbrook. You were a vital part to the start of Kaleidoscope. Your continued service is invaluable. Thank you to the Kaleidoscope staff, associate editors India Hagen-Gates and Sean Maulding. Your continued dedication to the authors in the review and revisions processes made volume 22 a success. Thank you to our additional student reviewers: OJ Duncan, Erin Hodgson, Frankie Kimmel, Dianah McGreehan, and Monique Saastamoinen. Additionally, thank you to the members of the Editorial Board who reviewed manuscripts for this volume.

I cannot pass the moment by to thank Dr. Tsatsoulis, the Vice Chancellor for Research & Dean of the Graduate School; Dr. Joddy Murry, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts; and the SIU School of Communication Studies. On behalf of the Kaleidoscope staff, thank you for your continued financial and institutional support. Thank you to SIU Printing and Duplicating for your help producing the physical copies of Kaleidoscope. Kaleidoscope is Kaleidoscope thanks to you.

The special call for volume 22 was “Writing from the Margins.” This special call played on the word margins. Many past authors from Kaleidoscope have written about their marginalized identities and the marginalized identities of others. This special call asked authors to explore their places within the margins.

We begin volume 22 with Mikay Parsons’ “We Don’t Do That Here: Investigating and Expanding Instructional Communication by ‘Transing’ the Communication Classroom.” In this autoethnography, Parsons talks about their experiences of coming out as trans/non-binary in the classroom. They complicate the instructional communication notion that all instructors are powerful while students are powerless. They highlight how instructors with marginalized identities have to combat harmful ideologies also at play in the classroom to ensure their own survival and well-being.

Using feminist standpoint theory and queer theory, Sean TE Maulding explores trans acceptance and rejection at a university. In his article, “Trans-Centered Acceptance within a University: Offering a Model of Acceptance Created By and Centered Around Trans Student Experiences,” Maulding shares four ways that trans students experience acceptance on their campus and several ways that faculty, staff, and administration can create more equality and combat cisnormativity.

Ben Bishop’s “Inauthenticity, Delusion, and Victimization: Interrogating Affective Rhetoric Targeting Trans* Youth” also has us look at the trans experience...
especially in regard to anti-trans* rhetoric. Bishop examines Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s KP-0401, a 2022 anti-trans legal opinion regarding gender affirming healthcare as child abuse. Bishop highlights how anti-trans* rhetoric often pretends to care for trans* youth. However, in reality, anti-trans* rhetoric perpetuates misinformation to further cisnormativity in spite of what’s best for trans* youth.

Shifting in topic, we turn to crisis communication. Shawna Dias and Romy RW analyze how organizations manage their reputations with publics through compounding crises. Dias and RW explore how public relations managers’ use or lack thereof of communication theory can shape how they approach compounding health crises communication management.

This volume concludes with “‘Everybody Better Care’: A Qualitative Exploration of Environmental Documentaries and Psychological Distance” from Cassandra LC Troy. Troy interviewed environmental film festival attendees and organizers about their perceptions about environmental documentaries. Her work reveals the complex emotions that interviewees felt in regard to facing environmental problems and understanding the consequences of inaction.

Volume 22 is my last volume. I have had the honor of serving in the role as editor of Kaleidoscope for two years. This is a bittersweet process for me. I am so happy to see the authors’ hard work culminate in this printed collection. Serving as the editor has allowed me to see the challenges and the beauties of the journal and publishing. Kaleidoscope is a unique journal in its role of promoting graduate student research. I know that I will see the names of many of these authors over the years as they produce more scholarship and further the discipline. With joy, I pass the work of editor to Sean Maulding. His dedication to, curiosity for, and energy toward the journal will be a huge benefit to Kaleidoscope. I know he has big plans, and I am excited to see what he does.

–Janine Armstrong, Editor