

## Editorial Introduction: Transitions Abound

Paul E. Mabrey III  
James Madison University

Kimberly M. Cuny  
University of North Carolina - Greensboro

But there remains also the truth that every end in history necessarily contains a new beginning; this beginning is the promise, the only “message” which the end can ever produce. Beginning, before it becomes a historical event, is the supreme capacity of [hu]man; politically, it is identical with [hu]man’s freedom. *Initium ut esset homo creatus est*— “that a beginning be made [hu]man was created” said Augustine. This beginning is guaranteed by each new birth; it is indeed every [hu]man.

Hannah Arendt, *Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government*

The publication of the *Communication Center Journal* over recent years has come to mark regular transitions. The new volume has traditionally come toward the end of the fall semester and calendar year. Those moments themselves may call forth those feelings of joy and dread that often accompany the end of a semester or start of a new year. Joy in both the end of something, a sense of closure, and in the start of something new. Dread for those very same reasons really, and perhaps different reasons like anxiety about uncertainty or the lack of closure. This volume marks another transition as we welcome new members to the editorial leadership

team and thank those who have been serving us and you for the last three years.

Borrowing from Arendt, we might suggest that here, in these moments of transition, where beginning necessarily blurs ends, contains not just human’s freedom, but potential, the potential for communication. Perhaps this potential, understanding that as one shares and creates meaning with others, it is precisely this potential that is so dreadful, so awe-inspiring, so overwhelming that manifests in what we call public speech anxiety? Or put differently, maybe it is the transition between potential and actual that drives this anxiety. Where the what could have been becomes the what was. The speech I could have delivered transitioned to the speech I gave, the apology I knew was necessary became the silence that never delivered, the message we wanted and expected as an audience became our reason for protest.

Transitions then become more than just the passing of a semester or year, the marking of moments in a speech, the sibling to the signpost - transitions show us what is us, what we can be, and indeed what we are. We are the messenger of the message, the beginning and end intertwined through our communication, in our capacity for communication, and in our being with one another. And it is these insights that we can harness, leverage, and share through our work together at

communication centers and speaking labs. Understanding and managing our relationships to these beginnings and ends may help us support students, staff, faculty, and community members' speech anxiety, well-being, and trauma. The scholarship shared within this volume provides insights, pathways, and important questions to how we can continue to learn, work, and build community through transitions.

In just the second year for recognizing the journal's Distinguished Reviewer Award, we are honored to award Dr. Shawn Apostel, Bellarmine University, as the 2021 Distinguished Reviewer. Dr. Apostel not only serves as the long-time webmaster for the National Association of Communication Centers, but has served as a reviewer for the journal. In his role as reviewer, Dr. Apostel has exemplified the values and vision of *CCJ*, providing substantial feedback to authors motivated by care, mentorship, inclusive excellence - supporting authors on their terms. Moreover, he did so in a timely fashion while trying to himself learn and improve in his role as reviewer.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the newest members of our *Communication Center Journal* editorial leadership team, both officially beginning January 1, 2023. Dr. Adria Goldman, Assistant Professor of Communication at University of Mary Washington, will begin a three-year term as co-Editor alongside returning co-Editor Kim Cuny. Also, Dr. Sean Fournery, Director of the Public Speaking Lab and Lecturer in the Department of Leadership Studies and the Honors Program at The Citadel – The Military College of South Carolina, will begin a three-year term as the Book Review Editor. We could not be more excited for the vision, experience, and

leadership they will bring to the team and journal.

Publishing this volume, like all of our volumes, requires the hard work, care, and grace of so many exceptional people. We could not do this without you as authors, reviewers, collaborators, readers, and audience. Importantly, we would like to recognize the commitment and contributions of all members of the *CCJ* editorial team. Your tireless efforts have made this volume possible. Finally, thank you to Dr. Rusty Carpenter, Dr. Paul Mabrey, and Dr. Mridula Mascarenhas. All of us are eternally grateful for your service the last three years as you not only helped maintain and lead the journal through incredibly difficult times, but you pushed us and the journal to be better.