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Editor's Page

Joseph M. Valenzano III

University of Dayton, jvalenzanoiii1@udayton.edu

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Editor's Page

Joseph M. Valenzano III, University of Dayton

This 29th volume of the *Basic Communication Course Annual* is my fourth and final as editor. It has been a privilege to serve in this role, and I would like to take the opportunity to both reflect upon my time as curator of this prestigious and important periodical and discuss where we could go from here. Fortunately, this publication will be in very capable hands with Joe Mazer of Clemson University, and I look forward to the advances he will make on behalf of the journal and its readers.

Four years ago, when I became editor, I set three goals for the journal. The first was to expand the types of publications we accepted and printed in our pages. The *BCCA* has always been the premier outlet for scholarship pertaining to the introductory course in communication, but in 2012, the journal introduced a new option for continuing the discourse regarding this important class: the Basic Course Forum. Each year, the Forum posed a specific question for consideration — a question that had no specific answer — and invited essays that responded to the prompt. The Forum immediately became successful, filled with controversial, thought-provoking essays by a variety of scholars. In fact, even after such a short time, several essays in the Forum have been cited in empirical scholarship.

My second goal was to increase the quality of submissions to the journal. Although there is no real metric for this, I can wholeheartedly say we have continued the tradition of publishing the best scholarship in the basic communication course, and the number of submissions has climbed each year. All of them — not just those that end up in print — have been enjoyable to read and thoughtful in their design. I do not take credit for this; rather, I wish to thank all of those who have submitted their work for the care they have taken in putting together their submissions. Additionally, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Editorial Board for their critical, civil, and helpful reviews. This truly has been a community effort.

Finally, I wanted to improve the accessibility of the journal and the important work published in it. Up until this past year, the journal was indexed incorrectly in ERIC without full-text availability, and the journal itself was only available in print. Only a handful of university libraries subscribed; thus, finding the work in these pages has been difficult, at best. In the summer of 2016, the University of Dayton agreed to purchase the rights to all past and future volumes of the *BCCA* and furthermore agreed to publish them with open access. In the first few weeks of the transition, more than 600 articles were downloaded from the *BCCA*. This move has had a significant impact not just on accessibility of the research in the journal, but also on the respect accorded those who publish in it. The journal is now well-positioned to make great strides in basic communication course scholarship.

With all that we have accomplished for the journal in the past few years, it leaves one to wonder where we go from here. Frankly, the accessible nature of the journal in its online form presents many opportunities. Perhaps someone would consider doing a retrospective analysis of the journal and its publications over the years. The journal could again enhance its publication opportunities by seeking research briefs much like *Communication Education* has published in recent years. With increased readership and interest, the journal could also potentially move to a different publication schedule; it could publish as accepted submissions are finished, providing ongoing discourse about the basic course, or it could publish semiannually or quarterly. The options are endless and exciting for the future of the *BCCA*.

In these musings regarding the past and the future of this publication, I would be remiss not to celebrate the present. This 29th volume includes some very strong scholarship and yet another provocative discussion in the Basic Course Forum. Typically, at this point, I would preview the essays appearing in the volume; however, given the digital format, I would simply invite you to peruse them all. This volume contains three traditional full-length studies and five responses to the Forum focused on the topic of adaptation. I enjoyed reading them all, and hope you do as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to shepherd the flagship journal of the basic communication course these past four years. I wish Joe Mazer the very best in continuing to advance the important work all of us associated with the basic course do, and look forward to seeing where his stewardship will take us.

I am often reminded and inspired by the children's author Dr. Seuss, who said "Oh, the places you'll go." I cannot wait.