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Dean's Letter - Grounded in Purpose

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Grounded in Purpose

As we concluded work on this issue of Conversations, the nation and world continued to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic and the many ways our lives have been affected. Despite many challenges, I remain encouraged by the amount of compassion, concern and care I have witnessed as the DePaul community works together to navigate these uncertain times. We are committed to provide the high-quality education for which DePaul is known, taking into consideration the needs of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

In addition to the global health crisis, nationwide protests have sparked a long overdue social revolution focused on eliminating the health disparities, social inequities and direct violence resulting from structural racism. As communication scholars and practitioners, our students are uniquely positioned to recognize that symbols, messages and interactions can be constitutive of institutional, interpersonal and individual biases and discrimination. At the same time, we teach the transformative power of communication as a form of productive action and an avenue for social change. I am inspired by the courageous use of voice we witnessed in this important social movement.

In this issue, you will see our new world through the communication lens. You will learn

- the firsthand experience of students and a faculty member as they worked to finish the spring term while managing the multiple challenges of the pandemic and protests against racial injustices;
- the ways in which our work and social lives have been altered, as well as how media dynamics have changed; and



- how student media has stepped up—and stepped in—to keep communities informed.

As we begin a new academic year that promises more uncertainties, we ground ourselves with the knowledge that what we do and teach in the College of Communication is crucial. I am also reminded that communication is about community. St. Vincent de Paul built a legacy of care for others that is the foundation of the university. Let's continue to honor that legacy by continuing to care for each other as we navigate this new reality. I hope you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe.

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