

# Editor's Introduction

*Volume 20, 2019-20*

Every year, *Juniata Voices* publishes a selection of the speeches, lectures, and presentations given at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Not surprisingly, this year's volume is noticeably smaller than usual because the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 cancelled many talks that would have led to pieces here, with everyone scrambling to adjust to the new realities of remote learning and pandemic precautions. While the pandemic also contributed to a delay in publishing this volume as hybrid learning (courses offered simultaneously in three modalities) became the norm at Juniata and stretched everyone, our speakers showed admirable patience in seeing their work come out.

The nine pieces included from the 2019-2020 academic year represent a range of compelling voices: Juniata faculty members speaking at convocations, on a panel, and in the regular series of Bookend Seminars; a famous speaker in our Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion series; and two student addresses: the prize-winning speech at the Bailey Oratorical Contest and the senior graduation address. For the first time, we also include a piece by an author writing from inside the State Correctional Institution at Smithfield about his Inside Out program experience.

This volume contains quality work that continues in spite of what the world throws at us. In some ways similar to the pandemic experience itself, these authors inspire us by discussing the many powers we share: persistence, flexibility, mentoring, acting on good ideas, and appreciation while challenging our assumptions and expectations by engaging us in analyzing and understanding the world from multiple perspectives, both disciplinary and personal.

I want to thank everyone whose diligent and high-quality work contributed to this volume. As always, *Juniata Voices* relies on the support of the Provost's Office: Lauren Bowen and Joanne Krugh. Tracy White provided excellent administrative help. Rose Vermette, class of 2020, served as our Juniata Associate. In that role, she did a fine job recording and transcribing talks and assisting with a range of editorial tasks; unfortunately, the pandemic cut short her term in office. Jim Tuten, Acquisitions Editor, and Jacob Gordon, Managing Editor, provided their typical expert assistance and genial support in making this volume a reality, as the members of the editorial board applied their consistently high standards and dedication in getting these pieces out, for which I am grateful. Any remaining errors fall to me. I thank everyone for their valuable contributions, patience, and good humor.

Deborah W. Roney

Editor-in-Chief

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ii | Juniata Voices