

CONCEPT 2020

Address from the Managing Editor

Dear Villanova Community:

I am very pleased to announce the publication of Volume XLIII of CONCEPT, the Interdisciplinary journal of Graduate Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Articles published in the 2020 issue are now [published on the CONCEPT site](#). The print copies of CONCEPT Volume XLIII have been delayed this year, but they will be distributed to the programs when they are available.

We received more submissions this year than any previous year in my tenure as Managing Editor. Students from English, Classical Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, History, Theology, Political Science, Psychology, and Theatre submitted thoroughly researched and beautifully written papers on a wide array of topics. Each submission was read and evaluated by two members of the Editorial Board and three Peer Reviewers. Decisions about the dozen outstanding papers to be published in Volume XLIII were very difficult; all the submissions were worthy of publication in CONCEPT. Of course, this bounty of high quality made the choice of the year's top paper challenging indeed.

The recipient of the 2020 Graduate Research Prize is Christine Bucher, from the Communication program, for her paper, "Embodying Space: Performance, Tourism, and Difficult History." Bucher discusses many approaches to curating tourism sites in the interest of capturing the experiences of all its past inhabitants, specifically those of slaves. This excavation of spaces that tend to be plastered over like much of our difficult history can help visitors change their narrative of early American life in empathic and inclusive directions. I am grateful to Christine Bucher for sharing her fine paper with us, and for her years of service to CONCEPT. She has been a Peer Reviewer, a Graduate Student Editor, and finally, an award-winning author!

I would also like to thank my returning Faculty Editors: Erica Slotter, my colleague in Psychological and Brain Sciences, Sarah Faggioli from the Augustine and Culture Program, and Bess Rowen from the Theatre Department. We welcomed two new Faculty Editors this year: Paul Bernhardt, Director of the graduate program in Applied Statistics, and Rebecca Makas from the Augustine and Culture Program. Five graduate students served on the Editorial Board: Sarah Beth Gilbert and Daniela Snyder from English, Katie Andersen from History, Emily Martinez from Psychology, and Jillian Andres from Political Science. All members of the Editorial Board were invaluable for their keen sense of good scholarship and openness to reading content that was often far outside their disciplines. Finally, I want to thank my Editorial Assistant, Melanie Glatz, for her readiness to provide technical help, her attention to detail, and her kind patience with getting all the pieces together.

We are already looking forward to CONCEPT Volume XLIV in 2021. Submissions for the next issue are due February 1. I will make an appeal now for students in every Graduate Studies program to consider sharing their creative ideas and careful scholarship with this community.

John E. Kurtz, PhD
Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences
Managing Editor, CONCEPT