

2021

## Editor's Note and Table of Contents

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### Recommended Citation

Singleterry, Daniela Margot (2021) "Editor's Note and Table of Contents," *Pepperdine Journal of Communication Research*: Vol. 9 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/pjcr/vol9/iss1/7>

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Journal of

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# Editor's Note

In a time where social distancing is enforced, quarantine is ongoing, and gatherings are strictly prohibited, finding a way to connect and communicate with one another is more important than ever. The 2020-2021 school year has arguably been one of the most unique and unprecedented that Pepperdine University has ever experienced. Not only Pepperdine University, but colleges across the world, had to adjust to life during a pandemic, and furthermore, how higher education instruction would be shaped and adjusted to fit new boundaries and safety protocols and restrictions. One of Pepperdine's priorities through this time has remained to keep students connected with the community they've built at Pepperdine. Connection in this unique period of time means a lot of different things to different people. There's the struggle of trying to recreate life via Zoom rooms and chat boxes. There's important events held entirely online, such as ceremonies, music festivals, Greek life recruitment, and church services. There's the distinct feeling of missing those friends that you would talk to because you shared a major and had them in every single class, and Zoom school doesn't allow for that same kind of leisurely and natural connection. Pepperdine students, faculty, and staff alike have all tried their best to maintain the connection that makes Pepperdine's community so strong, especially in these difficult times.

In the pieces presented in this year's Journal, our student contributors have examined some of the ways they have experienced connection in the world around them, in the material studied in the classes, and in their personal experiences. We invite you to learn more about the way that students have experienced and worked to maintain connection in these difficult times.

**Daniela Singleterry**

*Editor-in-Chief*

*Class of 2021*