

Letter from the Editor: Special Issue

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1. Editorial

Welcome to our second-ever issue of *MICH* – an extra-Special Issue!

This past academic year has been extraordinary – not the least for the way it ended. We launched *MICH* to great fanfare last September – thanks to the yeoman's effort from our Scholarly Communications Librarian, Tom Blennerhasset. The journal gave our students a unique opportunity to engage in scholarly conversation, to experience the process of submitting for publication, and to discover their own voices in print. We then spent some months improving the back-end processes that produce the finished product, engaging with our Advisory Board and our TIER Editors. A big thank you to the many staff and faculty members who worked with and supported us!

Then March came and with it the Big Pivot. The rapid transition to online resulted in some curricular changes for our students, including the introduction of some new content related to learning in the Time of COVID-19. This new curriculum presented a new opportunity for *MICH*: this is our first **Special Issue**, providing a space for the candid reflections by and the unvarnished voices of our students who wrote these special pieces during Week 3 after the pivot when we “returned” to a school exclusively virtual and remote. Although *MICH* is never peer reviewed, we usually work through a “TIER review” process, engaging our TIER members to provide editorial feedback to our students who have submitted items for publication, reviewing for academic writing standards. In the case of this Special Issue, we did not apply any review process as we wanted the students' voices to be authentic. Therefore, these reflection pieces are being published “as is”. And our students had much to say! Thank you for these extraordinary insights!

I'd also like to thank Nancy McNaughton and Kerry Knickle, from our Learning, Innovation and Research team, who led the development and delivery of our Week 3 curriculum. They enthusiastically endorsed and encouraged the publication of student reflections from that special week in *MICH*. This Special Issue is for you and all your faculty members who stepped up and delivered some truly unique content that week. It was a whirlwind – and great fun despite the stress!

Take care,

Juanita Richardson
Manager
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