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Acknowledgements

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dear TVC Friends and Colleagues,

It is with a full heart that I express my gratitude to everyone who had a part in making the 38th volume of *The Vermont Connection* possible. Thank you to the authors, Phone-a-Thon participants, donors, editing volunteers and even those who dropped by to say hi with plates of food or just a smile. The production of this journal would not be possible without the support of our alumni, faculty, and friends.

As the Staff Advisor, it is a privilege to work with the Executive Board, to attend their meetings, and to get to know them one-on-one. This year's board chose the theme, *Retracing Our Paths: Reclaiming Narratives in Higher Education* at the end of the summer, inspiring individuals to submit to the journal to tell their stories.

The 2016-2017 academic year has challenged us all as educators, lifelong learners, and advocates. I have witnessed the cohort members find their voices, amplify their way of expression, learn new ways to challenge their peers, and question the truths they brought with them.

I have been proud to see the TVC family gather and use their voices in solidarity around the violence against Black individuals in our country. I have been proud to hear their voices ask questions around the pipeline in South Dakota. I have been proud to see our graduate students march for women's rights and enter transformational conversations about intersecting identities, acknowledging the strength it takes for some to reclaim their narrative. They have done all of this while holding their own compasses, wondering where their path will lead them next.

Kim Monteaux De Freitas is the Assistant Director of Student Life for Fraternity and Sorority Life at the University of Vermont. This is Kim's fifth year advising TVC.

This journal reflects more than just the text on the pages. TVC provides opportunities to expanding one's learning and understanding. It offers a community of learning and support that may have started in Burlington but continues to be found in a phone call, a Skype date, a text message wishing someone good luck or simply checking in. In my time with TVC, I have heard the countdowns till graduation and months, even years later, welcomed those same individuals at conferences with the tightest of hugs.

Thank you for your continued support and courage to share your narratives with vulnerability and your journey along the way. Thank you for welcoming our new faculty members, Dr. Tracy Arámbula Ballysingh and Dr. Jason Garvey. Thank you for your dedication to the program through the connections and mentorship you provide. Thank you for continuing to be an example of the legacy of TVC.

In solidarity,

Kim