

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader,

It is our pleasure to present the winter edition of Volume V of *The Colloquium: The Undergraduate Political Science Journal of Boston College*. We received an impressive number of submissions, making this edition particularly competitive. The submissions came from a wide range of universities across the United States, allowing this edition of *The Colloquium* to be the first to feature authors outside of the greater Boston area. We believe that this is important to the journal's mission of increasing political discourse and scholarship both within and outside the university, and present this as a testament to the increasing importance of political scholarship. Including a wide range of authors from around the country also allows us to publish only the highest level of scholarship, which we believe will be evident in the increasing quality of our journal.

Beyond our authors, this year's editorial staff features the most impressive undergraduate political scientists at Boston College. Our most competitive applicant pool to date, those that were selected to join the journal as copy editors represent only the most dedicated and passionate. We are extremely grateful for the hard work of our copyediting team and wish to impress upon the reader their hard work and enthusiasm.

As a short preview of the contents of the journal, we believe that this issue will offer something for everyone. As diversity in thought across college campuses — and the liberal arts education as a whole — wavers under threat, we hope to offer a wide range of perspectives on political issues.

This edition features first a review of the Geneva Conventions and comments extensively on U.S. foreign policy during the Bush Administration, raising important questions about international affairs today. Next, we turn to an analysis of Orwell's and Plato's philosophies of language, presenting both a literary and philosophical analysis of political rhetoric. "Church and State: The Political Influence of the Russian Orthodox and Polish Catholic Churches in Post-Communist Transitions" takes us on a journey to the Eastern Bloc, prompting readers to think deeply about the question of religious involvement in politics. Next, we feature a robust research article comparing the development of nuclear weapons in Asia and the Middle East, an important consideration in an increasingly hostile international arena. A semi-autobiographical paper on China's one-child policy features impressive research and a personal touch, allowing readers a unique insight into a globally important issue. Finally, "Analyzing the Brain Drain in Sub-Saharan Africa" marks a strong close to the issue, describing the factors that contribute to this phenomenon and how this emigration of professionals can be properly addressed.

Our cover art shows one of John Bingley Garland's blood collages, created through the combination of cut-outs, prints, passages from scripture, and other sources. Not only do collages as a medium lend parallels to the overlapping and intermingling globalization that has enmeshed itself into our cultural and political zeitgeist, but Garland's specific mixture

of pagan and Christian imagery challenges the idea that these religious constructs have to be diametrically-opposed and mutually-exclusive. On the back cover, Edward Quin's Historical Atlas imagines different cartographic moments in time and the clouds of obscurity that overshadowed holistic knowledge. While his works showcasing the expansion of the boundaries of maps are seeped in inherent bias towards European and Judeo-Christian worldviews, their progression translates directly into the continuous globalization increasingly intertwining different lands and cultures. These works, along with the selection of exigent articles, paint a holistic portrait of the reality of globalization and its associated benefits and costs.

Our status as Boston College's political science journal is inextricably tied to its status as a Jesuit university and its accompanying values. This not only encourages a more concerted focus on scholastic examinations of politics and globalization abstractly but an actionable attention to the lived experiences of those whose lives are profoundly affected by ongoing crises. We hope you appreciate the research and effort evident in these works, and we thank you for reading this issue of *The Colloquium*.

Sincerely,

Joseph J. Murphy IV
Co-Editor-in-Chief



Jessica K. Orrell
Co-Editor-in-Chief

