

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader,

It is our pleasure to present the Spring edition of Volume VI of *The Colloquium: The Undergraduate Political Science Journal of Boston College*. We received an impressive number of submissions from both undergraduates and graduate students alike, making this edition particularly competitive. We are also excited to feature not only articles from students but an interview with one of Boston College's own professors, Thibaud Marcesse, regarding the publication of his new book.

This edition features first an overview and analysis of the John Birch Society by Matthew Antonecchia, bringing up important discussion of how the conservative movement and the political zeitgeist continue to be influenced by the advocacy group. Next, Bangjie Xu utilizes Marx's historical-materialist method to situate liberal and conservatives conceptions of property, rights, liberty, and tradition within the framework of class relations and, through this reorientation, examines what can be normatively derived as valuable from them. Then, we feature an interview with Professor Thibaud Marcesse regarding his recent book, *The Accommodation of Democracy: A New Political Economy of Poverty Alleviation in Rural India*. He discusses the process of democratic accommodation—compared to democratic deepening—at the local level in India, revealing much about bureaucracy's influence on democratization and the reality of how policy implementation occurs. Afterwards, Callie Walsh provides insights into the disparities inherent in policy designed to confront homelessness, highlighting how urban-centric frameworks leave those in rural areas vulnerable and unconsidered. Lastly, Clara Taft places Euripides's *Ion* in conversation with Athenian concepts such as nationalism and femininity, and reveals how political concerns of the contemporary audience force further understanding and support for Kreousa.

Our cover art is William Blake's *Jacob's Dream*, imagining the Genesis story in which Jacob dreams of a ladder ascending to heaven. On the back cover, Pieter van der Borcht the Elder's *The Difficulty of Ruling over a Diverse Nation*, envisions an amalgamation of various different animals, with disparate heads protruding from every part of its body. These coalesce in a depiction of the dichotomous priorities of our political zeitgeist: collectively seeking normative change through reaching upwards and becoming encapsulated by the heterogenous differences that comprise ourselves. Too often does the latter take up our time and efforts, becoming too lost in the weeds of identity instead of utilizing these differences to propel us towards our cumulative, latent potential. Many countries, especially the United States, have been captured by populist movements and with rhetoricians claiming that diversity weakens us. A turn towards the ladder is necessary: it is time to raise our heads from the mud and reach toward the stars.

As Co-Editor in Chiefs for the past two years, we are now approaching our graduation and as a result are excited to hand the journal off to our next editorial board. Reviving *The Colloquium* has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of both of our undergraduate careers, and we are extremely grateful for the hard work, dedication, and lively attitudes of our teams that made this effort possible. Most importantly, we are grateful for the relationships and intellectual engagement that *The Colloquium* has afforded us. While we are sad to say goodbye, we know that the journal is in good hands and are excited to read future editions published by a new board.

We recognize again our status as Boston College's political science journal and the university's status as a Jesuit institution. Our utilization of a Biblical painting is a recognition of the importance of these Jesuit values to the mission of the journal, but its placement in juxtaposition to *The Difficulty of Ruling over a Diverse Nation* is an insistence that such values should incite empathy and concord rather than religiously-cited division and hatred. 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 & Jessica K. Orrell  
Co-Editor-in-Chiefs