

Dear Reader,

May 5, 2024

With great pleasure I present Issue XI of *Dianoia*: the Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of Boston College. This year we received over 40 submissions and following a great shortage of editors from the editorial board of Issue X, we are proud to present this journal as the consistent work of the few for the enjoyment of many. This year, we were fortunate to be able to publish four thoughtful papers, all of which are examples of the excellence of undergraduate scholarship and philosophical inquiry from around the country.

As a short preview of the contents of the papers, we offer a work of anthropological and existentialist philosophy, two pieces in moral philosophy, one arguing, through a definition of personhood a justification for abortion and the second arguing against the rise of evolutionary ethics. Lastly, we offer a rigorously defended paper of Aristotle's notion of Final Cause or teleology. We hope that these papers inspire thoughtful reflection, challenge our set beliefs, and most of all spark questions.

Thanks to the support from Department Chair, Professor Jeffrey Bloechl, two of our General Editors were able to conduct an interview with the Gadamer Chair of Philosophy, Professor Jean-Luc Marion. This interview offers an introduction to Marion's phenomenology as well as an in-depth discussion of his most influential and radical ideas such as "saturated phenomena", "the gift", and the possible end of metaphysics.

The editorial board chose William Bradford's *Shipwreck off Nantucket* for the cover art of this year's issue. We felt this represented the initial struggle of the editorial board to get Issue XI into the publication process. It was only with the help of our faculty and graduate advisors, and inner department supporters—represented by Bradford's life boats—that we acknowledge with great gratitude that Issue XI was able to be published. Furthermore, we believe that as Professor Marion in our interview remarks, the desire of all philosophers should be to "go in the regions you have never visited before", just as we see in the ambitious drive of Bradford's portrayal of the 19th century whaling industry.

The chance encounter I had this spring in meeting one of the cofounders of *Dianoia* is a testament not only to the far-reaching influence of this journal, but also to the people whose support makes it possible. On this note, we must offer our thanks and gratitude to

the relentless support of former Editor-In Chief Tanner Loper, our faculty advisor, Fr. Ronald Tacelli, S.J., and our graduate advisor, Sean Heafner.

Lastly, I offer thanks to those consistent members of the editorial board by whose diligence and passion this issue has been able to be published. I hope that you, our reader, continue to offer your support as we prepare Issue XII next spring.

Until then, enjoy this issue.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the Editorial Board of Dianoia



Elliott Jones, Managing Editor