

Dear Reader,

March 27, 2026

I am happy to present to you the long-awaited Issue XIII of *Dianoia*: the Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of Boston College. This year we received over 170 submissions from colleges and universities across three continents. Along with printing this edition, we received all five authors at our Annual Symposium where they presented their research to Boston College's students and faculty and celebrated their accomplishment with the Editorial Board.

Herein you will find five excellent papers, a short preview will, I hope, entice further reading. In thinking about the future, we present papers on population ethics and the nature of phronesis in Artificial Intelligence. You will also find a much needed interpretation of Nietzsche's Eternal Return and an analytic analysis of self-interested action. Lastly, we present a convincing paper on an underappreciated philosopher and timeless topic: Iris Murdoch on love. We hope that these papers inspire new insights and new imaginations.

In addition, I am privileged to present two interviews in this issue. First, Editor Peini Feng and I paid a visit to Emeritus Political Science Professor Susan Meld Shell to discuss her time at Boston College and lasting scholarship on Kant. Second, Editor Claire Swanby and I graciously welcomed this year's Gadamer Chair Professor, Sara Heinämaa, where we discussed the importance of a phenomenological method for emotions and values.

The editorial board chose *Baths of Trajan* (Sette Sale, Villa Brancaccio, Rome) by William Stanley Haseltine for the cover art of this year's issue. This painting depicts the ruins of the Baths of Trajan overgrown with lush vegetation. The ruins harken back to a forgotten history and the effects of civilizational decline, while the vital force of life symbolizes a thriving for the hope of a future not yet. Is this not the very task of philosophy? An oscillating renaissance to ideas long forgotten and the breath of life that each reader can bring them. *Dianoia* continually seeks to enrich its readers with the sources of inspiration, the persistent questions, and the spring of wisdom that slowly nourishes our souls and civilizational decay. We acknowledge that these sources of inspiration come not from above, or below, but as it were, from the not so numerous center.

I offer four years' worth of thanks to our faculty advisor, Fr. Ronald Tacelli, S.J., and our graduate advisor, Sean Haefner. In addition, I want to thank our Senior Managing Editor, Michael Yost, Managing Editor Xavier Lafaie, and Paula Perry who assisted operations behind the scenes with eager aptitude and persistence. Finally, I am grateful to those members of the Editorial Board who devoted their time to this institutional endeavor.

I hope that this issue's contents are intellectually stimulating and personally enriching and that you continue to offer your support for Issue XIV next spring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

ELLIOTT R. JONES
Editor-in-Chief
Dianoia