



THANKS

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COVER

Portrait of Stéphane Mallarmé by Edouard Manet.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Throughout the summer of 1873 Stéphane Mallarmé visited Edouard Manet's studio every day; the painter took one such opportunity to capture the poet in the famous work of art that decorates the cover of the inaugural issue of *Elements*. The meeting of these two brilliant minds represented a crucial moment in the history of intellectual thought. As Western civilization sought new perspectives through which to view the world, Manet's painting and Mallarmé's poetry would serve as a crucial element of Modernism, continuing to influence artists for over a century. Manet and Mallarmé remained friends until Manet's death in 1883. During their ten year relationship, an ideal that strongly united the two men was their belief in artistic democratization: that art should become a source of pleasure for all, not just the aristocratic echelon of society. Similarly, research need not be the province solely of professors and graduate students.

It is in the collaborative spirit of Mallarmé and his friend Manet that, as a staff of committed undergraduates, we begin *Elements*. Intellectual expression cannot and should not be confined to the classroom; rather, as our two guiding artists show us, nature and the world around us provide the greater challenge to human creativity. Through the works of BC students, this publication will serve as a forum for the exploration of the numerous academic disciplines. Each semester *Elements* will present a distinguished and engaging cross-section of such research endeavors to the wider academic community. We hope that this journal will provide us with a few more strokes toward painting the portrait of Boston College.

The nine articles in this first edition of our journal, selected from over 40 outstanding submissions, represent what the editors of *Elements* believe to be the most credible, clear, and thought-provoking of these manuscripts. From social studies of teen living centers and Asian American mental health treatments to a scientific inquiry into bilingualism and an essay on the possibility of the conversion of oil prices to the Euro, the articles in this premier issue demonstrate the breadth of undergraduate inquiry within the university. In the future we seek to expand subject matter into the areas of nursing, education, and business, and exhibit original poetry and artwork, for they are all key "elements" in Boston College's intellectual life. *Elements* seeks to explore the full possibilities of the research journal genre to serve best the intellectual interests of BC undergraduates. If you have any questions, or would like to contribute a letter for our Fall issue, feel free to contact me at elements@bc.edu.

Sincerely,



GREGORY WILES

Editor-in-chief

