



## THANKS

The editors of Elements would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support of and assistance with this issue of *Elements*:

KEITH AKE, *Assistant Director of Marketing and Design*  
DANIEL BAIROS, *Technology Consultant*  
BEN BIRNBAUM, *Executive Director of the Office of Marketing Communications*  
CUTBERTO GARZA, *Provost and Dean of Faculties*  
DONALD HAFNER, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies*  
JOYCE MANNIX, *Business Manager for the College of Arts and Sciences*  
DAVID QUIGLEY, *Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences*  
BARBARA VIECHNICKI, *Associate Dean for Finance and Administration*

We would also like to give special thanks to the Dean's Office of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Marketing Communications for providing budgetary support that made this publication possible.

## QUESTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any questions or would like to contribute a letter for our next issue, feel free to contact the journal at [elements@bc.edu](mailto:elements@bc.edu).

Please consider submitting your own research to the next issue of *Elements*. Our next deadline is **Friday, November 7, 2008**.

For submissions guidelines, visit [www.bc.edu/elements](http://www.bc.edu/elements).

## COVER

Man on Ladder  
© John Henley/Corbis

## PERIODICITY

*Elements* is published twice an academic year in the fall and spring semesters.

Elements, Undergraduate Research Journal, Volume 4, Issue 2, Fall 2008

Boston College, 140 Commonwealth Avenue, Service Building 103,  
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Printing: Kirkwood Printing, 904 Main Street, Wilmington, MA 01887

Copyright © 2008 by Trustees of Boston College

## ELEMENTS STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
TIM KELLY  
MANAGING EDITOR  
ERIN E. EIGHAN  
DEPUTY EDITOR  
JENNY BRESS

HUMANITIES  
SVETLANA TUROVA, *Senior Editor*  
ALYSSA DUQUETTE, *Editor*  
KATIE HALSEY, *Editor*  
ZACHARY MARKARIAN, *Editor*  
MARY SASSO, *Editor*  
NICOLE WONG, *Editor*

NATURAL SCIENCES  
ANNE KORNAHRENS, *Senior Editor*  
ERIN GRODEN, *Editor*  
KATHERINE WU, *Editor*


SOCIAL SCIENCES  
ESTEBAN URIBE, *Senior Editor*  
JOY BATRA, *Editor*  
JENNY BRESS, *Editor*  
EVAN SPEECE, *Editor*  
BRIAN VARIAN, *Editor*  
PAUL WENDEL, *Editor*

LAYOUT  
ALYSSA DUQUETTE, *Senior Editor*  
BRIAN VARIAN, *Editor*

WEB MANAGER  
JENNY BRESS

FACULTY ADVISOR  
ELIZABETH CHADWICK

The information provided by our contributors is not independently verified by *Elements*.  
The materials presented represent the personal opinions of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *Elements* or the Boston College community.





## EDITOR'S NOTE

As Boston College itself plans for future development with the establishment of the 10-year master plan, it at times seems overwhelming to consider the changes the future might hold. It is important to remember that the core mission of the university is nonetheless carried out by its students, whether it be in classrooms on the Heights or in far off areas of the world. The excellent work done by students speaks volumes of the university itself. Our nation is closing in upon an election that promises to break ground with either the first black president or first female vice president; it is, perhaps, a good time to thoughtfully examine what we may assume in a variety of fields.

The papers we've selected ask us to reconsider our preconceived notions about a variety of topics. *Reminiscing and Daydreaming* takes a closer look at the link between memories and imagination, emphasizing the similarity of the two processes, and challenges assumptions about their difference. *Irish Vernacular Poetry* brings to light important facts about the Irish and their struggle against British rule. *Root Root Root for the ??? Team* invites us to reflect on the way professional sports teams become identified with their city and to what extent owners are beholden to their fans. This edition of the journal also highlights the variety of fields that Boston College undergraduates are interested in. *Abusive Tax Shelters* analyzes the sometimes shady actions of individuals and corporations in their efforts to reduce tax payments. *Drips, Scratches, and Strokes* examines the role of Edvard Munch as the father of the abstract expressionist movement.

*Elements*, once again, hopes to showcase a variety of the work produced by Boston College undergraduates. Submissions continue to become

more competitive and each semester the staff of *Elements* makes tough decisions in selection to the journal. This issue was no exception and the articles were chosen from a larger base of qualified and well-written papers. *Elements* is beginning its 5th year here at Boston College, and we begin it with a renewed interest in bringing to the community intellectually stimulating pieces. There is much we can learn from the work of our peers, and we hope that you find this edition both informative and thought-provoking.

Sincerely,



TIM KELLY  
Editor-in-chief

