



## THANKS

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

KEITH AKE, *Assistant Director of Marketing and Design for the Office of Marketing Communications*

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, *Dean for the College of Arts & 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 & 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 6, 2009](#).

## COVER

Usher In Concert - Toronto, Canada

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## PERIODICITY

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

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*Elements*, Undergraduate Research Journal, Volume 5, Issue 2, Fall 2009

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

Printing: Dynagraf Advanced Printing Solutions, 5 Dan Road, Canton, MA 02021  
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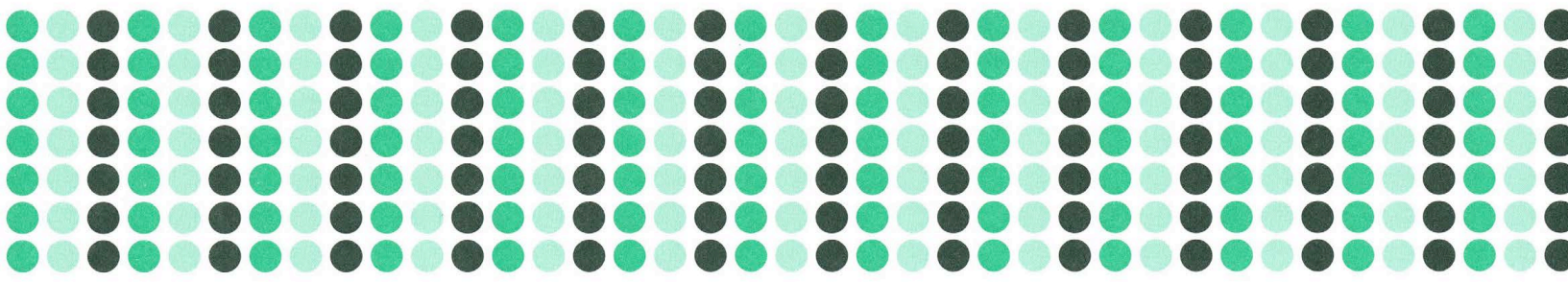
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Over the past three years, I have had the privilege of experiencing the vast and varied research endeavors of my fellow students. Each year I grow more humbled by their work. I have learned that the Boston College student—and subsequently his or her research—is of an exceptional and rare breed.

There are students of academia and there are students of the world. Some perceive the college experience as if from within a tightly confined box, squared off by the four walls of a classroom in which the college student presses his or her nose to books. A somewhat claustrophobic, rigorously academic perception which is all too often true. However, you, as Boston College students, have filled that box to bursting and extended education into the open world. The following essays from your fellow Boston College students have taken the academic principles your professors have so graciously taught you and applied them critically to elements within their own experienced world, a true sign of a living education.

Mr. Keegan's linguistic curiosity, for example, did not rest in the abstract realm or historic realm, disconnected from the active present world. Rather, his article "Call-and-Response" featured on the cover critically links past and present in academic dialogue by engaging popular culture in linguistic and historic critical theory. Mr. Brunner's "Barrios, Gangs, and Enclaves" and Mr. Morris' "Oklahoma City Plunder" also find it necessary to critically reexamine elements of contemporary culture—our culture—while Mr. Scullin's "Judging Harshly" and Mr. Maroshegyi's "Exporting Citizens, Importing Remittances" challenge the current political and economic climate.

The authors featured in this issue of *Elements* have met their call as Boston College students to educate the person and extend the bounds of academia from abstraction into action. In many cases, for a student

of academia—a student who separates learning from life—a typical Friday night might mean singing along to Usher's "Love in This Club," it might mean taking in a basketball game, but it may not extend further. The active student engaged in critical discourse with his or her culture embraces the opportunities that lie in each waking moment of life. You, the Boston College student, can do just that. Your propensity for critical thinking and evaluation begins in your Monday morning classes, seeps into your Friday nights, and then impels you into a future ripe with opportunity.

This Fall 2009 issue of *Elements* showcases the Boston College student's ability to look critically—yes, academically—at every facet of his or her life. You are becoming academics of your generation—critics of your culture—engaging yourselves in a spritely dialogue with your world. Take these articles as inspiration, and in the year to come, I urge you to take advantage of every opportunity you have to do just that.

Sincerely,

ERIN E. EIGHAN  
Editor-in-chief

