



## THANKS

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## 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).

## COVER

Senegalese boys play football on the streets in Senegal.

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## PERIODICITY

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

It is a paradox universally acknowledged that change is a constant in life. Members of the Boston College community can certainly attest to this reality, bearing witness to the ever-changing student body composition and the constant fluctuation of schedules, just to skim the surface. However, this unpredictability is by no means limited to our campus. Change is indiscriminate; it touches everyone on some level at some point in life. The question is not whether we will experience change, but rather, how we will respond to it. We can either cling timidly to the notions of the past or choose to embrace the change, looking forward to possibilities yet to be realized in the future.

This edition of *Elements* encourages us to consider the role that the past plays in our understanding of the present. One article in particular reevaluates linguistic philosophy. Yet another piece takes an in-depth look at the planning and care that went into creating the Boston parks system. Language and parks—how often do we take these things for granted? Words communicate meaning, yet we speak before thinking. We stroll through the Commons and never stop to consider how such a magnificently green haven came to exist amidst the concrete and buildings of the city. However, acknowledging the legacy of those who came before us is worthwhile as it increases our appreciation of our present circumstance. Additionally, it calls to mind the consideration of what our legacy will be. Our world, as it exists now, will continue to evolve, morphing into yet another reality for those who come after us. Globalization has played a major role in shaping our contemporary perspective. Seemingly straightforward means of entertainment, like soccer and hip-hop, have assumed entirely new, more complicated significance that cannot be ignored. We, as humans, gifted with

genuine consciousness, have a responsibility to learn from the past, to study our present, and to plan for the future. Imagine the possibilities.

Change impacted *Elements* in a very real way recently. With the graduation of the Class of 2007, we witnessed the departure of the final founding members of the journal. Under their guidance, *Elements* has become what it is today and for that we thank them. It is with appreciation for their efforts and enthusiasm for the future of the journal that we present this, the first Fall edition of *Elements*. It boasts a new look and provides yet another opportunity for the members of the undergraduate student body of Boston College to share their intellectual findings.

Sincerely,



CATHERINE M. HALSEY

Editor-in-chief

