



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.

COVER

HIV flowing through the circulatory system
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PERIODICITY

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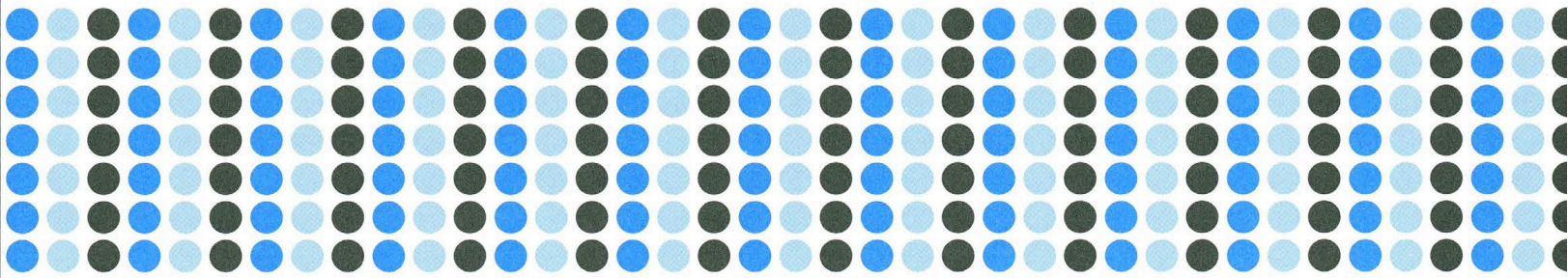
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EDITOR'S NOTE

The fact that Boston College is a Jesuit institution comes as no surprise. From the moment students arrive at freshman orientation, the school's motto—"men and women for others"—becomes a well-known catchphrase. The words of St. Ignatius flood our campus, making apparent the university's strong Jesuit ties. However, words are useless without actions to support them. The values embodied by our university motto come to life in the numerous service opportunities and immersion trips offered, the spiritual groups on campus, and the overall community environment here at Boston College.

This issue of *Elements* highlights examples of students carrying out the mission to live for others in their intellectual pursuits, their spiritual lives, and their efforts to bring about change. One student explores the role of personal virtue, particularly in the lives of politicians, a topic important to many individuals in light of the upcoming elections. Another contributing author offers insight into the growing problem of global poverty. Both articles embrace the Jesuit call for social awareness, encouraging critical examination of personal character and openness to the world around us. Oftentimes, the urge to study the world we live in stems from an inner desire to improve the current situation. By examining our spiritual lives, we can better understand that desire. As one article suggests, learning from religions other than our own can enrich our spiritual lives and bring us closer as a global community, thus allowing us to confront worldwide concerns, such as the treatment and prevention of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is featured in our cover article.

Ultimately, aiming to live as men and women for others is a noble goal that requires us to know ourselves intimately, to move beyond what is familiar, and to take action. Being members of the Boston College community affords us both privilege and responsibility. The authors featured in this issue offer us examples of a variety of ways to fulfill our social obligations and encourage us to find our own path of service to others.

Sincerely,

CATHERINE M. HALSEY
Editor-in-chief

