



## THANKS

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

SUSAN DUNN, *Administrative Assistant, Center for Centers*

DONALD HAFNER, *Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies*

MARY KREINDEL, *Account Executive, Dynagraf*

CECILIA MCCLAY, *Associate Buyer, Procurement Services*

We would also like to thank Boston College for the financial support that makes this issue possible.

## QUESTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any questions or would like to contribute an article for the next issue, you may contact the journal at [elements@bc.edu](mailto:elements@bc.edu). The next deadline for submission is **Friday, November 5, 2010**.

## COVER

Stairwell of the Musee Horta in Brussels

© Lonely Planet/SuperStock

## PERIODICITY

*Elements* is published semiannually during the fall and spring semesters.

The information provided by contributors is not independently verified by *Elements*.

The materials herein represent the personal opinions of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of *Elements* or the Boston College community.

*Elements*, The Undergraduate Research Journal of Boston College  
Volume 6, Issue 2, Fall 2010

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

Printing: Dynagraf Inc., 5 Dan Road, Canton, MA 02021

Copyright © 2010 by the Trustees of Boston College

## ELEMENTS STAFF

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

BRIAN VARIAN

### MANAGING EDITOR

R. BRIAN TRACZ

### DEPUTY EDITOR

JAIME CROWLEY

### HUMANITIES

ALI MCDONALD, *Senior Editor*

ERIN E. EIGHAN, *Senior Editrix Emerita*

BRENDAN KELLY, *Editor*

VINODH MECHERY, *Editor*

DAN SOLOGUREN, *Editor*

### NATURAL SCIENCES

ANNE KORNAHRENS, *Senior Editor*

ADITYA ASHOK, *Editor*

### SOCIAL SCIENCES

CHRIS SHERIDAN, *Senior Editor*

SARAH COLLIER, *Editor*

TEJA GANTA, *Editor*

ANDREINA YANES, *Editor*

ZACH ZIMMERMANN, *Editor*

### LAYOUT

JAIME CROWLEY, *Senior Editor*

CHRIS SHERIDAN, *Editor*

R. BRIAN TRACZ, *Layout Designer*

### WEB DESIGN

DAN SOLOGUREN, *Senior Editor*

VINODH MECHERY, *Editor*

### FACULTY ADVISOR

ELIZABETH CHADWICK



Recycled

Supporting responsible use  
of forest resources

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org) Cert no. SW-COC-001795  
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council





## EDITOR'S NOTE

In “Victor Horta’s Vision: Art Nouveau and the Fusion of Function and Form,” Catherine Swofford describes the political import of Victor Horta’s architecture, writing:

*An enlightened bourgeois class sought out a new artistic style to reflect their progressive political views and to separate themselves from the conservative elite. As is the goal of the client, when a pedestrian walks down a Belgian street and notices one of Horta’s profoundly different art nouveau houses, he presumes the owner to be . . . forward-thinking.*

Just as an elaborate art nouveau townhouse signaled a forward-thinking occupant, so does an academic research journal mark, quite palpably, a forward-thinking university. Indeed, this tenth issue of *Elements* continues to signal the academic vibrancy of Boston College—premised upon intellectual curiosity and manifest throughout these pages.

Victor Horta paid meticulous attention to every single detail of his townhouses, straight down to the “door-knobs, air vents, railings, stained glass and cupboards.” For Horta, even the smallest features contributed to the overall appearance of the residence, rendering its architecture masterful and its symbolism complete. In emulating Horta, the staff of *Elements* has implemented several stylistic changes in this issue. Though small, these

changes represent ongoing attempts to showcase better the academic research of Boston College students.

Another highlight of the Fall 2010 issue is the first ever foreign-language article to appear in *Elements*. “Mentira y honor: Los temas del teatro español en el Siglo de Oro,” written by Vlad Georgescu, reflects not only the widening scope of research being done at Boston College, but also an alternative approach to expressing this research.

With seven truly original articles, I am confident that this issue of *Elements* indicates well a “forward-thinking” university. It is my hope that you will peruse it in that same spirit!

Sincerely,



BRIAN VARIAN

Editor-in-chief