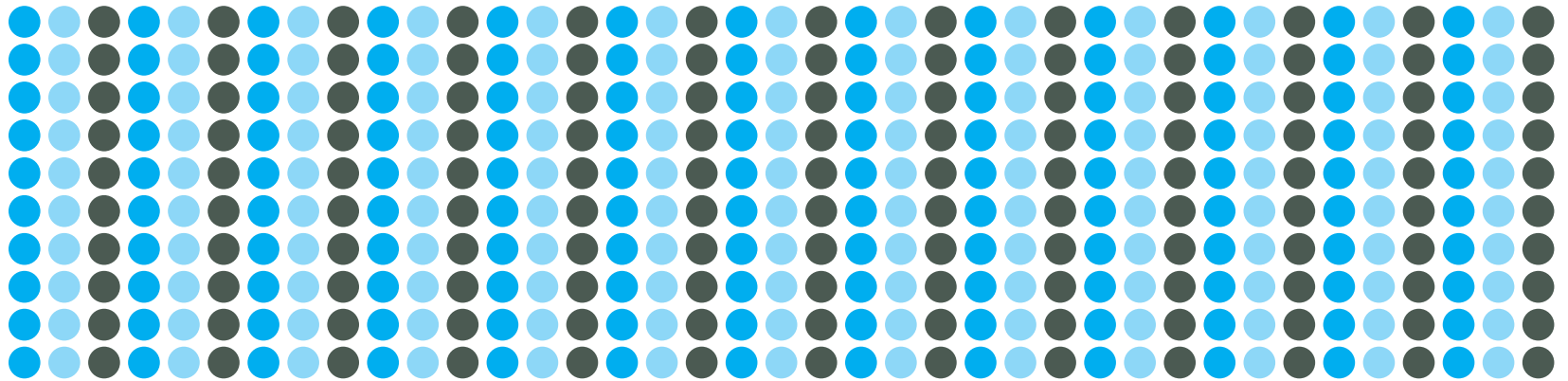


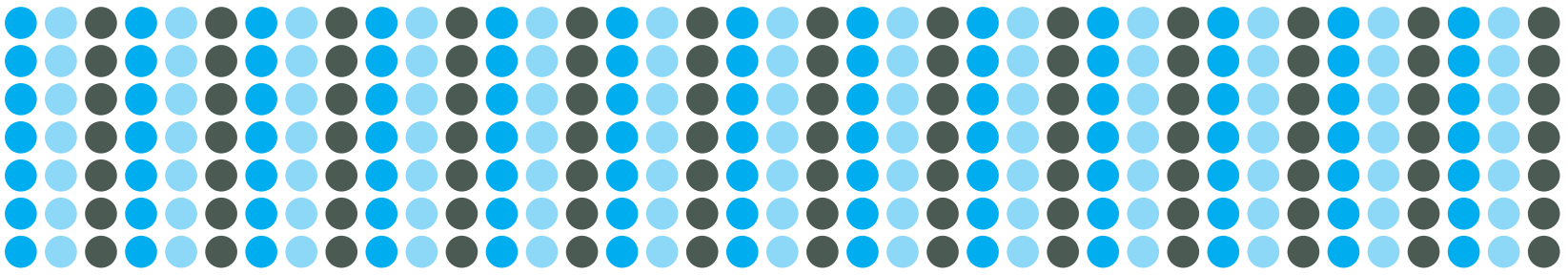
#### MISSION STATEMENT

*Elements*, the undergraduate research journal of Boston College, showcases the varied research endeavors of fellow undergraduates to the greater academic community. By fostering intellectual curiosity and discussion, the journal strengthens and affirms the community of undergraduate students at Boston College.

# Elements

Spring 2016





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## QUESTIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

If you have any questions, please contact the journal at [elements@bc.edu](mailto:elements@bc.edu). All submissions can be sent to [elements.submissions@gmail.com](mailto:elements.submissions@gmail.com). Visit our website at [www.bc.edu/elements](http://www.bc.edu/elements) for updates and further information.

## COVER

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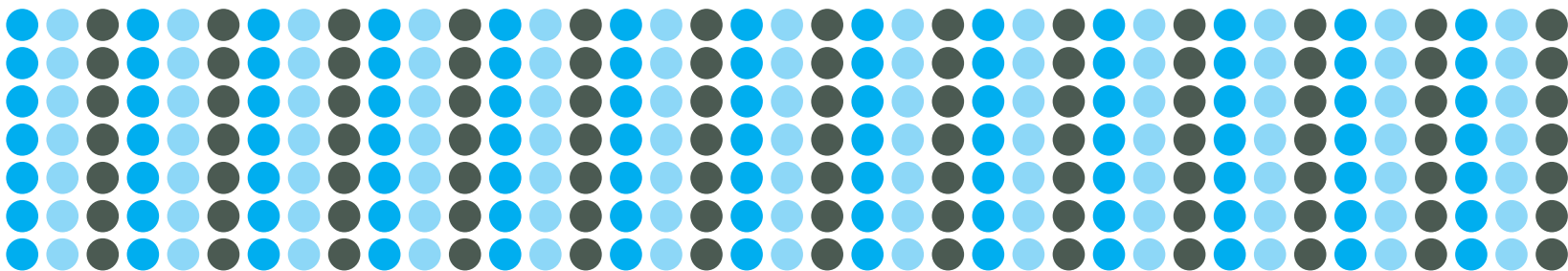
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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Students at Boston College are often invited to reflect on their academic and personal development in the context of the university's Jesuit tradition. Here at *Elements*, we are often prompted to ask ourselves, "how does our journal incorporate and advance the Jesuit mission?" With this goal in mind, we seek to provide a platform for undergraduates to share their intellectual pursuits, increase awareness on complex yet critical scientific, ethical, and social issues, and foster an environment that encourages thought, discussion, and ultimately action. This issue of *Elements* presents a more diverse collection of research topics than ever before, in an attempt to draw your attention to the myriad facets of human experience, no matter how familiar or distant from your everyday lives.

In our cover article, "Who Would Hire A Blind Poet?" author Christopher Kabacinski contrasts traditional representations of blindness in literature with the life writing of the partially blind American poet Stephen Kuusisto. He highlights Kuusisto's effort to move out of the shadow of Oedipus and Tiresias, and re-present the blind man in his embodied, lived personhood that transcends any labels society can impose. Daniel Park and Clara Lee examines a similar struggle between definition and identity in "Divisions Dissected" by focusing on the notion of the "Asian Bubble" and its impact on the experience and self-perceptions of Asian American students at Boston College. In "Convict the Deviant," Katherine Quigley uses criminal narratives of accused rapists to highlight cultural standards of masculinity and the association of rape with unmanly deviance in the patriarchal society of early America. Meanwhile, "Two Separate Persons" by Jennifer Heine extends this discussion of gender perceptions to Anthony Trollope's novel *Phineas Finn*, which employs gendered ethnic stereotypes to illustrate the duality of its main character's identity. A close read of this set of articles encourages us to reconsider the relationships between external perceptions and self-understanding, and between societal norms and personal identity.

Despite tensions between the individual and society, there are unresolved questions that the human race has a collective stake in. In "On the Wrong Side of the Tracks," Natalie Panariello evaluates the ethical implications of needle resale by assessing the case of a needle black market seller who uses his profits to feed his drug addiction. Juliana Butron considers an equally

pressing social issue in "A Climate of Inaction," as she attributes the lack of effective response to climate change to the limitations of a relational understanding of morality. In addition, Alessandra Luedeking, author of "Titan of Terror," presents the film *Godzilla*, not as mere science-fiction, but as a physical embodiment of the destructive forces of nuclear bombings in Japan.

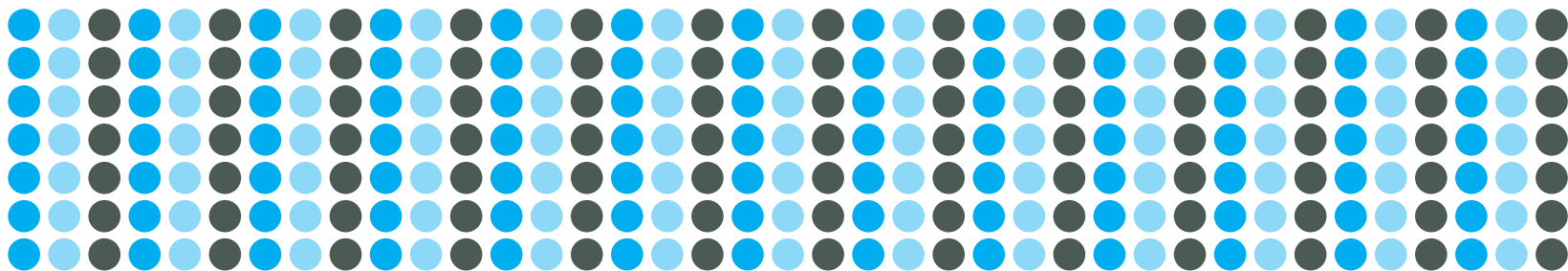
Jesuit education aims to promote intellectual inquiry and dialogue across disciplines, and *Elements* upholds this principle by continuously expanding into new subjects. Rebecca Moretti's article, "The Psychological Puzzle," provides a unique perspective on how the psychology of policymakers may both consciously and unconsciously lead to the top-down politicization of intelligence. Katelyn Johnson investigates the distribution of TMX and CLO residues across various locations of Stroubles Creek in Blacksburg, VA, to determine their impact on "The Dirt and The Bees." In "Dreibens Modulo 7," the first Mathematics research published by our journal, Arthur Diep-Nguyen analyzes the divisibility of strings of 3's and 7's (dreibens) by 7 as a first step in the search for prime dreibens.

Inspiring and fulfilling the desire to know has always been an essential component of Jesuit education. As the new *Elements* editor-in-chief this year, I hope our journal will continue to play a role in igniting undergraduates' intellectual curiosity. Our Spring 2016 issue invites you to consider important questions that your fellow students raised, examine the conclusions that their research suggested, and bring your own experiences and insights to our perpetual search for truth, meaning, and justice, even after you turn the last page of our journal!

Happy reading!

Best,

BETTY (YUNQING) WANG  
Editor in Chief



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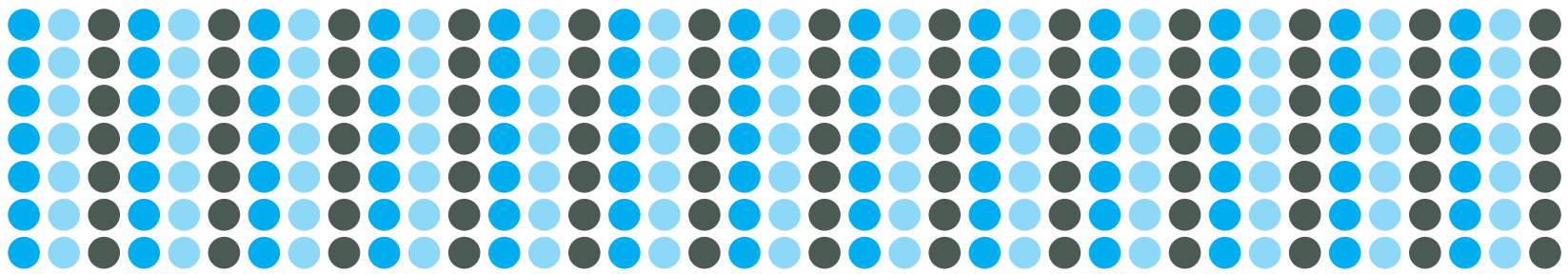
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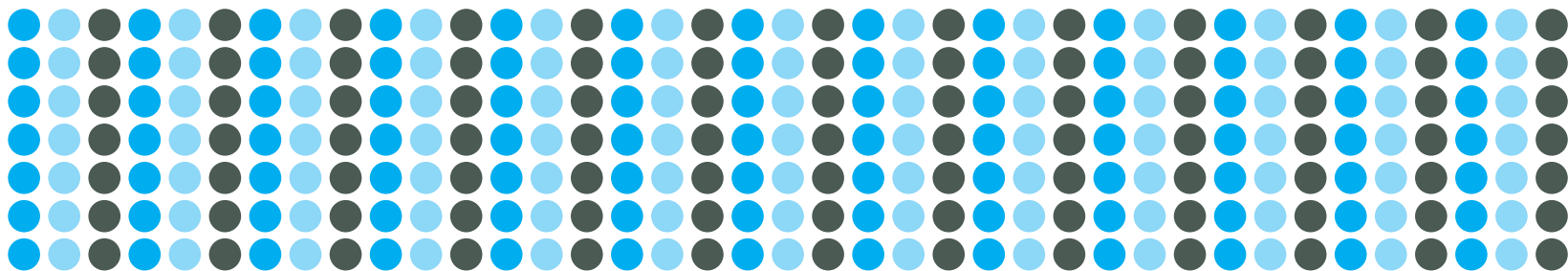
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