

Dear Reader,

April 7, 2025

It is my great pleasure to present to you Issue XII of *Dianoia: the Undergraduate Philosophy Journal of Boston College*. This year we received over 80 submissions from colleges and universities across North America. *Dianoia* returned from the summer interim with a passionate editorial board of undergraduate philosophers. Prioritizing marketing and outreach, we launched a LinkedIn page, hoping to connect with past and future accepted authors for years to come. In addition, we gratefully accepted the expertise of our graphic designer who launched a new logo for the journal.

This year, we were able to publish four papers that we felt were representative of the best undergraduate philosophical scholarship. We are grateful to welcome our accepted authors at our Annual Symposium allowing them to present their research to Boston College's students and faculty.

For a short preview of the contents of this journal, we offer an introduction to the philosophy and relevance of Jean-Paul Sartre's existentialism, a historical comparative study of Daoist influences on Heidegger's *Being and Time*, and two pieces on political philosophy. One tests the compatibility of John Locke's and Jacques Maritain's vision for church-state relations. The second offers a Thomistic critique of classical liberalism from Hobbes and John Locke to the modern liberalism of John Rawls. The two former papers contribute to the history of philosophy while the latter two raise pertinent questions for contemporary church-state relations in a period of skepticism over the liberal tradition. We hope that these papers inspire thoughtful reflection, form new understandings, and most of all spark questions.

The editorial board chose Jan Toorop's *The Woodworker* (Il Taglialena) and Frank Millet's *A Cosey Corner* for the cover art of this year's issue. The former is an impressionist painting of an axe-wielding woodworker, the latter is of a woman reading by the window light next to a burning hearth. We understand this depiction of work and leisure to be emblematic of the birth of philosophy. It is only a culture founded on leisure that the liberal arts can thrive as Aristotle hints at in the opening paragraphs of his *Metaphysics*.

Lastly, I offer thanks to our faculty advisor, Fr. Ronald Tacelli, S.J., and our graduate advisor, Sean Haefner. In addition, I want to thank our Senior Managing Editor, Aniella Zaslavsky for her lasting commitment to the journal for the past three years. Aniella's diligence, patience,

and prudence have greatly contributed to the publication and lasting influence of this journal. For our graduating editors: Aniella, Amelia, and George, I wish you wonder-filled questions in your philosophical pursuits. Finally, I am grateful to those consistent members of the editorial board who devoted their time and knowledge to this institutional endeavor. Next fall Dianoia will publish an online transcript of our interview with Political Science Professor and Kant scholar Susan Meld Shell. We hope you enjoy this issue and continue to offer your support for Issue XIII next spring.

Sincerely,

Elliott Jones
Editor-in-Chief
Dianoia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott Jones", written in a cursive style.