Way back in 1992—a year before I was born!—the first issue of *The Journal of the Core Curriculum* was distributed at the spring banquet. Its contents were typed on word processors, with page numbers inked in by hand, and was held together by a brittle plastic comb binding. The simple black-and-white cover bore only an image of the “Core column”—the Ionic capital with spiraling volute and egg-and-dart molding that has become an emblem of our program.

Though the production methods used back then may seem primitive to us here in the next century, the quality of the essays didn’t suffer for being published using ‘analog’ technology. The writing in that first *Core Journal* was eloquent, intelligent and probing, and reflected a passion for “great books, great questions, and great ideas” like the one seen in Core classrooms today.

This academic year, we celebrate a quarter-century of Core at Boston University. Over that stretch of time, thousands of students and scores of faculty have come together, fall and spring, for the lectures and seminars that are the pillars of the Core experience. True, students do a lot of their reading from screens nowadays instead of paperbacks, but even so I think it’s safe to say that continuity is a tradition of our community. A lot has changed, but we’re still mindful of the advice given out at the start of every year:

“**Read the Books; Come to Class.**”

On behalf of all the students and alumni who contributed to this issue of the *Journal*, and to past issues, I’d like to acknowledge our hard-working and dedicated Core directors who have supported us over the years: Brian Jorgensen, James Johnson, David Eckel, and, currently serving, Stephanie Nelson. This publication couldn’t have thrived as it has without their guidance and sponsorship.
Thanks also need to be given to our Managing Editor, Zachary Bos (2015 Boston University Supervisor of the Year!), who worked on his first issue way back in 2001. And to Core admin Rose Grenier, who graciously finds room in the department budget so that pizza may be brought in to feed hungry editors during their late-night work sessions.

And of course, thanks and appreciation to Sassan Tabatabai, who has served as Faculty Advisor to the Journal for the last decade, as well as Font of Wisdom, and Boxing Coach, and Poetry Guru, and, when his red pen gets itchy, The Merciless Punisher of Inattentive Proofreaders.

While we eagerly await the 25th Anniversary Celebration this May—see you there, right?—I invite you to enjoy this year’s issue of the Journal. Inside you’ll find exemplary essays by current Core students as well as noteworthy pieces reprinted from previous issues. This blending of the old and the new connects nicely to the imagery of “dawn” that you’ll see depicted on our front cover: renewal within continuity. These themes also connect to something Prof. Nelson likes to say, and which every Core student will recognize the truth of: “The classics live on.”

Core-dially yours,

Madeline Aruffo
Core ’13, CAS ’15

on behalf of the entire 2015 editorial committee