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EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

When we began working on this year's edition of Noēsis, our goal was simple: to create a finished product that our authors would be proud to be featured in. We not only aimed to maintain the sterling reputation Noēsis has inherited from previous editors, but to continue to build on their work to make Noēsis an active and recognizable member of undergraduate academia.

We began by overhauling our online presence. Not only did we build a new website from scratch, but we re-imagined and expanded our use of social media. For the first time ever, students could easily submit their papers directly through our website. We created Instagram and Twitter accounts, and put together a Facebook strategy designed to increase engagement.

Our second major innovation was introducing the Winter Edition. In past years, Noēsis had released one call for submissions, and printed one journal comprised of the best of them. However, every year students had completed fantastic philosophical work after our deadline has passed, and had been unable to submit it. To solve that problem, we launched a second edition of the journal, with a later submission deadline and its own editorial staff. We received many truly impressive submissions to the new Winter Edition, and anticipate that it will become an ongoing part of Noēsis' tradition.

Finally, for the first year ever we accepted submissions from students across Canada. This makes us one of only a handful of national undergraduate philosophy journals. We received submissions from universities in British Columbia to Quebec, and were able to introduce our journal to a huge new audience. As a result, our authors can receive the national recognition they deserve, as some of the most promising philosophers of the next generation.

Despite our lofty aspirations, above all else we continue to be an active part of undergraduate life at the University of Toronto. Throughout the year we have organized, advertised and operated events designed to help philosophy students get to know one another and find a sense of community. They included workshops to help students prepare their work for publication, a canned food drive to benefit the Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto, and our philosophy trivia nights. We are excited to once again launch our journal at the Undergraduate Research Conference in Philosophy, where several of our authors will be presenting their papers.

We are proud to say that our efforts were successful. Not only did we

beat the previous record for the number of submissions to the journal, but we more than doubled it. (It is worth noting we broke the record even when we discounted the papers received from other universities.) Our editorial team worked tirelessly to advertise the journal, especially to students unfamiliar with *Noēsis*. We visited classes, attended events, and sent hundreds of emails (or at least what felt like it). It is our hope that future editors-in-chief will take this as a challenge, and attempt to set the bar even higher.

The first article in this year's Spring Edition is the talented Christopher Yuen's "The Possibility of Authentic Suicide: Mersault as a Model". Yuen contends that while Camus proves that suicide is not always the best option in the face of the absurdity of life, that there are cases in which suicide remains a live and legitimate choice, and indeed must, in order for life to contain meaning. Through experiencing and re-encountering suicide through literature, we are able to conceptualize it as a path we are capable of taking. Rather than providing an argument for the legitimacy of suicide, therefore, literature transfers this knowledge by acting as a demonstration of it.

In perhaps the most ambitious paper of this year's journal, Thomas Benstead argues that Heidegger's ontology presupposes concepts of prior ontologies in "Being-Towards-Aristotle? Heidegger's Implicit Presupposition of Aristotle's Concepts of the Human Being in Being and Time". Benstead sets about dismantling Heidegger's project by arguing that it borrows from Aristotle's conception of the rational animal and the political animal.

We then move to Trung Ngo's "Cooper vs Hadot: On the Nature of Hellenistic Therapeutic Philosophy". Ngo takes on a debate in the analysis of ancient philosophy over what it is for the practice of philosophy to promote living the best life. The paper responds to an objection to Hadot's view leveled by Cooper, and argues that Cooper's view inappropriately constrains the benefits of philosophy to philosophical discourse. As students engaging in philosophy today, Ngo's paper raises interesting questions about the extent to which, and by what mechanisms, philosophy can be considered a way of life.

In "Peter Klein's Infinitism Precludes Justification", Tunç Berk Doğan takes on the project of arguing that Klein must deny or revise his infinitist account of justification. Doğan begins by explicating Klein's infinitist proposition, then goes on to demonstrate that Klein's solution to the Regress Problem is inadequate, before showing that Klein's account precludes justification simpliciter. After considering potential counterarguments, Doğan concludes that in order to avoid this criticism, Klein would have to reject a crucial premise of his theory.

Alexandra Leclair's innovative paper "On Degree Actualism" offers a way of settling the debate in modal metaphysics between Serious Actualism and Possibilism. She suggests that objects can be construed as differing in their degree of 'being'. By redefining serious actualism and possibilism as theses about being, rather than existence, Leclair is able to explain how they are compatible with one another. Her solution offers a preferable account of how such individuals possess properties, and accounts for the intuitions that motivate

both competing views.

In our interview with Professor Thomas Hurka, we discuss the contributions to moral philosophy that won him the prestigious Killam Prize this year. Hurka is a prolific author, most famous for his work defining which things are intrinsically ‘good’. We begin by discussing his early work in perfectionism, and how his views have evolved throughout his career. This leads us to explore the writing process that has made him so successful, which he describes as “the tortoise not the hare”. With his signature wit and directness, Hurka then explains his perspective on a range of topics, from what time it’s appropriate to get up in the morning, to why Aristotle is entirely wrong about ethics, and the increasingly technical nature of his field.

As we complete this project we have spent almost a year preparing for, we are incredibly grateful to all the many people who make our journal possible. We would not have been able to do any of this without the assistance of the Department of Philosophy. We are particularly indebted to Eric Correia, the Undergraduate Administrator, who has been a constant pillar of support. Whether we needed a last-minute room booking, or an obscure budget question answered, his door has been open.

We would also like to thank Adam Murray and Matt Armstrong for their help type-setting the journal, as well as their ongoing encouragement and advice. In addition, we would like to thank both Adam Murray and Belinda Piercy for their work organizing the Undergraduate Research Conference in Philosophy, at which we are launching our journal.

Noësis received financial support from a number of institutions this year, including the Department of Philosophy, University College, Trinity College, Innis College, the Association of Part Time Students (APUS), and the Arts and Sciences Student Union (ASSU). It is thanks to their donations that we are able to print our journal and fund our events, and for that reason we are deeply grateful to them.

We owe our beautiful cover to Alex Lui, who was kind enough to design it for the second year running.

Finally, we would like to thank our editorial team for their relentless work ethic, and the passion they brought to their positions.

Sincerely yours,

Lucas Bennett
Sheridan Cunningham



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