

Reason and Respect

Volume 3
Issue 2 *Spring 2007*

Article 1

2-4-2008

Message from the president

Roy J. Nirschel
President, Roger Williams University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://docs.rwu.edu/rr>

Recommended Citation

Nirschel, Roy J. (2007) "Message from the president," *Reason and Respect*: Vol. 3: Iss. 2, Article 1.
Available at: <http://docs.rwu.edu/rr/vol3/iss2/1>

Copyright ©2-4-2008 by the authors
Reason and Respect is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).
For more information, please contact mwu@rwu.edu.

reason & RESPECT

A JOURNAL OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AT ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

From the President

I am pleased to introduce the second of two issues of *Reason & Respect: A Journal of Civil Discourse at Roger Williams University* that explores the theme of service.

While many universities publish scholarly journals at the graduate level, few do so as a means of engaging undergraduate students in intellectual inquiry. *Reason & Respect* is designed with our students in mind—both as readers and as writers. Its purpose is to offset more popular forms of discourse, where too often volume has replaced substance and reason. It provides a venue for all members of our community to respond critically, but respectfully, to diverse ideas and perspectives.

As an institution committed to civil interchange about the important topics of our time, we believe that discourse, no matter how passionate, can and must be conducted with reason and respect because we also celebrate those values as inherently important to our community.

Able edited by Professors Kate Mele, Robert Engvall, and Roxanne O'Connell, the journal reinforces a number of core values important to our university: a love of learning for its own sake; faculty-student scholarly efforts; commitment to service; a global perspective and mutual respect. Those values form the foundation of our university and are represented by *Reason & Respect*.

This academic year, the journal has brought into focus the University's commitment to service. What is "service"? What motivates us to perform service? These were the questions investigated in the Winter edition.

In the Spring 2007 edition, students consider how to best make service a meaningful experience. A highlight of this issue is the essay "Service as *E-ducare*" by Angela Possinger, winner of the student writing contest. According to the contest judges, "Ms. Possinger addresses the complexities of service with clarity, sophistication, and style. She reminds us that when service projects draw directly on our students' talents, the students will give more to and get more from those experiences." Many thanks to Professors Paul Bender and Kathleen Micken for their time and effort in choosing Angela's essay from among these fine contributions.

I look forward to once again reading the various thoughtful perspectives presented in *Reason & Respect*, which, hopefully, will lead to further discussions about service among administrators, staff, faculty, and students.

Sincerely,
Roy J. Nirschel, Ph.D.
President, Roger Williams University