Inaugural issue of Reason & Respect: a journal of civil discourse at Roger Williams University

Roy J. Nirschel
President, Roger Williams University

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

Recommended Citation
Available at: http://docs.rwu.edu/rr/vol1/iss1/12
From the President

I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of *Reason & Respect: A Journal of Civil Discourse at Roger Williams University*.

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.

Ably co-edited by Professors Robert Engvall and Kate Mele, 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*.

As an institution committed to civil interchange about the important issues 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.

The journal is linked closely to the Civil Discourse Distinguished Lecture Series. During spring 2004 we were honored by the presence of Professor David Wilkins from Harvard, Mrs. Thurgood Marshall, and Attorney Morris Dees—all of whom addressed the theme of race fifty years after *Brown vs. Board of Education*. During fall 2004, we looked at a nation divided with political scientists and presidential advisors Kevin Phillips and David Gergen. In spring 2005 author Salman Rushdie will anchor a stellar set of speakers, including Gary Bauer, on important themes of our time.

I look forward to listening to and learning from these individuals and reading the various thoughtful perspectives of our students and others in the pages of this important and new publication.

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