

## **Introduction**

### **Kearse Award Papers Spring 2007**

**The students who submitted the following papers for publication are winners of Kearse Awards in various disciplines of the College of Liberal Arts. The awards were presented to the winners on Thursday, April 19, 2007. These papers were part of class requirements for courses taken in the Spring quarter 20053, Summer quarter and sessions 20054, Fall quarter 20061 and Winter quarter 20062.**

**The Kearse Distinguished Lecture and Student Honor Awards Ceremony are held each Spring in the College of Liberal Arts. This year's lecture, "Liberal Education and Its Discontents," by Dr. Ivan Kenneally, Visiting Assistant Professor of the Political Science Department, is also included in this volume.**

**The written work we honor here demonstrates writing at its best, and we are grateful to the winners for reminding us of the power of the written word to express and create, to document and record, to analyze and persuade, to question and to challenge.**

**In presenting awards that specifically recognize writing, we are celebrating written expression as a vital, unique, and fundamental form of communication—not only within an academic institution—but in our personal lives, our professions, and our society.**

## *Henry J. and Mary Kearse*

*Henry J. Kearse, and his wife, Mary Geirin Kearse, were longtime friends of Rochester Institute of Technology and generous advocates of the education of young men and women. Henry Kearse, who died in 1975 as founder and President of H.J. Kearse, Inc., was the site developer and paving contractor of the Rochester campus in Henrietta and personally directed the preparation of the grounds for the construction of the new campus buildings opened in 1968. When the bids for the development of the new campus were received, Mr. Kearse's bid was the lowest bid by such an obvious margin that it was clear to all involved that Henry Kearse wished to contribute significantly to building the new R.I.T. Mary Kearse was a member of the Nathaniel Rochester Society prior to her death in 1979. In her will, Mrs. Kearse left an endowment to Rochester Institute of Technology to be used at the Institute's discretion. Characteristically, there were no conditions attached to the generosity of the Kearses.*

*In their honor, the annual Henry and Mary Kearse Distinguished Lecture and Student Honor Awards are now established in the College of Liberal Arts. An annual Distinguished Lecture on a topic of Liberal Education is given at a ceremony to honor the undergraduate students each year who have produced the most outstanding research papers or projects in areas of study in the College of Liberal Arts.*

*Student Honor Awardees are selected by the faculty who teach in the respective areas of Liberal Arts. The purpose of the Student Honor Awards is to recognize those students who have in their course work in Liberal Arts manifested the ideals and standards of excellence, of creative endeavor, and of scholarship.*