

## *Letter from the Board of Directors*

Dear distinguished guests and honorable colleagues,

On behalf of the DePaul Academic Freedom Committee, welcome to the DePaul Academic Freedom Conference! If there is anything we can do to help you during the event please feel free to let us know.

Over the past year, DePaul University has been the subject of controversy throughout the academic community, and around the United States. The tenure denials of Dr. Norman Finkelstein and Dr. Mehrene Larudee symbolized new threats that scholars face in their pursuit for knowledge and wisdom.

To us, the sacking of our mentors were very personal events. With the motivation to do something to express our discontent, and armed with a powerful DePaul education, we made our campus the center of the battle for academic freedom.

Within the DePaul community, the next generation of tenured professors are distrusting and fearful. In our discussions with some Assistant Professors, many have expressed that they have withdrawn manuscripts that were meant to be considered for publication, or are now fearful that past publications or activities may have a detrimental effect on the chances of their tenure. The departments home to Dr. Larudee and Dr. Finkelstein, the International Studies Program and the Dept. of Political Science, respectively, continue to reel eight months after their denials.

The purpose of this event is to be a venue where the latest trends and ideas about academic freedom can be discussed and debated. Furthermore, it is a place where the DePaul community can reflect on what has happened within the larger context.

We would like to acknowledge the support we have received from fellow students and student organizations, including: DePaul College Democrats, the DePaul Student Peace Alliance, DePaul Model United Nations, Society for Int'l Affairs, DePaul Students Against the War, the Activist Student Union, Students for Justice in Palestine, and the International Socialist Organization, as well as substantial financial support received from DePaul Student Life. Thank you all!

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Weber    Evan Lorendo    Victor Lang    Andrew Riplinger  
Board of Directors, Academic Freedom Committee, DePaul University

## *DePaul Academic Freedom Conference*



*February 1-2, 2008*

*DePaul University*

*Chicago, Illinois*

*This event is brought to you by:*

DePaul Academic Freedom Committee

*DePaul University Departmental Co-sponsors:*

International Studies Program, Peace Studies Program,

Dept. of History, and Dept. of Philosophy

[www.academicfreedomchicago.org](http://www.academicfreedomchicago.org)

