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## Introduction

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*Sacred Heart University  
Commencement Week 1995 Addresses*

*Introduction*

*Commencement Week 1995 at Sacred Heart University was marked by many exciting activities, including three particularly memorable speeches. The common theme was to celebrate one's education by stepping into a life of responsibility. In a stirring Baccalaureate Address to the students on Awards Night, Professor Michelle C. Loris, of the Sacred Heart English Department, reminded her audience of the necessary connection between a liberal arts education and the challenge of ``sustaining the human good in a rapidly changing global and technological society." In his Valedictorian Address, César Muñoz Acebes emphasized the role of the university in affirming and widening our sense of community. And in the Commencement Address, Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel, often thought of as the conscience of our generation, recalled the Holocaust and the continuing reality of unjust and ugly racism, but sent the graduates of 1995 out into the world to be as he is, a ``smiling optimist," firm in their faith in study, in the future, and in each other. We are proud to publish the text of these speeches herein.*