

Macalester Civic Forum

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RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SQUARE

Acknowledgments

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many voices contributed to the third annual Civic Forum. We are grateful to our speakers as well as to our colleagues in the Religious Studies Department and Center for Religious and Spiritual Life for recommending them. In addition, the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life sponsored a “Week with Religion” to accompany the Civic Forum. Finally, the Institute for Global Citizenship Student Council hosted a “Sustain the Conversation” gathering after the formal activities were over. We would also like to thank “the usual suspects”: Kim David and colleagues in College Relations; Susan Huffman and the rest of the staff at Bon Appétit; the Macalester College custodial staff; and Dave Reynolds and Brian Longley in Media Services.

Macalester had a dual dream at its inception: on the one hand, to encourage students to cultivate their growth through rigorous study and critical self-reflection; on the other, to educate students for a condition of freedom, civic purposefulness, and a vocation of leadership. This dream was captured by the pioneering works and lives of Edward Neill and James Wallace, two of the College’s most significant founders and builders. Thus, in this new Institute for Global Citizenship, Macalester keeps faith with the dream by creating *for* and *with* our students a context conducive to a distinctive synthesis of intellectual intensity, self-monitoring, and preparation for public usefulness.

Consistent with the founding impulse, the Institute for Global Citizenship offers a number of programs intended to educate our students for ethical and effective “global citizenship.” Among these intellectual innovations is the Macalester Civic Forum. To be held every spring, the Forum will have this focus: themes that are primarily *national* and the commissioning of a keynote address and formal essays by Macalester College students or alumni.