

Helen Haywood Macdonald Wright

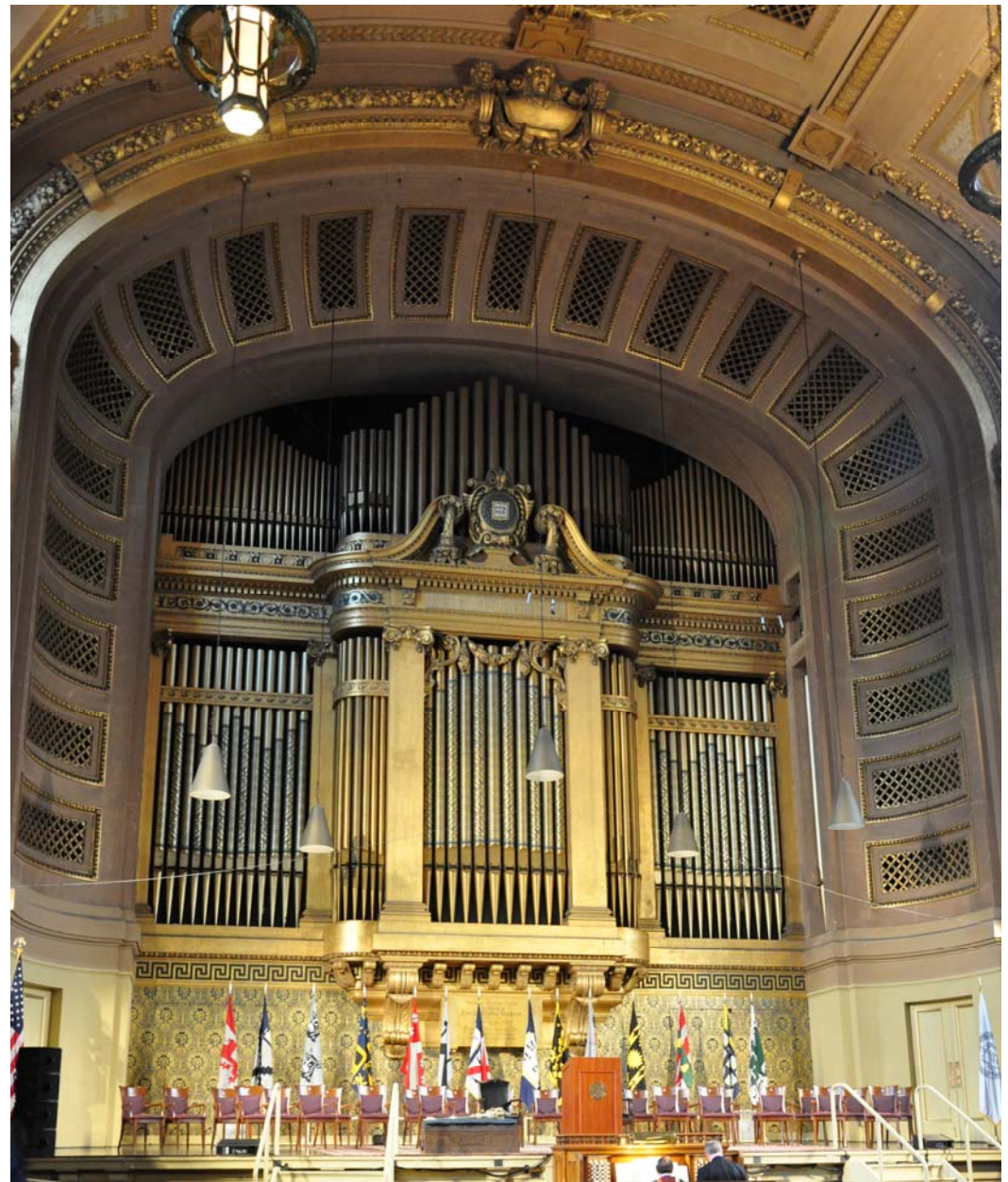


Graduation from Yale University, May 2010

Graduations at Yale are nothing if not spectacular. However, Saturday morning was spent packing and moving boxes and Haywood's wonderful, although awkward, full size refrigerator into temporary storage. That afternoon there was a reception for varsity athletes. That evening we enjoyed a performance of the musical Pippin, put on by an all-student company.

However, the real festivities began Sunday morning with the baccalaureate service in the glorious Woolsey Chapel. This was built as a war memorial and contains an inscription honoring Custis's brother, Edwin Nash Broyles a Yale graduate who died in the Korean War.

A highlight of this service was the glorious rendition of Randall Thompson's "Alleluia" that the Yale Glee Club floated down onto us from the heights of the chapel's second balcony.





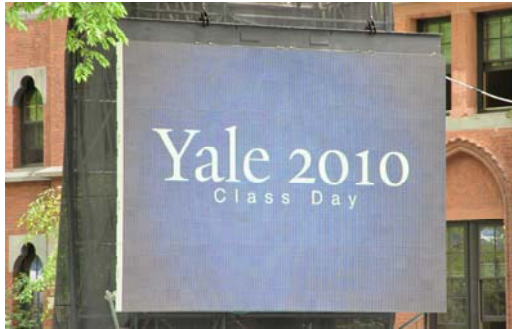
Pictures with the graduate are an important part of any graduation.



Here with Jackie Erickson a basketball teammate of Haywood's off and on from 3rd grade all the way through Yale. The Yale library is in the background

We all enjoyed lunch at the aptly named Claire's Cornucopia a vegetarian restaurant favored by many years of Yale students.





Sunday afternoon was the Class Day celebration. By tradition, the graduates vie to wear the funniest hat. The speaker was Bill Clinton – who is visible somewhere up there.



The actual graduation took place in two ceremonies on Monday. Haywood was honored as the Berkeley College banner bearer at the first, larger ceremony. The video image on the right is 1000+ undergraduates receiving their degrees en masse.



Taylor and Paul came from New York City to join the festivities.



After the university-wide ceremony, we all moved to one of the courtyards of Berkeley College where we waited, along with Haywood and the other graduates of this one of 12 Yale colleges, while Dean Kevin Hicks and Master Marvin Chun prepared for a more intimate ceremony in which Haywood would ...



... actually, finally receive her diploma and her first congratulations as a Yale College graduate!



Then it was time for pictures with family and friends!



Top center: Cassandra, her freshman roommate. Middle left: Jess, her senior roommate. Middle center left: Vicki and Michelle, basketball teammates. Middle center right: Xiaotang (aka Shouty). Middle left: Lexi, sophomore roommate and volleyball player. Bottom right: Ben.





But the day was not yet done! After a lunch in Berkeley College and final packing, we headed down to New York and dinner at Public, the restaurant where Taylor is now working as a pastry cook. Joining us there are (clockwise from top left): Claudia and Chris Van Wyk; John and Beverly Wand; Mary Jo and Mark Altom; three of Haywood's basketball teammates, Kaitlyn Lillemoe, Sarah Zoubek, Haywood, and Stephanie Marciano; Ross Macdonald IV, Ross Macdonald, and John Macdonald.





To go with the wonderful company was some spectacular food. To the right is the smoked salmon and watercress salad served as an amuse bouche. Below are the two first-course options. On the left is marinated white anchovies on quinoa croquettes with spicy saffron aioli. On the right is carrot and cardamom soup with Aleppo marshmallow, cilantro oil and toasted pumpkin seeds. Although the anchovy dish was wonderful, it was the soup that had everyone in awe.



The second course gave the choice of grilled scallops with sweet chili sauce, creme fraiche, and green plantain crisps, a crowd pleaser, or an interesting salad of herby lentils, green beans, avocado, toasted pecans and baby gem with a pomegranate molasses and avocado oil dressing



There were three selections for the 3rd, main course. Two are shown here. Above and to the right is pan-seared Tasmanian sea trout on a salad of fennel, green apple and pistachio with preserved lemon yogurt and fennel pollen. Just to the right is red curry of crispy tofu with Hon-Shimeji mushroom, Thai eggplant and long beans.



However, the 3rd course that seemed the favorite was the roast lamb sirloin on crispy goat cheese polenta with saffron braised baby vegetables and harissa aioli shown to the right.

Dessert was a sampling of the wonderful things that Taylor now makes at Public day in and out.



At this point, gentle reader, I must beg your forgiveness because I photographed only one, the photo to the left of the sorbet sampler that looks like a artist's set of fine watercolors. What I failed to photograph was (1) sticky toffee pudding with Armagnac ice cream and hot caramel sauce, (2) rhubarb balsamic cobbler with lemongrass ice cream, and (3) Hokey Pokey ice cream with passionfruit caramel sauce and a ginger snap. Perhaps I will be able to provide these photos later.



Both Nina and I loved this weekend. It was such fun spending time with so many family members and friends. It is amazing to think that these “kids” of ours have become such bright, talented adults with such interesting futures.