



During the Memorial Day weekend this May, Yale Divinity School graduated its newest 142 alumnae and alumni. The weekend consisted of two liturgies and two degree awarding ceremonies, the first for the entire University and the second for the Divinity School itself.

Commencement 2002

BY JAMIE L. MANSON '02 AND TIM TOWNSEND '04

Reflecting on the significance of these ceremonies, Dale Peterson, Yale Divinity School Dean for Students, said, "At its best, Commencement honors graduates, celebrates the Divinity School, acknowledges family and friends, and offers thanksgiving to God for faithfulness through it all. This year's Commencement was the best!"

"The Class of 2002 is an outstanding class," Dean Peterson added, "I am grateful to them for their perseverance, patience, and support in making Commencement the best party of the year!"

The perseverance and patience to which Dean Peterson refers was especially present in Ruth Lebar and Stephanie Urie, the co-presidents for this year's graduating class, who exhibited steadfast commitment and creativity in their planning for this Commencement Weekend.

The co-presidents resolved that the services and ceremonies would be memorable and graceful for the Class of 2002, who during their matriculation at YDS were faced with much change and transformation in both the structure of the YDS administration and its campus. "This is the class that bridged the transition period between two administrations as well as the start and initial completion of the adaptive reuse of the Sterling Divinity Quadrangle," said Ms. Urie.

Having come too late to reap the benefits of the former Quad and having left too soon to enjoy the newly renovated facilities, this class also faced the dilemma of having graduation ceremonies off of the campus on which they had worked and socialized for the past several years. The outside section of the

Quad was not landscaped sufficiently to hold the Degree Awarding ceremony, while the interior sections of the buildings were not large enough to host the nearly 900 family members and friends who annually attend the YDS commencement exercises.

Renovations, though extensive at YDS, are also prevalent at the wider University. It became particularly challenging to find appropriate venues anywhere on the Yale Campus, since several Yale colleges and schools were forced to relocate for Commencement activities.

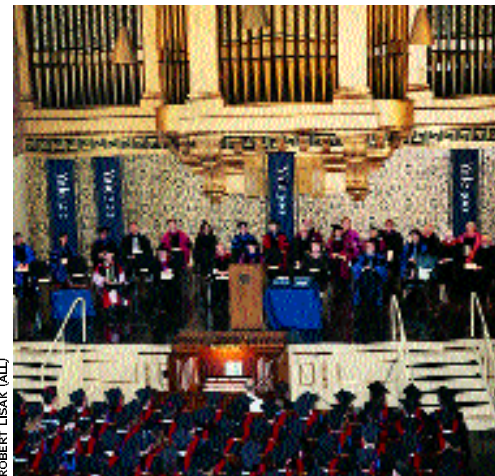
The most time-consuming task for the Commencement committee was finding locations for the Divinity School's Commencement Worship Service on Sunday afternoon and the Degree Awarding Ceremony and luncheon on Monday.

For Sunday's Worship and Awards ceremony the Church of the Redeemer on Whitney Avenue generously opened their church and parish hall to YDS graduates, faculty, family and friends. The service, which included preaching by Professor Marilyn McCord Adams and prayers offered by Dean Peterson and Professors Allen Hilton, Wes Avram, and James Dittes, gave graduates and current students the opportunity to receive a number of Yale Divinity School's honorary prizes and fellowships (see page 6 for a complete listing). The worship and awards

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Dale Peterson, YDS Dean for Students

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ROBERT LISAK (ALT)

Dean Rebecca Chopp offers her charge to the newest graduates of YDS at the Degree Awarding Ceremony in Woolsey Hall. (above)

The Class of 2002 applauds the YDS Faculty as they process toward the stage of Woolsey Hall. (left)

commencement



ROBERT LISAK (ALL)

Dean Dale Peterson and Banner-Bearer Danielle James lead the Class of 2002 to the Old Campus Ceremony. The group walked downtown from the Divinity School campus after celebrating morning Eucharist in Niebuhr Hall.

service ended with a reception where graduates were able to pick up their class composite. A larger edition of this composite will be hung in the corridor between the new Common Room and Refectory alongside composites of graduating classes from the last 150 years.

The only event that could be scheduled at the Divinity School campus was the Monday morning Eucharist celebrated in H. Richard Niebuhr Lecture Hall, with a sermon offered by Professor David Bartlett. At the close of the service, Robert Wilson, Professor of Old Testament, prayed with the graduates, saying, “Now as we leave this place we pray for your continued presence with us. Answer us when we call to you, and continue to call to us until we hear and respond. Take what we are and what we will become, and use us in your service. Most of all make us discontent with what we have already achieved and lead us on to your new and unexplored future.”

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Monday’s Eucharist offered students a sense of completion and achievement, not simply because it was held on campus, but because it was the last time the graduates would worship together as a community. Jan Webster, Secretary for the Class of 2002, reflected, “With each passing day I grow increasingly grateful to God that my loved ones possessed the insight and the foresight to encourage my participation in this Commencement, particularly the Monday morning service. It afforded a context for closure. It presented the opportunity to assess and appreciate my entire educational experience, especially the persons with whom I’ve crossed paths...what a privilege, what an honor, what a responsibility.”

After the service, graduation candidates and their guests made the traditional walk down Prospect Street toward main campus under a cloudy sky. Some daughters and little brothers made the trek on candidates’ shoulders. Those who had dallied on the Divinity School campus ran down the hill to catch up with their classmates, their scarlet tassels swinging and bouncing behind their black caps.

Once reaching the Cross Campus Quad, candidates assembled under a white “Divinity” sign several yards in front of the Sterling Memorial Library. Across the path were the Law School candidates, and just to the left, the School of Music candidates. Next to the music candidates were the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies candidates, their caps decorated with pinecones, woodpeckers and butterflies.

When the band began to play, the Yale College undergraduates filed out of Cross Campus, through New Haven Green and back up into Old Campus, where throngs of family and friends had gathered to watch the university-wide commencement exercises. Richard Levin, Yale’s president, handed out degrees to graduates from Yale College and each of the university’s professional schools. With cheers of accomplishment and relief in the background, Dean Chopp formally asked President Levin to award the Divinity School’s 142 candidates with M.A.R.s, M.Div.s and S.T.M.s.

The president then proceeded to award this year’s honorary degrees. William Sloane Coffin received the honorary degree in Divinity to a standing ovation from YDS’s newest graduates. Other degrees were awarded to, among others, Robert L. Carter, New York federal court judge and former NAACP lawyer who argued *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954; Ela Ramesh Bhatt, human rights activist and student of Mahatma Gandhi; Lawrence Summers, president of Harvard University and former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury; Gordon E. Moore, the founder of Intel; and film director Steven Spielberg. Judge Carter received a long, loud standing ovation for his life’s work, while Mr. Spielberg received his degree to the theme from the *Indiana Jones* series, played by the Yale band.

In the Benediction for the entire university, Dean Rebecca Chopp prayed, “Our hope for the future of our world resides in these graduates. Our hope to renew a common world rests with their knowledge and with their wisdom, with their capacity for moral and intellectual courage, and with their talents and virtues to be expressed in many professions.”

As they processed out, Divinity graduates found themselves pouring onto the New Haven Green after their final exit through Phelps Gate. As the sunshine finally emerged, many took pictures with



Melinda Benton and fellow graduates listen to the Charge offered by Dean Rebecca Chopp.

the YDS Banner, carried by Danielle James, while others waited to catch a glimpse of family and friends who had packed Old Campus for the ceremony. Once all were reunited, black and scarlet regalia flowed across Chapel Street as graduates and loved ones proceeded to an elegant luncheon in the ballroom of the Omni Hotel.



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Dean Rebecca Chopp

At 3:00 the graduates and guests reassembled, this time at Woolsey Hall, for the degree awarding ceremony. As the graduates walked in, flashes popped and parents and grandparents waved to their graduates. Bryan D. Spinks, the acting director of the Institute of Sacred Music, offered the invocation and Dean Peterson read from Deuteronomy (6:5), John (13: 34-35), and I Corinthians (13: 1-8). Dean Chopp then gave her charge to the graduates, the purpose of which, she said, was to “express our desires for you as you leave this place for work in churches, faith communities, schools, graduate schools, libraries, businesses, social work, law, medicine, public health, the arts, and other arenas in which our 9000 graduates put to good use their education.”



Amid cheers, applause and a sea of video cameras, Academic Dean David L. Bartlett read the graduates' names, and as they crossed the stage, Dean Chopp handed out each degree. After the final S.T.M. was awarded, Frederick H. Borsch, Interim Dean of the Berkeley Divinity School, offered a simple benediction. “Goodbye,” he noted, is short for “God Be With You.” And so he said it again: “Goodbye.”

With this farewell, Yale Divinity School's newest alumnae and alumni spilled out of Woolsey Hall onto sunny Beinecke Plaza. On their way towards the door, the graduates passed through a line of YDS faculty who applauded and cheered them, marking one of Commencement's most lasting, and moving, traditions. Many graduates and their friends and families lingered on the plaza embracing, chatting, and snapping pictures for nearly an hour after the ceremony had ended. Though they were unable to spend their last moments as a class on the Divinity School campus, the life of YDS became fully present in the friendship, laughter, and memories that they shared at that moment, in that place. ♦

Former Dean Rebecca Chopp and Faculty Marshal Professor James E. Dittes at the line-up on Yale's Cross Campus.

Hoon Choi '03 congratulates graduate Wes Smedley at a reception following Sunday afternoon's Worship and Awards Ceremony.

Ronald Simpson, Margaret Scalise, and Rob Price process out of Woolsey Hall after receiving their degrees. The faculty lined up along the corridor to applaud the new graduates.



While many Yale Divinity School graduates move on to careers serving the Church and the Academy, some alumni and alumnae put their degrees toward creative and unique endeavors in ministry and education. The following profiles offer a small sampling of the career paths that some of YDS's recent graduates have chosen.

The paths they're taking

BY TIM TOWNSEND '04

O-Jin Kwon, a native of Korea, earned his S.T.M. at the Divinity School this spring. In the fall he and his family will be moving to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he will pursue a Ph.D. at Harvard University. This summer O-Jin was also ordained in the Korean Presbyterian Church.

Craig Loya came to YDS soon after graduating from Hastings College, where he had joined the Episcopal Church. After just one year at Yale, it was clear to him that he needed to pursue an ordained vocation, so he began the ordination process in the Episcopal Church. The summer after Craig's second year, he served as an intern for the Episcopal Church's ministry on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, which allowed him to experience first-hand the culture and traditions of the Lakota people. After graduating with an M.Div., Craig will return to Rosebud to begin his ordained ministry. He will be one of two full-time missionaries on the reservation, and the primary pastor for three of the eight Episcopal churches on Rosebud.

Stephanie M. Urie arrived at YDS in the 1999 to study Ethics. After receiving her M.Div. this spring, she has taken a position in the Department of Justice of the State of Vermont as a policy analyst for the state's Immigration and Naturalization Service. She serves as a liaison for cases involving immigrants and congressional legislation on health and human services.

When Evalyn Wakhusama arrived at Yale three years ago, she had already gone through a theological college in Kenya, her native country, and had become ordained as a minister in the Anglican Church of Kenya. Evalyn saw a need within the church and theological college back home for a faculty more effectively trained in the teaching of ministry. Last year, she received her M.Div., and this May she earned her S.T.M. with a concentration in New Testament. Evalyn is looking forward to "engaging in dialogue with other women theologians both in my country and continent, in a bid to unsettle the dominant view that women have very little participation in leadership positions both in the Church and theological training." In addition to this important work, Evalyn is eager to be reunited with her family in Kenya.

Christopher Worthley arrived at YDS in 1999 after working first as a business journalist and then as a corporate spokesperson for nearly ten years in Germany. Christopher, who earned his M.Div. *summa cum laude* this spring, will be ordained in the Episcopal Church as a bivocational clergyperson, serving also as Executive Director of the newly created Allianz Foundation for North America, a grant-making, corporate charity that seeks to promote opportunity and perspective for underprivileged youth in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Alice Yiyi Yafeh, a 32-year old native of Tiko, a coastal town in Cameroon, graduated with an M.A.R. in Biblical Studies. She is moving on to Princeton Theological Seminary to pursue a Ph.D. in New Testament studies. Alice received her B.A. in Theology from Faculte Protestant de Theologie Evangelique at Vaux-sur-Seine, one of the two Protestant theological faculties in Paris. After she receives her doctorate from Princeton, Alice plans to return to Cameroon to teach at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kumba.



ROD JOVANELLY (ALL)



2002 YDS Honors and Awards

Prizes & Fellowships

JULIA A. ARCHIBALD HIGH SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

to the member of the graduating class who ranks highest in scholarship

Brent Nongbri

BAINTON BOOK PRIZE

David Alan Baer

Sarah Suzanne Scherschligt

OLIVER ELLSWORTH DAGGETT

SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

Deborah Anne Meister

DAY FELLOWSHIP

Stephen Clarke Gould

Timothy Thomas Marquis

Candida Rebecca Moss

DOWNES PRIZE

public reading of scripture and hymns

Jan D'Vonne Webster

DWIGHT-HOOKER FELLOWSHIP

theological study

Derek Rory Nelson

Brent Nongbri

Alice Yiyi Yafeh

MERSICK PRIZE

for effective public address

Wendy Sue Tinklenberg

Christian Andre Evans

JESS H. AND HUGO

A. NORENBURG PRIZE

Walter Smedley IV

MARVIN POPE PRIZE IN HEBREW

Dong-Hyuk Kim

MARY CADY TEW PRIZE

exceptional ability in philosophy, literature, ethics or history during their first year of study

Jennifer Sue Dunfee

Rachel Elizabeth Maxson

Kimberly Rachel Miller

Brent Nongbri

Anne Michele Turner

HENRY H. TWEEDY PRIZE

for pastoral leadership

Ruth Carol Lebar

Michael Andrew Bunting

TWO BROTHERS FELLOWSHIP

Shin Ahn

Dong-Hyuk Kim

Dong-Wook Lee

Aaron Henry Meyer

Brent Nongbri

JOHN A. WADE PRIZE

expository preaching

Sarah Elizabeth Hare

EDWARD ASHLEY WALKER SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

Timothy Thomas Marquis

WOLCOTT-CALKINS PRIZE

for excellence in clear

and vigorous public speaking

Michael Ashley Grant

Honors

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF DIVINITY

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Katherine Anne Heichler

Christopher Thomas Worthley

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Josh R. Feay

Jamie Leigh Manson

Deborah Anne Meister

CUM LAUDE

Sharon Elizabeth Marshall

Wendy Sue Tinklenberg

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGION

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

John Mark Basiulis

Susan Rafter Beebe

Rebecca Thompson Crosby

Timothy Thomas Marquis

Brent Nongbri

Elizabeth Pedrea Pipes

Kevin Norman Simmons

Cristina Lafferty Sloan

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Elizabeth Reeves Covington

Glenn Evan Snyder

CUM LAUDE

Kelly Corrine McCarthy

Angela Rae Miller McGraw

Alice Yiyi Yafeh



ROBERT LISAK (ALL)

