The commencement speech the world was watching

Thousands of media outlets from around the country reported on Wake Forest University’s commencement ceremony and speaker Jill Abramson, who made her first public appearance since her abrupt departure from The New York Times.

More than 50 credentialed media from 30 news outlets, including six national television networks, attended the ceremony on a picture-perfect day.

The New York Times

In first public remarks after firing, Jill Abramson talks of resilience

The New York Times’ description of Wake Forest on commencement day: ‘At least for the morning, a buzzing Manhattan news media story was transported from Midtown offices and boardrooms to a sunlit quad, surrounded by trees and stately buildings, alive with the excitement of graduating students in black gowns and mortarboards with black and gold tassels. Alongside the parents, students and others taking their seats were reporters from news organizations including Politico, The Wall Street Journal and several television stations.’ Focused on the theme of resilience, the story included comments from President Hatch and a Wake Forest student.

Los Angeles Times

Jill Abramson tells graduates she’s ‘scared...excited,’ but tattoo stays

Wake Forest graduate Hilary Burns talked with the Los Angeles Times about Abramson’s speech. Burns, who has a new job writing for a women's business website, called Abramson’s address “a really good first public statement” by a “powerful and successful woman.”


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In an interview with Vicente Arenas for CBS This Morning, President Nathan Hatch said, “It is said that this generation of students will probably have 25 different jobs in their lifetime. So, the whole thing of change, abrupt change is something that they will face.”

On Sunday and Monday, NBC education correspondent Rehema Ellis broadcast live from campus for The Today Show, Meet the Press and MSNBC.

See pages 2-3

The loss of a legend

Maya Angelou

April 4, 1928 - May 28, 2014

Wake Forest University
Remembering Dr. Maya Angelou
REYNOLDS PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES SINCE 1982

The Wake Forest University community and guests from around the world gathered in Wait Chapel on June 7 at the invitation of Dr. Maya Angelou’s family, to celebrate the beloved poet, author, actress, civil rights activist and Wake Forest’s Reynolds Professor of American Studies. Thousands of stories documented her remarkable life. Dr. Angelou passed away on May 28 at the age of 86.

Celebrated memoirist and poet Maya Angelou, 86, who was found dead Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, N.C., was a high school dropout who became a professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.

Angelou, 86, died Wednesday. It was the first day of lectures for the summer classes at Wake Forest, the poet and American Studies professor's creative and academic home. … Angelou was known throughout the world as a literary pioneer and champion of civil rights. At Wake Forest University and in Winston-Salem, where she lived, students and professors remembered her as a hero on campus, a gracious mentor and friend, a warm hostess, and a beloved and inspirational teacher.

In a nine-minute segment, Melissa Harris-Perry ('94) paid tribute to her teacher and role model. “In the spring of 1992, when I was a sophomore English Major at Wake Forest University, I took a course with Dr. Maya Angelou. In doing so, I became one of hundreds of Wake Forest students who were privileged to encounter Dr. Angelou in the intimacy of a small class during the more than three decades she taught on our beloved campus,” Harris-Perry said. “She forced us to require more of ourselves than we thought possible. She taught us many lessons.”

Though the memorial service was private, Wake Forest made public viewing possible online.

Maya Angelou memorial service will be live-streamed
Author, activist and icon Dr. Maya Angelou, who died last week at age 86, will be remembered at a private memorial service Saturday at Wake Forest University. The service, reserved for invited guests only, will be held in Wait Chapel and available to view by the public via a live stream starting at 10 a.m.

More than 130 credentialed media from 45 news organizations, including NBC, CNN and the Associated Press, came to Wake Forest to cover her memorial service.
“I’m not a writer who teaches. I’m a teacher who writes.
But I had to work at Wake Forest to know that.”
- Dr. Maya Angelou in 2008

Poet Maya Angelou remembered for wisdom, clarity

Maya Angelou liked to say that people will forget what you said or did in your life, but they will never forget how you made them feel. Former President Bill Clinton, first lady Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey said Saturday they were among the millions touched by Angelou's wisdom when they needed help to rise. Family and friends, both famous and anonymous, gathered Saturday to remember one of the 20th century's most famous black writers. Amid tears, laughter and gospel singing, they met at Wake Forest University, where she taught for 32 years though she never graduated from college.

First Lady, Bill Clinton herald Maya Angelou as force in history

First lady Michelle Obama remembered poet, author and civil rights champion Maya Angelou on Saturday as a dominant cultural force who taught black women and people of all races to celebrate their own worth and beauty. Former President Bill Clinton, media magnate Oprah Winfrey and actress Cicely Tyson also honored Angelou during the service at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, where she lived and taught for three decades.

Editorial: Maya’s memorial service was one for the ages

Maya Angelou's memorial service Saturday at Wake Forest University was one that will go down in Wake Forest history, and, for that matter, in Winston-Salem history.

Ed Wilson, Wake's provost emeritus, emphasized Angelou's teaching talent by quoting her: “I man not a writer who teaches, she said, I am a teacher who writes … Maya Angelou has become part of the history and fabric of Wake Forest University dazzlingly and forever.”

Measuring Success:

$4.3 million in ad equivalency value for print, online and social coverage

735,000+ views of the live webcast and archive

531,000+ page views on June 7 created the most traffic ever in one day for wfu.edu

130,000+ page views of Maya Angelou memorial site (mayaangelou.wfu.edu) and news stories over two weeks

#MayaAngelouMemorial trended nationally

1,500 clicks from Twitter on May 28

515 clicks from Twitter to the memorial program
**SOCIAL BUZZ**

#WFUGrad and #WakeForest trended nationally on Twitter for the first time

3,630 tweets tagged #WFUGrad from 1,594 contributors with a reach of 9,714,867 unique users and 41,477,881 timeline deliveries.

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**APRIL 16, 2014**

D.E.S.K. projects serves Old Town Elementary

Approximately 450 Wake Forest students from various teams, organizations and individuals came out to Manchester Plaza to take part in the 14th annual Developing Education through Student Knowledge, also known as D.E.S.K. Students painted 47 desks for Old Town Elementary School children to use at home. WFMY, WXII, WGHP, News 14 and The Winston-Salem Journal covered the event.

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**APRIL 30, 2014**

A world premiere for Northwest School of the Arts

Students in the Recital Seminar class at Northwest School of the Arts played a world premiere written for them by a nationally known composer, Dan Locklair, composer in residence at Wake Forest University, put a secret stamp on the six-minute work: He used the school’s initials for a four-note theme that recurs through four sections.

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**MAY 19, 2014**

**GRADUATION DAY**

The homepage takeover for Commencement 2014 was the fourth biggest single day for visitors to wfu.edu. Total page views were 85,551 and those numbers do not include more than 270,000 picture views on Flickr. Other notable stats: There were more than 22,700 views of the Commencement livestream and the archived videos, and the student profiles garnered more than 13,000 page views.
What is a lavender Graduation?

On April 30, Wake Forest’s first Lavender Graduation ceremony was featured in USA Today College. Events were held on campuses nationwide to honor the contributions of LGBTQ students and allies to their universities. The informal ceremony, held in the Z. Smith Reynolds library auditorium, complements the traditional commencement celebration. Vice President for Student Life Penny Rue and J. Robby Gregg Jr. (’83), a nationally recognized diversity expert, addressed the guests.

Job outlook is looking up

The job outlook for 2014 college graduates is positive, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. In a recent survey of more than 160 employers, companies reported they plan to hire 8.6 percent more than last year.

In an interview with WGHP Fox 8, Andy Chan, Wake Forest’s vice-president for career development, said the positive job outlook can be seen at recent campus job fairs. “We’ve seen an increase in employers recruiting on campus — about 25 percent more than the past year,” he said.

Aiken receives WFU divinity honor

For his lifetime service to the community, Michael “Mike” Aiken received this year’s Bill J. Leonard Distinguished Service Award Pro Fide Et Humanitate from the Wake Forest University School of Divinity. Aiken, who graduated from Wake Forest in 1971, has served as executive director of Greensboro Urban Ministry for more than 25 years. The agency offers emergency financial assistance, food assistance, emergency and transitional shelter and rapid re-housing. The award, established by James M. Dunn, resident professor of Christianity and public policy, and his wife, Marilyn, honors the life and contributions of Bill J. Leonard as teacher, scholar, historian and first dean of the School of Divinity.
Focus on well-being

Well-being is about much more than just being physically healthy. With more than $4 million in grant funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina and the Reynolds American Foundation, Wake Forest is taking a holistic approach to helping students lead better lives on campus and beyond.

Inside Higher Ed

Well-being and time

Inside Higher Ed featured Wake Forest’s new approach to measuring well-being and quoted Vice President for Campus Life Penny Rue: “Ideally, we want our measurement to be able to differentiate between aspects of your well-being that are more fixed and differences of your well-being that the university can actually move.” The longitudinal study is designed to determine whether the college is helping its students find meaning and purpose in their lives.

The Business Journal

Stressed out and sleep deprived?

Wake Forest to study student wellness

College is a time of learning and adventure for students. But it’s also a time of sleep deprivation, stress and anxiety. Now, researchers at Wake Forest University want to find out exactly how the broad concept of “wellness” impacts success during and after a student’s college career. The Winston-Salem school says a new project about to get underway will be the first of its kind in higher education to systematically study students and alumni along wellness measures including social, health and career outcomes over time.

USA Today

College grads grade their higher education

In a story on the new national Gallup Purdue study, USA Today highlighted how Wake Forest plans to evaluate well-being. “A study of well-being is really an outgrowth of our goals, which is that we educate the whole student,” says Penny Rue, vice president for campus life at Wake Forest. “We just want to be able to know that we’re making a difference.”

Winston Salem Journal

Blue Cross Blue Shield partners with WFU on well-being

Wake Forest received a $3 million gift from Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina to develop projects designed to promote a holistic approach to well-being that spans eight dimensions of well-being: physical, emotional, spiritual, social, intellectual, financial, occupational, and environmental. The article quoted Dr. Hatch, “Our approach to well-being is intentional and a natural extension of our mission to educate the whole person.”
Blue-footed boobies are among the Galápagos Islands’ most beloved boldfaced names. But because of a lack of breeding, their numbers in the region are in serious decline, according to a new study led by David Anderson, a professor of biology at Wake Forest University. Anderson’s study shows the booby population in the Galapagos has dropped more than 50 percent over the past two decades.

“Until 1997, there were literally thousands of boobies at these breeding sites and hundreds of nests full of hatching chicks,” Anderson said. “Then suddenly, the boobies just weren’t there.”

President Nathan Hatch and LouAnna Simon, president of Michigan State University, co-authored an editorial for The Wall Street Journal on the opportunities the NCAA provides for more than 460,000 student-athletes and why unionizing college sports would be a bad move.

“Do we really want to signal to society and high-school students that making money is the reason to come play a sport in college, as opposed to getting an education that will provide lifetime benefits?” wrote Hatch, chairman of the NCAA Division I board of directors, and Simon, chairwoman of the NCAA executive committee. “The NCAA’s philosophy, proven by where the organization spends its money, is education first.”

Comments from President Hatch regarding the NCAA Division I board of directors were also featured in:

**Why unionizing college sports is a bad call**

**Former NFL coach Tony Dungy to speak at Wake Forest**

Super Bowl-winning football coach and best-selling author Tony Dungy helped kick off Wake Forest University’s inaugural Leadership Project. The goal of the Leadership Project, a new initiative for the Winston-Salem school, is to invite leaders to the university who will share their personal principles, triumphs and challenges in a way that inspires students and the community.
The American Academy of Arts and Sciences has elected Nathan Hatch, president of Wake Forest University, among its newest members. Since its founding in 1780, the Academy has elected leading “thinkers and doers” from each generation — from its founders John Adams, James Bowdoin, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington to Ralph Waldo Emerson, Maria Mitchell and Alexander Graham Bell.

“I’m thrilled to be named to one of the oldest and most prestigious honorary societies in America,” Hatch said in a statement. “To join the company of such extraordinary leaders is an honor and a privilege.”

Wake Forest hires Danny Manning from Tulsa

Danny Manning, the former University of Kansas star who spent the past two seasons coaching the University of Tulsa’s men’s basketball team, was hired as Wake Forest’s basketball coach.

A pep rally, appropriately titled “Mann the Quad,” was held to welcome Manning. From a giant slide to bounce houses and ice cream to hot dogs, students, faculty, staff and alumni celebrated on Hearn Plaza.

“There have been very few players who have had as much success on the court as Danny,” said Wake Forest’s Athletic Director Ron Wellman. “We fully expect that Danny’s coaching career will reflect the excellence of his playing career.”

Melissa Harris-Perry, scholar and TV host, joins her alma mater

MSNBC television host, award-winning scholar and Wake Forest University alumna Melissa Harris-Perry (’94) will return this summer to her alma mater as a chaired professor, wrote Peter Monaghan of The Chronicle of Higher Education. Now 40, Ms. Harris-Perry has built a reputation as an incisive scholar of American elections, race relations, religion, gender issues and plenty else.

“I’m in the part of my career where I’m interested in building the kind of lasting things that stay after you’re no longer here,” Harris-Perry said.