



Georgi L. Lewis, Ed.D.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

10 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024



OUR *Mission*

Our mission is social mobility.
We transform lives through
teaching, scholarship, and service.

OUR *Vision*

We will have a positive impact on the State
of Georgia and beyond by serving students
and our community through broadening
access to high-quality education and
advancing workforce development.

HISTORY OF *the Mace & Medallion*

The *University Mace* is a symbol of authority for the president and the Board of Regents. It originated in the Middle Ages as a weapon of last resort for military officers. Later it was adopted by universities as a symbol of power and ideas and the need for protection of the academic quest for truth and wisdom. Clayton State's mace was turned by Mark Barr, a Lyceum artist-in-residence, and was made from a tree that had been damaged by lighting on campus. It is traditionally carried by the faculty marshal, who is the university's senior faculty member.

The *Medallion of Office* bears the seal of Clayton State University. The university's seal contains an outline of the seal of the State of Georgia with the inscription "Constitution, Wisdom, Justice, Moderation, 1969" in the center and "Clayton State University" and "University System of Georgia" circling the edge.



*Clayton State's
Medallion of Office*

*Clayton State's
University Mace*

Georj L. Lewis, Ed.D.

A native of southwestern Pennsylvania, Dr. Georj Lewis has over 30 years of experience in higher education and over 20 years of service within the USG. Lewis earned both his bachelor's degree in business/accounting and master's degree in counseling/student personnel from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. He earned his doctorate in educational leadership from Georgia Southern.

He started his career in admissions and enrollment coordinating minority recruitment efforts before leading student diversity efforts at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and then transitioning to a similar role at Georgia Southern University.

Over the next several years, Lewis served in senior leadership roles at Georgia Southern, Indiana University Northwest and the former Armstrong State University. He was serving as Georgia Southern's vice president for student affairs when he became interim president of AMSC in 2019.

Dr. Georj L. Lewis currently serves as the sixth president of Clayton State University. He brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his role. With 30 years in higher education, he has held diverse leadership positions, focusing on student diversity, professional development, and community engagement. President Lewis is a recipient of numerous awards and honors, reflecting his commitment to excellence. Among awards, Lewis was most recently recognized as a 2021 Pillar of the Profession by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. He is also a recipient of the Paragon Award for New Presidents by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. While at AMSC, Lewis conducted an in-depth examination of its enrollment process resulting in a more efficient and seamless experience for students.

He is actively involved in the metro Atlanta community and is a proud member of various organizations. He also worked to enhance and strengthen partnerships with metro Atlanta educational leaders to support student access to higher education. President Lewis' journey is inspired by his family and mentors, and he is grateful for the support of his wife, Anchelle, and their children and grandchildren.



the Investiture Ceremony

PROCESSIONAL*

Hall Hopson, *Processional in C*

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Star-Spangled Banner text by Francis Scott Key (1779-1843),
music by John Stafford Smith (1750-1836)

Kayla Hart, soprano

Dr. Sean Vogt, organ

MUSICAL SELECTION

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom by Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975)

Antonia Hardin, mezzo-soprano

Dr. Sean Vogt, organ

OPENING PRAYER

Dr. Wesley E. Greene, Sr.

GREETINGS

Governor

Brian Kemp

Georgia House Representative

Yasmin Neal

USG Presidents Representative

Dr. Stuart Rayfield

President of Columbus State University

Faculty Senate Chair

Dr. Michael Lindsay

Associate Professor of English and African American Studies

Staff Council President

Spenser Emerson, M.Ed.

Associate Director of Laker Life

Clayton State University Alumni Board Chair

Joseph Echols

Dual Enrollment Director, Technical College System of Georgia

University System of Georgia Board of Regents

Regent Cade Joiner

University System of Georgia Board Member

Clayton State University Foundation Board Chair

Tom Bowen

DeKalb County School System Attorney and CPA

Student Government Association President

Leon Tuazama

Clayton State University Student

Friends Representative

Dr. Michael J. Barnes

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Romesa Davis

Assistant Professor and Director of Field Experiences

CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS

Dr. Sonny Perdue

Chancellor, University System of Georgia

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr. Georj L. Lewis

President

CLOSING PRAYER

Keith Horton

President/CEO of Christian City

RECESSIONAL

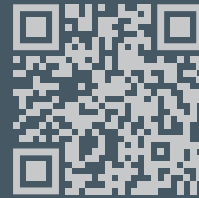
Daniel Gawthrop, *Toccata Brevis*

TODAY FOR TOMORROW

CREATED BY THE FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FILM, COMMUNICATION, AND PERFORMING ARTS



Armed with his superpower of creative intelligence, Dr. Georj Lewis arrives at Clayton State University on a quest that he must complete. He has the knowledge of what he must do but needs the tools and help from others to make the plan a reality. He looks for the right people to help this plan come to life. He researches people who have experience in "Adaptability, Collaboration, Excellence, and Integrity" and he calls his team "champions". With his creative thinking he will get himself out of sticky situations. He truly believes this plan will work and puts his entire being into making sure the project is approved.



scan to watch movie

PRODUCER & DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Dr. Shawn Bulloch,
Senior Lecturer of Film Production

PRODUCER & POST-PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

Mr. Jonathan Harris,
*Professor of Film & Chair of Film,
Communication, & Performing Arts*

STARRING

Ayanni Merritt

SCREENWRITING

Nancy Carmona-Lopez

CAMERA DEPARTMENT

Marcus Ford
Robin Pearsall
Brian Rosser
Khalil Shipman

AUDIO DEPARTMENT

Kayla Goulbourne
Malcolm Jackson McGhee

EDITING & VISUAL EFFECTS

Steven Jackson

THE PROCESSIONAL PARTY

Atlanta Metropolitan State College

Augusta University

Clayton State University

East Georgia State College

Fort Valley State University

Georgia General Assembly

Georgia Gwinnett College

Georgia Highlands College

Georgia House of Representatives

Georgia Institute of Technology

Georgia Southern University

Georgia Southwestern State University

Georgia State University

Gordon State College

Middle Georgia State University

Morris Brown College

SACSCOC

Savannah State University

South Georgia State College

University of North Carolina

Valdosta State University

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Kandis Webb, *Secretary*

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Committee Chair

Cephas Archie

Nicholas Bennett

Penelope Cliff

Darren Thomas

Montrese Adger-Fuller

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Terri-Taylor Hambrick

Jonathan Harris

Bridgette McDonald

Scott McElroy

Kurt-Alexander Russell

Jill Shuffler

Thomas Stein

Reginald Turner

CLOSING WORDS

from the President

Thank you for attending today's investiture ceremony. I am honored to serve as the sixth president of Clayton State University. Through 55 years of educating students, we have transformed from a junior college established in 1969 into a state university offering associates, bachelor's, and master's degrees. We have a vibrant campus community, and our faculty, staff and students are fully engaged in the advancement of the entire southern crescent of Atlanta.

At Clayton State one of the things that we value is people. We want to be the best place for our students to learn and for our faculty and staff to work. Our mission involves transforming lives through teaching, scholarship, and service. I hope your attendance today has helped you experience some of that positive transformation.

As some of you may know, we recently launched our Strategic Plan for 2024-2027, titled "Transforming Today for Tomorrow." This plan will guide us in reaching our goals and initiatives, focusing on enhancing student success while promoting upward social mobility. We've identified four priority areas of focus in our plan:

- Building academic and career pathways
- Driving student success and social mobility
- Growing enrollment
- Increasing community and corporate engagement

The foundation of our success lies in our dedicated faculty and staff, who foster a healthy and safe environment for our students to thrive. Without students, there is no university! Go Lakers!

Dr. Georj L. Lewis
President



the President's Innovation Fund

This fund equips President Lewis with the resources to implement newly identified strategic opportunities that enhance our students' experiences, grow the impact of our faculty and programs, and partner more effectively with our broader community.



CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY *Traditions*

Lakers take care of one another. We build each other up, and we never stop rooting for success. Whether cheering at the Homecoming game or studying in a group near one of our six lakes, our most treasured traditions are about coming together.

SIX LOVELY LAKES, TWO FRIENDLY LAKE MONSTERS

OUR LAKES

Since the late 1960s when construction first began on Clayton State, our six lovely lakes have been an integral part of the campus. Swan Lake is the central and largest one.

The lakes are peaceful places for our community to study, relax, and enjoy a beautiful Georgia day together. They're also the perfect home for swans, ducks, and, of course, Loch and Nessie, our resident lake monsters and school mascots!

LOCH AND NESSIE

Decked out in Clayton State orange and blue, Loch is Clayton State University's mascot and biggest fan. You can most often find him helping out at student activities and cheering on our sports teams at athletic events.

He's been with us since the 1980s, when he went by Loch the Lucky Laker. In the 2000s, he decided it was time for a makeover—something better suited to Clayton State's indomitable spirit and tenacity. He shortened his name to Loch and became the streamlined, orange-and-blue mascot you'll see today, gracing Clayton State swag, revving up crowds, and giving high fives across campus.

But being such an important figure is a big job, even for our hardworking Loch. During Homecoming of 2016, Loch introduced his new friend Nessie to the Clayton State family. The two of them work together to build up and celebrate Laker spirit.

THE LUCKY BENT TREE SCULPTURE

Clayton State students who need some luck know where to go on campus—the Bent Tree sculpture near James M. Baker University Center. Legend has it all you have to do is touch it, and good luck will head your way!

What makes the sculpture so special? It pays respect to a beloved tree with a prominent bend in its trunk that once stood at the center of campus. When the tree had to be removed, a group of Clayton State community members named the Bent Tree Society commissioned a resin mold of the tree and had a memorial built.

Just like the original tree, the Bent Tree sculpture is treasured on campus—*The Bent Tree* is even the name of the student newspaper—and a shining symbol of Clayton State unity.





Detail of University Center Mural by Athos Menaboni

THE UNIVERSITY CENTER MURAL

With our lakes and wooded, park-like campus, celebrating Georgia's natural beauty has always been important at Clayton State. We are proud to continue that tradition with the exhibition of a sweeping, 648-square-foot mural of the Georgia countryside by acclaimed artist Athos Menaboni, in James M. Baker University Center.

The mural was originally painted for the Citizens and Southern National Bank in 1951 and was the second largest mural in Atlanta at the time after the Cyclorama. Moving from Italy to

Atlanta in 1927, Menaboni became popular for his paintings showing the splendor of the outdoors. His work can be found in homes and business throughout the city.

By 2011, the bank building had become dilapidated, so the mural was removed. Now, it is on display at Clayton State, where our students, alumni, faculty, and staff can gather to share in Menaboni's homage to Georgia's breathtaking scenery.

OUR RESIDENT SWANS

Two special resident calls our peaceful, park-like campus home; Sol and Luna were recently joined our Laker family. You will see them gliding through the still waters of the lakes or strolling amongst the towering pines and walkways on campus.



Over the years, many swans have lived on campus, adding to the picturesque grace of our grounds. Our first pair, Rhett and Scarlet, were donated by Assistant Professor Barbara G. King in 1995. Since then, these beautiful birds have become a staple of the campus community.

A DAY OF GIVING

Supporting dreams and shaping them into realities—that's what our Day of Giving is all about. One day each year, we host our #Give4Dreams fundraising event, encouraging people to donate to Clayton State. Whether you choose to give to one of our in-need projects or another area of the university, your gift will help provide the resources and facilities necessary to make dreams real.

HOMECOMING WEEK

Every year, alumni, students, and parents come together for a weeklong celebration of Laker spirit and pride. We put on our Clayton State orange and blue, and spend the week with one another, attending shows, tailgating, and going to games and award ceremonies.

Originally called Fall Frolics, Homecoming at Clayton State has taken many forms over the years, hosting all kinds of events, from talent shows to parades to soccer matches. Today, we hold Homecoming in the spring, during basketball season.

SPIVEY HALL PRESENTS

A dream made real in and of itself, Spivey Hall is a testament to the power of giving and dedication. Our world-renowned performing arts venue was the project of prominent Atlanta citizens Emilie and Walter Spivey, who dreamt of bringing music from all over the world to Atlanta. They succeeded.

Spivey Hall opened its doors on the Clayton State campus in 1991 and now hosts a world-renowned concert series that features jazz and classical music artists. Musicians and music lovers alike come to enjoy its outstanding acoustics and stunning 4,413-pipe organ.



OUR *Former Presidents*



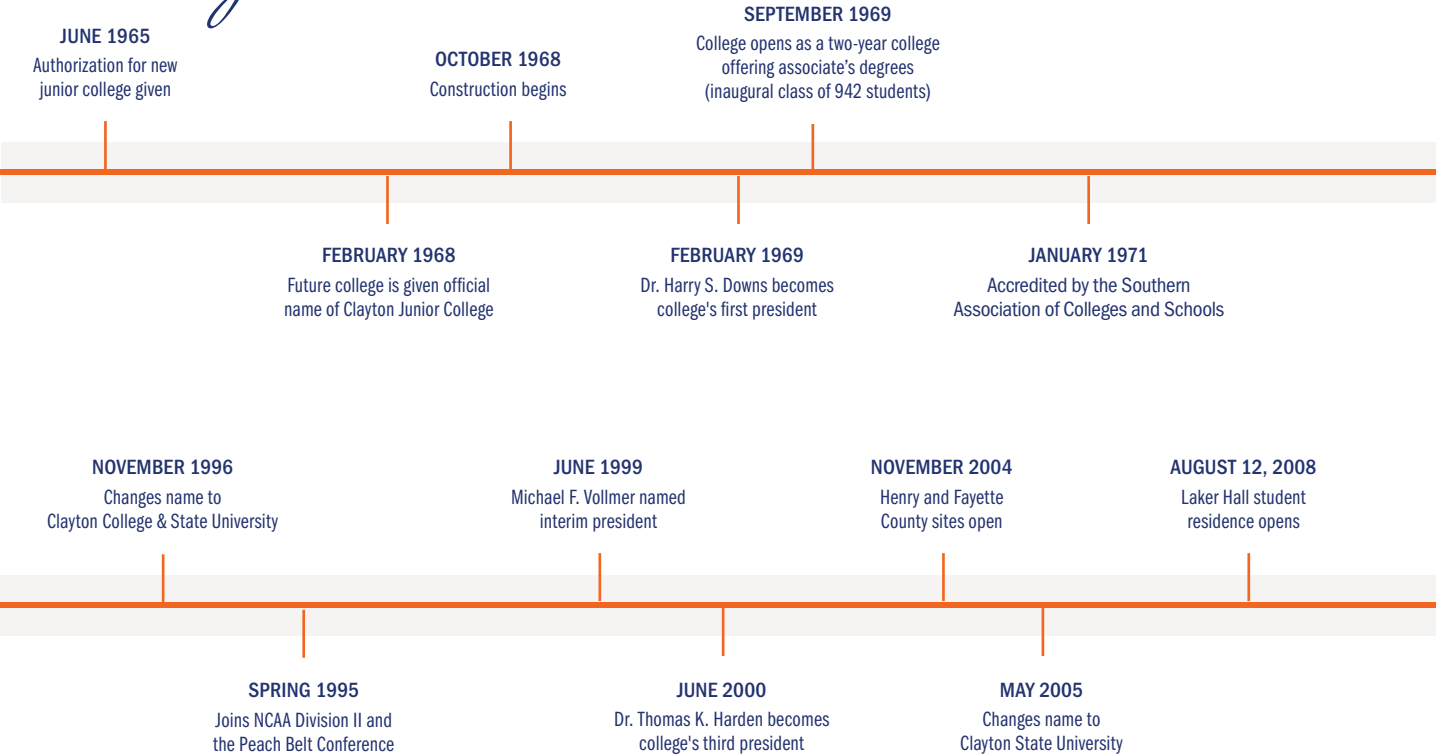
Dr. Harry S. Downs
1969-1994



Dr. Richard A. Skinner
1994-1999

OUR *History*

13





Dr. Thomas K. Harden
2000-2009



Dr. Thomas J. (Tim) Hynes, Jr.
2009-2021



Dr. T. Ramon Stuart
2021

SEPTEMBER 1979
Library building opens

JULY 1, 1986
Changes name to
Clayton State College

JANUARY 23, 1991
Spivey Hall's holds
first concert

14

JULY 1, 1986
Becomes a four-year university, offering
both associate's and bachelor's degrees

NOVEMBER 1990
Enter first intercollegiate
athletic competition

JANUARY 1994
Dr. Richard A. Skinner becomes
college's second president

FEBRUARY 9, 2010
Dr. Thomas J. (Tim) Hynes, Jr. becomes
fourth university president

APRIL 1, 2022
Kerry Heyward serves as
interim president

MAY 18, 2009
Dr. Thomas Hynes joins Clayton
State as interim president

JULY 1, 2021
Dr. T. Ramon Stuart become
the fifth president

FEBRUARY 1, 2023
Dr. Georj L. Lewis became the sixth
president of Clayton State University

CLAYTON STATE ALMA MATER
“WALKING IN LOVE AND STRENGTH”

Our alma mater is inspired by the ceaseless spirit of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, and the lifelong community you gain when you come here. It is written by our own Dr. Brigitte Byrd, with music by Dr. Richard Bell.

Walking through your majestic pines, We embrace your simple splendor,
Our hearts and spirits full of hope, Our minds wide open and ready.
O our dear alma mater, You give us love and strength.

Walking by your beautiful lake, We find a new community Of people from all nations
All joined as one in learning. O our dear alma mater, You give us love and strength.

Walking proudly among our peers, We wear your colors true.
Now shaped and prepared by Clayton State, We are ready for our future.
O our dear alma mater, You give us love and strength.

Walking through our unfolding lives, We take you on the path,
Knowing that the years will change us And your standard will remain.
O our dear alma mater, You give us love and strength.

The logo for Clayton State University, featuring the words "CLAYTON STATE UNIVERSITY" in white, serif, all-caps font, centered within a dark blue square.

CLAYTON
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Individuals requiring disability-related accommodations for participation in any Clayton State University sponsored event or program may contact Disability Services at (678) 466-5445 or DisabilityResourceCenter@clayton.edu