

A Commitment To Learning And Service

The Inauguration of Dr. Thomas J. Hynes, Jr., As Clayton State's Fourth President

Dr. Thomas J. "Tim" Hynes, Jr., was formally inaugurated as Clayton State University's fourth president during the period, Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2010. In keeping with Hynes' devotion to the causes of education and public service, the theme of the inauguration was, "A Commitment to Learning and Service." This Special Edition of Campus Review is an attempt to capture the events of those historic three days.

Of course, the most important event of, "A Commitment to Learning and Service" was the Investiture Ceremony on Friday, Oct. 1, in the University's Athletics & Fitness Center. The Investiture was then followed by a picnic and ice cream social on the green by Swan Lake – a perfect venue on what was a perfect day for an outdoor event.

The inauguration events started on Thursday, Sept. 30, when the Clayton State Department of Visual and Performing Arts held a special showcase of their multi-faceted talents in Spivey Hall. Following the VPA Showcase, an Academic Conference was held in the Music Education Building and the Harry S. Downs Center. Starting with lunch and a poster session, the Academic Conference included two breakout sessions with presentations by Clayton State faculty and students. On Thursday evening, a by-invitation-only inaugural reception honoring President Hynes was held in the ballroom of the Student Activities Center (SAC) by the Board of Trustees of the Clayton State University Foundation.

The day after the investiture, Saturday, Oct. 2, saw the University's College of Health sponsoring a community health fair as part of the "A Commitment to Learning and Service" theme. Both of the college's health care provider services – the Dental Hygiene Clinic and University Health Services — were involved in the day's activities. The Department of Dental Hygiene provided oral health screenings in the Dental Hygiene Clinic, and University Health Services (UHS) offered a free Heart-Saver CPR course for members of the community. In addition, UHS, with the help of the School of Nursing faculty and students, also offered free cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screenings in the SAC. Flu shots were also available during the Health Fair.

At the same time the Health Fair was going on, the Clayton State University Department of Campus Life sponsored a day of community service, entitled "Clayton State Cares." The first Clayton State Cares Day featured volunteer service projects for Clayton State students, faculty, staff, administrators, and their families at six locations in the Southern Crescent. All six service projects ran from 9 a.m. to noon and were followed by a cookout for the volunteers on the green at the SAC.

The six service projects were...

- Helping the City of Forest Park turn a vacant lot into a community garden.
- Volunteers spreading mulch, planting flowers and doing basic equipment maintenance at the Lake City Park Playground and the Run Creek Playground.
- Volunteers serving at the Lafayette Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fayetteville.
- Volunteers also served at the Clayton County Humane Society, with set-up and marking sale items for the Treasures for Paws yard sale fundraiser to be held at Jonesboro High School.
- Clayton Staters also helped with set-up and registration for the Second Annual Ride to Break the Cycle Motorcycle Ride in Henry County.





Thursday, September 30

Performing, Posters, Academia And a Night of Celebration

"A Commitment to Learning and Service" started off with the Department of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) Faculty Showcase in Spivey Hall. And those in attendance learned... that there's a remarkable collection of artistic talent in VPA. Supernal singers like Director of Opera and Vocal Studies Kurt-Alexander Zeller, Assistant Professor of Voice Christina Howell, and Director of Choral Activities Shaun Amos (who afterwards modestly, though incorrectly, denied great accomplishment as a baritone). Marvelous musicians like Director of Bands Patrick Carney, Director of Music Education and Percussion Studies Kristin Lyman, Department Chair Susan Tusing, Director of Keyboard Studies Michiko Otaki, and Staff Accompanist Alexander Benford. (And that's without even mentioning alumnus Seth Davis.) Plus, a visionary visual artist... Alan Xie. And multi-faceted theatre talents like Shontelle Thrash and Phillip DePoy, who brought down the house with his dramatic realization, "Dr. Jazz," who is guaranteed to fix the blues, should the president ever suffer from that affliction ("Hello Central, get me Doctor Jazz, he's got what I need, I'll say he has.") Accompanying DePoy were dancer (doing the Charleston, yet) and Clayton State student Chelisa Williams ("Stolen from West Georgia, just like Dr. Hynes," says DePoy.), Davis, and violinist Scott DePoy, the theatre director's brother.

Following the Showcase, the inaugural events moved to the Music Education Building, for a series of poster presentations covering a wide range of topics, including displays by the University's Math Club and the Wi2STEM organization. Along with the science and math presentations, Health and Fitness Management, Communications and Media Studies, and History also had posters on display. Taking part in the displays were faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, including MALS student Barbara James, the first CRSA Scholarship recipient, whose presentation on Wesleyan College's Women Reformers drew a large audience.

Following the poster presentations, the concurrent conference sessions focused on such topics as Incorporating Service Learning into the Curriculum, Advocacy as Community Service, Bridging the Gap the Between the Classroom and the Workplace, and Leadership: Savior to Servant. In addition, some of the academic subjects included Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Christopher Kodani talking about his work with the Georgia Adopt-a-Stream program and Associate Professor of History Dr. Kathryn Kemp speaking on Lucy Huie and the desegregation of the Clayton County schools.

The day concluded with a reception in the SAC ballroom for Clayton State's fourth president, his family, friends, colleagues and many well-wishers. In addition to an excellent dinner contributed by Sodexho, the evening featured a wide variety of gifts for the president, including the Deans' Council's plan to plant a tree in Hynes' honor (and a miniature tree to represent same), a commemorative brick from the Alumni Association, a Clayton State cross country uniform from Athletic Director Mason Barfield (who, at the same time, was checking by cell phone with the NCAA to see if the president had any athletic eligibility remaining), and a marvelous framed original oil painting by Xie, representing the inaugural theme, that was given to both the president and his mother, Anne Hynes.

"I'm honored to be a part of this institution," said President Hynes.





Friday, October 1

Hynes' Inaugural Address Sets Out Three General Premises to Guide Clayton State

Dr. Thomas J. "Tim" Hynes, Jr., has three general premises he expects to guide Clayton State University over the coming years.

Speaking on Friday, Oct. 1, at his inauguration as Clayton State's fourth president, Hynes indicated that the University would be guided by the premises of education, developing partnerships, and adapting to change. Following the investiture ceremony, Hynes joined the 500 attendees at a picnic and ice cream social on the green by Swan Lake.

"We are in the business of educating citizens," he stated as his first premise, noting that there are three components to educating citizens... preparing students to succeed in the economic conditions in which they live, that citizens must be prepared to face a diverse culture, and that the University needs to provide students with the chance to engage a broader community in their learning.

Hynes' second premise was that Clayton State must be in the business of developing and nurturing partners; including across the Clayton State campus, with secondary education, with business and civic leaders, and with potential funding partners.

Hynes' third premise was that there must be an adaptation to change and the framing of choices.

"We must frame choices strategically and learn the challenge of choices," he said. "We must reflect on how we best address demands... all in a context of a commitment to learning in a condition of transparency."

Hynes officially began his tenure at Clayton State as interim president on May 18, 2009. On Feb. 9, 2010, he received permanent appointment as president of Clayton State. He had previously held the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs and professor of Mass Communications at the University of West Georgia for all but two years since 1996.

During the inauguration ceremony, he echoed what representatives of the Clayton State Foundation, the Clayton State Alumni Association, the faculty, staff, and students, had all agreed upon in their earlier presentation of greetings to the president... that Clayton State and its new president are a perfect fit.

"I've found the best job I could imagine," said Hynes in closing his remarks.

The formal investiture ceremony was presided over by USG Chancellor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., who, along with USG Board of Regents Chair Willis Potts, presented Hynes with the medallion symbolic of the presidential office.

"Let me state, on behalf of the Board of Regents, that we truly believe and have faith in Dr. Hynes, as we place the future of this valuable institution in his hands," commented Potts in his remarks.

Davis noted in his address that Hynes is committed and passionate about ensuring that Clayton State continues to grow and serve the community, the state and the students.

"Clayton State has been placed in your trust and care," said Davis just prior to his charge to Hynes. "I charge you to preside with firmness, and fairness, but always with humaneness, over the affairs of Clayton State University... I charge you to maintain and to defend at this institution a climate that encourages the search for truth and an expansion of the limits of knowledge.

"Dr. Hynes, do you accept these charges?"

"I absolutely do," responded Clayton State's fourth president.









Saturday, October 2

A Saturday of Service

Last, but certainly not least, was the service component of, "A Commitment to Learning and Service."

From 9 a.m. to noon on the Clayton State campus, the College of Health sponsored two free community events; the Dental Hygiene Clinic provided free first appointments (i.e., oral health screenings) and radiographs (x-rays) to the public while, over in the Student Activities Center, University Health Services and the School of Nursing combined on a free Health Fair. Off-campus, the Department of Campus Life sponsored a day of community service, entitled "Clayton State Cares."

Although not usually open on Saturdays, the Dental Hygiene Clinic boasted a full house, including both patients and faculty – the latter led by Department Chair Dr. Susan Duley. Highlighting the Health Fair was a free Heart-Saver CPR course, featuring both video and hands-on instruction. The Health Fair also featured blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol testing, flu shots, and a dental hygiene display.

Clayton State Cares featured volunteer service projects for Clayton State students, faculty, staff, administrators, and their families at six locations in the Southern Crescent:

- The Clayton County Humane Society, where volunteers helped set-up and mark sale items for the Treasures for Paws yard sale fundraiser at Jonesboro High School.
- Helping the City of Forest Park turn a vacant lot located off Ash Street into a community garden named after community member Willie Finch. The volunteers prepared the land and planted the vegetables.
- Volunteers from the basketball and cross country teams were spreading mulch, planting flowers and doing basic equipment maintenance at the Lake City Park Playground and the Run Creek Playground.
- Clayton Staters also helped with set-up and registration for the Second Annual Ride to Break the Cycle Motorcycle Ride in Henry County.
- In Fayette County, a group of volunteers, led by student Kisha Barnes and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Elaine Manglitz, served at the Lafayette Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fayetteville. According to Barnes, volunteering was a life-changing experience.

"I think the volunteers enjoyed the interaction just as much as the residents," she says. "I think everyone there experienced, and appreciated, the elderly in a different light. These were people who had been through real life experiences and were living to share them. Who doesn't want to be listened to and know that they are cared about? No one.

"Just playing bingo, actively listening and interacting with the seniors lifted their spirits."

"I was also touched by the residents' spirit and love of life," adds Manglitz.

The service projects ran from approximately 8 a.m. to noon. Afterwards, the volunteers returned to the Student Activities Center for a cookout on the Green from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Among those attending the cookout was President Hynes, who took advantage of the opportunity to thank the volunteers for their service.









