

NEWS



**SPJ BEST ALL AROUND  
NON-DAILY NEWSPAPER**  
WINNER: 2004 2016

**The Yellow Jacket**

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**THANK YOU**

*I would like to thank the following people for their help in digitizing photos and articles for this special edition. Without their invaluable assistance, this could never have been accomplished. I thank Haley Rhine, Yumin "Melissa" Lee, Rebekah Vaughan, Tim Durkin, Kristine Schiffbauer, Laura Lawrence and President Lee.*

-Micah Leith, Executive Editor

**IN HIS WORDS**

**Thyreen's address in honor of chapel building completion**

*Editors note: The following is a verbatim excerpt from Chancellor Thyreen's chapel address from March 29, 2011, after the steeple was lifted to the top of the chapel. This address was provided by his widow, Dr. Carolyn Thyreen.*

mighty acts to the next generation. We have been witnesses to a transformation that has taken place on this campus—not only in the physical environment but in the reawakening of a vibrant and enthusiastic spirit that seeks to honor God in all things.

Good morning. It is good to come together as a community to share some thoughts with you.

We are that city on the hill that sheds God's light for all to see. Now, with the Cross lifted to the highest ground and reaching into the sky 120 feet, we declare the overwhelming sense of presence of God on this campus. And, the community around us has taken notice!

We have entered an incredible and significant moment in our history. If you were on campus on Thursday, March 17, then you were a witness to a significant event, that is, the raising of the Steeple and the Cross for the Roberts Chapel.

What does this really mean? It means a renewed dedication to all that has made Waynesburg great, that is, the pursuit of academic excellence through scholarship; the preparation of leaders who will be equipped to serve in the global community of the 22nd century; and, the reinforcement within our students to live purposeful lives through service to God and to human kind. Our faith must be demonstrated through our commitment to bringing the message of the Cross to every person, in every situation that we find ourselves: the message of love, peace, hope, salvation, and redemption.

Last Tuesday, Rev. Dr. Stu Broberg in his Charter Day address talked about the spiritual seeds that were planted 161 years ago when this college was chartered. God's Spirit was at work in the lives of His people at the beginning of our history, and has been faithful through the years to keep His Spirit alive in the hearts of many courageous and faithful men and women.

In the scriptures read this morning, we hear how important it is for each generation of God's people to praise God's works and declare His

**ABOUT OP/EDS**

Editorials marked as such represent the views of the Yellow Jacket. Letters from readers, columns, cartoons and other elements on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the position of this newspaper and university.

**NEWSPAPER POLICY**

The Yellow Jacket is the student-operated newspaper of Waynesburg University funded by student fees and advertisements and is intended for the entire college community. The Yellow Jacket is produced by the student staff on a weekly basis during the academic year. The office of the Yellow Jacket is located in room 400 of Buhl Hall. It is the right of the Yellow Jacket to print all material deemed newsworthy and gathered in a fair and unconditional manner. No advance copies of stories will be shown, and reporters' notes are considered confidential. No "off the record" information will be accepted.

**ADVERTISING POLICY**

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Yellow Jacket should email the advertising director at jacketads@waynesburg.edu. Ads must be submitted by the Monday before publication date and not conflict with the university mission.

**Dr. Stratton remembers Thyreen**

BY DR. LAWRENCE STRATTON

Chancellor Timothy R. Thyreen was a passionate educator whose educational vision for an academic institution predicated upon the grace and truth of Jesus Christ was inspiring. Just as Old Testament Judean King Josiah rediscovered the scrolls and rebuilt Jerusalem, President Thyreen rebuilt Waynesburg University on its founding Christian mission. The Stover Scholars cherished his annual Christmas Dinner messages about leadership which were always enlivened with examples from both his tenure and Waynesburg University's history. He would often recount the courage of Waynesburg alumnus Judge John Knox of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York who testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee against President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Supreme Court packing plan after the Supreme Court struck down major parts of the New Deal as being unconstitutional. Knox's testimony against the Roosevelt packing plan and in favor of the U.S. Constitution's structurally independent judiciary turned the political tide. But his courage cost Judge Knox his close friendship with Roosevelt and the prospects of his own potential elevation

to the High Court. Chancellor Thyreen wanted Waynesburg students and alumni to always do the right thing without regard to the consequences! He also wanted students to appreciate the Christian principles undergirding the U.S. Constitution and live them out.

Chancellor Thyreen taught me how to shoot a shotgun and gave me pointers about playing golf, among many other insights about life, ethics, and politics. Whenever he gave me insights, I invariably thought about his success teaching countless others over the years---as the President, administrator, professor, and football coach--with his clear instructions and commanding passion. He had a unique spark that made his listeners recognize and believe that there was nothing more important as he inspired his students toward greater excellence.

Each year he and Dr. Thyreen would host a dinner with the incoming class of Stover Scholars. One year he served Walleye, which he had caught on his fishing boat in Lake Erie. The deep interest he and Dr. Thyreen demonstrated for these students, like all Waynesburg University students, underscored his commitment to nurturing students throughout their academic pilgrimages and beyond.

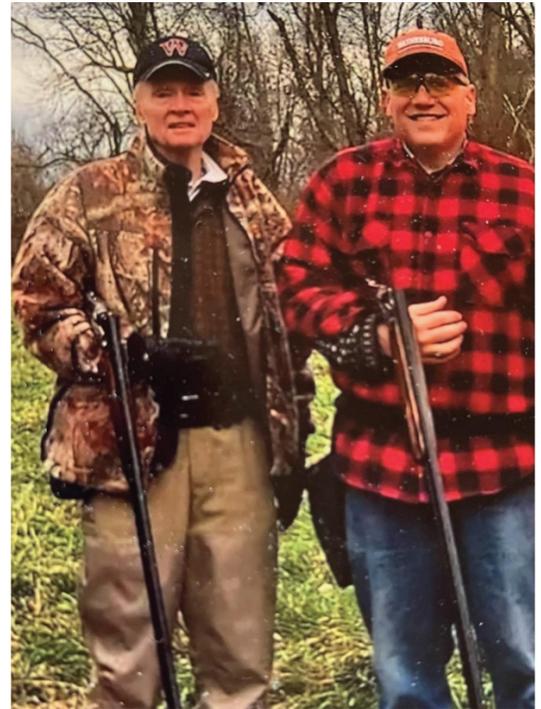


Photo Courtesy Dr. Carolyn Thyreen  
**President Timothy Thyreen, left, and Dr. Larry Stratton, right, at the Thyreens' farm**

Chancellor Thyreen's actions expressed his profound belief that the most important aspect of Waynesburg University is its mission of bearing witness to the Gospel of Jesus throughout its endeavors. In London's St. Paul's Cathedral, on the tomb of cathedral architect Christopher Wren is the statement, "If you would seek my monument, look around you." If you looked around while standing at the center of Waynesburg University's

Johnson Commons in the shadow of Roberts Chapel, the Stover Center, and other buildings, the same can be said of Chancellor Thyreen, especially as vibrant students are joyfully engaged in activities: "If you would seek Chancellor Thyreen's monument, look around you." Even more significantly, Chancellor Thyreen's monument is the living faith of Waynesburg's students, administrators, faculty, and alumni which is truly "transforming the polis."

**What Thyreen's legacy means to a journalist covering his passing**

MICAH LEITH  
Executive Editor

When I wrote the main, front-page story covering the Chancellor's death, life and legacy, I strove to keep my personal opinions out of it. I wanted the facts and the sources to tell the story of his life, one that I am certainly not qualified to tell on my own.

During the process of writing that story and putting together this special edition, I was fortunate to interview key witnesses to his life in the weeks immediately following his passing, and I was given access to more information than I could have ever asked for or expected to receive.

At the same time, I got extremely close to the story. I firmly believe that reporters can and should form opinions about the material they cover, that often journalists have more information about a story or issue than anyone else, and the opinion they form is oftentimes more informed and complex than that of anyone else. At the same time, it is crucial that reporters keep that opinion out of their hard news coverage while being transparent about that opinion and bias in other mediums. This editorial is my attempt at just that.

I wanted to share my opinion as both a supplement to the hard news coverage as well as a way to show the campus just how important the chancellor was.

I never got the opportunity to meet the Chancellor, so I cannot, and should not, attempt to speak about his personal character. I gladly leave that up to his widow, Dr. Carolyn Thyreen; their family; President Lee and the many, many people who did know him personally and speak so

highly of his faith, of his commitment, and his capacity to love.

Nor am I capable of speaking about the theological implications of Waynesburg's return to its founding mission. In the process of putting this special edition together, I had the opportunity to hear from many people who are capable of a deep understanding of the spiritual impact that the Chancellor's work carried, and yet, that is just not something that I am able to fully grasp and fully appreciate.

Rather, I am able to offer a perspective similar to that of other students who have enrolled here over the past decade, and those who will enroll here for decades, if not centuries, to come. Students like myself were not here for the struggles, the hard times, or the blood, sweat and tears shed during the Thyreens' fight to make the university what it is today. Instead, we are fortunate enough to reap the benefits of their struggle: a comprehensive education that doesn't just give information, but rather puts it into the context of being a good citizen, living a life of virtue and meaning, and finding one's calling.

The quality of that education has steadily made itself more and more apparent during my four years at this school. During my time here, I have become a person that is more grounded, stronger in virtue, and dedicated to a calling that gives me meaning and fulfillment. Further, I can point to specific programs, changes and hires that the Chancellor himself made.

Of course, the department of communications ranks has been one of the most influential for me. During his time as president, Chancellor Thyreen

poured resources, time and effort into the department, setting the stage and laying the foundation for the top-notch education and experience that I have been so fortunate to experience.

The chancellor's legacy has deeply affected me in other ways, as well. I have met some of the closest friends of my life in buildings like the Stover Campus Center and the Center for Education and Research, buildings that were erected because of his leadership. I have shared life stories and gained invaluable wisdom during meals with friends, faculty and mentors in the Benedum dining hall, which he worked to renovate and expand. In so many ways, the work that he did as president is woven throughout the fabric of my life, even though I never met the man.

Ultimately, however, the return to the mission of Waynesburg's founding is the single biggest impact the chancellor had on my life. I am extremely lucky and blessed to have found myself in a place

like Waynesburg, where the focus is on becoming not just an excellent scholar and a dedicated worker, but rather becoming a cultured, well-rounded person capable of leading others. I firmly believe in the transformative nature of that mission, and the entire world is able to see the fruits of that effort in the Waynesburg alumni who work in Congress, practice law, lead companies and provide a shining example of what proper education and training can accomplish.

As I said, I never had the opportunity to meet Chancellor Thyreen, and yet, I sorely feel his absence on campus. Further, I have been privileged to speak with and get to know many who were close to him. Although the campus has lost a wonderful source of wisdom and leadership, I have been blessed with deep, thought-provoking discussions and interviews with people who stood close by him, and I am fortunate to have gained that perspective as a student.

Waynesburg has truly lost a giant.



Photo courtesy of President's office  
**President Thyreen's legacy will be felt by students for years to come**

