

Thyreen named University Chancellor

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Waynesburg University President Timothy Thyreen's accolades include the application for and reception of university status for the school, increasing the number of majors offered from 30 to 80 and revamping the campus' physical appearance.

Despite a long list of impressive achievements, President Thyreen - who announced Monday that he will be passing the mantle of Presidency along to a successor in July to assume the position of University Chancellor - considers his greatest accomplishment something intangible.

"We brought the university back to its founding mission of 1849; I knew in 1990 that would be the most important thing [I did]," said President Thyreen. "I believed that if we did that, a lot of great things would happen, and I think we can say more great things happened than we could've ever dreamed."

President Thyreen began making his dreams for Waynesburg a reality in 1990, when he was selected 14th president of Waynesburg College after serving first as Admissions Director and then Dean of Students. His most ambitious goal was the beautifying of a promising but run-down campus; his first project: the renovation of Miller Hall under the guidance of master planner Carl Johnson.

It took much coaxing to bring Johnson, a renowned architect and master planner, to campus. But once Johnson toured the then-college's grounds and saw the potential in many of its gorgeous buildings, he agreed to work with the president to make the school a pretty place where, as President Thyreen said, a poet would write better poetry because they were here.

Over two decades, Johnson and President Thyreen worked hard to envision a more aesthetic campus and to remodel buildings, cre-



Photo Courtesy of the President's Office

Dr. Douglas G. Lee (left) was named President of the University, effective July 2013. President Timothy Thyreen will assume the role of University Chancellor

ate welcoming commons and add extra housing for the growing student body. Last year, President Thyreen's crowning achievement, Roberts Chapel, was completed and dedicated.

For the president, creating a beautiful learning environment where students feel at home has been an ongoing and rewarding challenge, but President Thyreen has also enjoyed watching students grow into themselves and accomplish great things during their time at Waynesburg.

"[My] most favorite part is to see students take advantage of what a great university we now have, where students get involved," said President Thyreen. "I know if they take advantage of all the things that are offered to them here, that they'll get a very special education. Students have done that, and now it's my hope and prayer that this will continue."

President Thyreen believes that Waynesburg's tradition of excellence will continue under the guidance of now-Executive Vice President Dr. Douglas Lee, who will assume the role of President on July 1 of next year.

The transition from President Thyreen to his successor was, like the remodeling of campus, a much-deliberated and

carefully planned process. In 2001, the Board of Trustees informed the president that it wanted to appoint him University Chancellor after his retirement. In 2006, the board took its first step in the plan of succession when it announced a search for an executive vice president who would one day fill the president's shoes. Lee, a prominent attorney and partner at the Law Firm of Steptoe and Johnson, was voted unanimously into the position.

"The advantage we have with Dr. Lee is that he was chair of the Academic Affairs Committee and the Board of Trustees for eight years, so he brings that experience," said President Thyreen. "The trustees, the faculty on the committee and myself felt that he by far was the best candidate and best prepared to become executive vice president."

Lee has spent the last three years watching and participating in various decision-making processes.

"Have I coached him? Yes, I have, in my sweet, sensitive way," laughed President Thyreen. He and Lee have worked closely on various projects, and President Thyreen believes that Lee is the right man for the job.

"He really has an un-

derstanding of the operations and culture of Waynesburg," said President Thyreen. "The best preparation anyone could have gotten was to be here. Through the three years he's been executive vice president, he's ready to become President."

Lee's succession of President Thyreen is not the end of Thyreen's contribution to the university. As Lee moves into the President's Office, President Thyreen will be busy moving his belongings into the Chancellor's Office in the cred building. President Thyreen will continue to improve Waynesburg by assisting President Lee and the Board in research development,

"It's a position that will allow me to help advance the university, and the university can benefit through all of the connections and all of the friendships [that I've established in] 23 years as President," said President Thyreen.

His continued presence at the university he has dedicated most of his professional life to improving is something that the president said he is excited about. Though he will no longer be the university's President, he is eager to make a difference as Chancellor.

Said President Thyreen, "There's no bitter - I'll say it's just all sweet."

Greene County leaders thankful for Pres. Thyreen

BY ALEX HINTON
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During the 22 years that President Timothy Thyreen has served at Waynesburg University, he has not only largely impacted the university, but he has also made a large impact on the entire community.

Under Thyreen's direction, Waynesburg College became Waynesburg University, a Graduate and Professional Studies program was developed, more than 12 new buildings were added to the campus and 10 additional structures were renovated.

During his presidency, university enrollment has doubled, and the size of the once tiny campus has tripled.

Greene County's community leaders appreciate all of Thyreen's hard work both for the university and the town of Waynesburg.

"President Thyreen's vision for the university when he first became president was one that people thought he couldn't accomplish, but he definitely has accomplished it," Greene County Commissioner Pam Synder said.

"He has been an outstanding president. He has transformed the university into something that everyone can be proud of."

Only July 1, 2013, Douglas Lee, current executive Vice President of the university, will take on the role of

president, and Thyreen will become chancellor of the university.

Snyder believes that the selection of Lee will be beneficial.

"Doug Lee will do an excellent job as the new president," Snyder said.

Borough manager, Bruce Wermlinger is impressed by the large list of Thyreen's accomplishments throughout the past two decades.

"Anybody who's seen what [Thyreen] has done since 1990 has to admire all he's accomplished. He's definitely made a significant difference in the community," Wermlinger said.

"No one will be able to accomplish in the next 20 years what he has accomplished in the last 20."

Under Thyreen's direction, students have strived to help others, both in the community and throughout the world, by completing mission trips and service work.

Under his leadership, the university has also donated police cars and fire equipment to the Waynesburg community, assisted with downtown beautification projects and helped developed a Borough Master Plan.

"I think, in all honesty, he brought the university, town and community closer, which is a good thing," Wermlinger said.



Photo courtesy President's office

Dramatic changes seen during Thyreen's 22-year term

NICK FARRELL
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Norma Harper has seen major changes to campus during her 50 years at Waynesburg. Like, for example, the simple fact that the roofs don't leak when it rains anymore.

"When I was working on my associate's degree, I had class in Madison Hall," said Norma Harper, secretary of Academic Affairs. "When it rained, the professor would put buckets around to catch the rain."

Harper has watched Waynesburg change in countless ways.

As recently as 20 years ago, Waynesburg University was very much in a state of disarray; the buildings didn't match, the faculty lacked proper compensation and the school's mission of faith, learning and serving was often ignored.

Since that time, the university has experienced a complete makeover. Under the supervision of President Timothy R. Thyreen, the beauty, integrity and prestige of Waynesburg University has been enhanced over the past two decades, reaching new heights that it never before approached.

"You can't come back to campus after being gone for 30 years without saying, 'Wow,' said

Jan Teagarden, secretary of English and communication.

Teagarden began her career at Waynesburg in 1976, 14 years before President Thyreen began his tenure at Waynesburg. Teagarden has watched the campus grow and evolve over the 22 years of Thyreen's presidency.

"Everything is much more beautiful, but the students, too, have improved with the buildings... They want an education, and it is important to get that education we are trying to give them."

JAN TEAGARDEN
Secretary of English and Communication

Harper remembers a Waynesburg University that was distinctly different than the one students attend today. When she began studying and working at Waynesburg, many current fixtures of the school hadn't yet been thought of.

Madison Hall was built during World War II but was used as the performing arts building, until the Performing Arts Center replaced it in 1996.

The building, which houses an auditorium and classrooms, was renamed the Goodwin Performing Arts Center in 2007.

The campus' most re-

cent addition is Roberts Chapel, which was dedicated one year ago.

Harper said that she thinks this building is President Thyreen's pride and joy.

"Watching the chapel go up made me anxious to come to work to just watch the construction," said Harper.

According to Harper,

who is stationed in the Academic Affairs office in Miller Hall, the most beautiful aspect of campus is Johnson Commons.

When she was a student, the quad was a parking lot.

Now, it is a campus common area surrounded by gorgeous scenery that changes with each of the seasons.

"I love how beautiful the back campus and quad area is," Harper said.

"I'm glad to see the trees again. The quad is like a park setting"

This newly renovated campus would mean nothing without students who use and enjoy

its abundant resources.

Teagarden said that the mentality of the typical Waynesburg University pupil has changed just as drastically as the physical look of the school.

"When I first started here, it was like 'Animal House' with all the fraternities," Teagarden said.

"Now, students take college a little more seriously than in the 70s and 80s with that 'Animal House' culture."

With all the changes in appearance and culture taken into account, Teagarden said that the students' education is still the highest priority to faculty.

"Everything is much more beautiful, but the students, too, have improved with the buildings," said Teagarden.

"They want an education, and it is important to get that education we are trying to give them."

As Waynesburg University transitions into its next era under the guidance of president-elect Doug Lee, the current executive Vice President of Institutional Development, Harper believes that the school will continue to flourish.

"I hope it [Waynesburg University] continues to grow as it has under President Thyreen," said Harper. "I think it will."

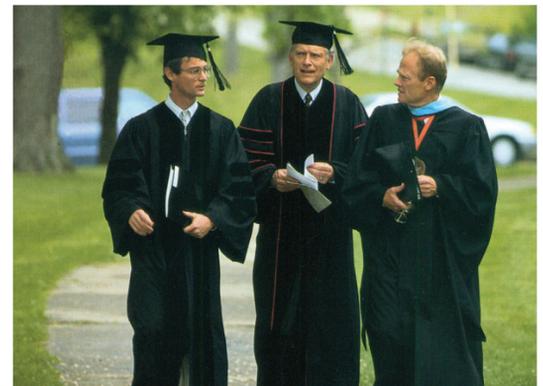


Photo courtesy President's office

Thyreen with Dr. Wayne Meisel and Rev. Dr. Robert W. Cahn



Photo courtesy President's office

Thyreen with cosmonaut Viktor Savinykh and American University in Moscow president Edward Lozansky



Photo courtesy President's office

Thyreen with Mo Scarry and John Wiley