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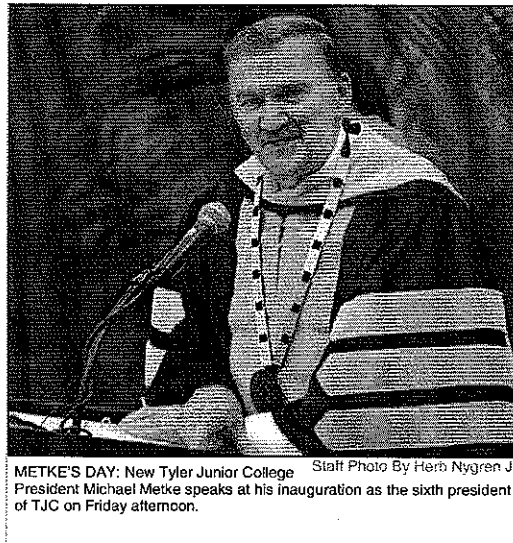
Metke Sworn In As TJC President

By ADAM RUSSELL Staff Writer

Donna Metke wrapped the Chain of Office around her husband's neck to mark the official beginning of Dr. Michael Metke's presidency at Tyler Junior College on Friday afternoon in Wagstaff Gymnasium.

Metke, after a nationwide search, was unanimously selected by the TJC Board of Trustees and began his job in December 2007.

Before the ceremony, Board of Trustees President David Hudson said Metke has already shown outstanding leadership and the board is proud of and confident in the selection it made. The number of former colleagues, dignitaries and friends present for the occasion is a testament to the type of person and leader Metke is, Hudson said.



METKE'S DAY: New Tyler Junior College Staff Photo By Herb Nygren Jr. President Michael Metke speaks at his inauguration as the sixth president of TJC on Friday afternoon.

South Korean Secretary to the President for Labor Policy Dr. Soon Kang and the President of Lake Washington Technical College's Board of Trustees Sang Chae traveled to speak at the ceremony and wish their friend the best at TJC. Chae admitted to an ulterior motive for his visit. He attempted to steal Metke back from the school, he said, and failed.

"There is no finer gentleman than Dr. Metke," he said. "He was a great friend to many of us and a great man for the

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Hudson said the board was pleased to attract a person of Metke's caliber, his experience and track record to Tyler and TJC. He welcomed Metke into the TJC family and challenged him to honor and build on the successes of the past.

Faculty Senate President Shelley Kersh said the new president has already made outstanding contributions to the university by working with faculty members and establishing focus groups that will shape the future of the school. She said the faculty and staff members applaud his vision and leadership.

The audience of 800 students, faculty, staff and family stood and applauded as Metke approached

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the podium to speak.

He thanked the crowd for the reception and all the kind words that preceded him and noted the attendance of family and friends who traveled to be with him. Metke said he was honored and humbled to receive the opportunity to become the institution's sixth president. Four of the previous presidents served for most of the 82-year history of the school and he hoped to be around as long as his predecessors, he said.



Staff Photo By Herb Nygren Jr.

PROCESSION: New President Michael Metke and his wife, Donna, watch as the Tyler Junior College faculty and student organization representatives march into Wagstaff Gym for his inauguration as the sixth president of TJC Friday afternoon.

"I promise to do all that I can and to be the president this institution deserves," he said.

Metke said having an engaged board of trustees with a passion and commitment to improving the college assures him that the partnerships that will be established will take TJC into the future, maintaining and building upon its reputation for excellence.

Metke was born and raised in Wisconsin on a small dairy farm, but has spent 19 years as an educator in Texas at various community and technical colleges. He graduated with honors from college and has worked as a teacher, guidance counselor, police officer and Peace Corps volunteer in Central America. He received his doctorate from the University of Houston. Most recently, Metke served as president of Lake Washington Technical College near Seattle. Metke increased enrollment, expanded international partnerships, added buildings, new campuses and new programs during his tenure at the college.

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I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. - Galatians 2:20

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