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The State News



President Barack Obama, left, joined by his wife Michelle, takes the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts on Tuesday to become the 44th president of the United States at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

ADDRESS

Obama calms fears, excites young people with speech

By Allison Bush
 THE STATE NEWS

Washington — Seeing President Barack Obama deliver his inaugural address was worth everything — the crowds, cold and early morning, education junior Trisha Langlois said.

Obama touched on everything that people are worried about, said John Dowell, professor of WRITAS and charter member of MSU's YouVote organization, including wars, the economy, manufacturing and job loss.

"He identified the mistakes of the past without pointing the fingers or blame, which is something he's very good at doing," Dowell said.

The speech set the stage for the things Obama needs to accomplish, especially the issues with the economy, Langlois said.

"Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again the work of remaking America," Obama said. "For everywhere we look, there is work to be done."

Langlois said a lot of the people she saw in the nation's capital Tuesday were "everyday, middle-class Americans."

"(The address) was what they needed to hear to keep that connection with Obama," she said.

Getting to the swearing-in ceremony wasn't easy, urban and regional planning senior Mark O'Neill said. Several streets were blocked off for the parade route, so to get to the swearing-in everybody had to walk down the same streets.

"We were all walking along the same path ... and I saw all these smiles, people were taking pictures and had these anxious voices," O'Neill said. "I felt like we were literally, not figuratively, walking toward the future — we were walking to see the next president."

O'Neill said that he felt the speech was geared toward the nation's youth.

"He is smart, and certainly smart enough to keep youth engaged and involved," Dowell said.

Speaking to the youth would keep Obama's momentum rolling and prepare him for the next election, O'Neill said.

Obama's speech had a definite undertone that the country needs to work together, Langlois said.

"Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter," Obama said during

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'REMAKING AMERICA'

More inauguration coverage inside ...

International students reflect on what an Obama presidency could mean, page 3A.

Photos from State News photographers in Washington, D.C., page 6A.

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By Kelly House
 THE STATE NEWS

Washington — As of noon Tuesday, the nation is in Barack Obama's hands.

In front of a crowd estimated to exceed one million people, Obama assumed the presidency from George W. Bush and became the first African American president in U.S. history.

But this inauguration was important for more reasons than the racial barriers it broke. Obama was taking power during the longest recession America has experienced since the Great Depression. In his first speech as president, Obama was optimistic but acknowledged the challenges the nation faces.

"They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America. They will be met," he said.

Obama made health care and education reform, ending the

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Rufus Meyers, of Maryland, was one of more than a million people who attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Tuesday at the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

EVENTS

Students across campus observe inauguration

By Justin Harris and Britany Shammis
 THE STATE NEWS

Just because Fletcher Daniels wasn't in Washington, D.C., doesn't mean he wasn't emotionally moved by President Barack Obama's first words as the 44th president.

As the chemistry senior joined about 300 others at the Union Ballroom to watch the historic inauguration, Daniels said he was overwhelmed with emotion.

"What this election means is more than (Obama) being the first black president," Daniels said. "As a black citizen, I feel accepted in government (and) in the U.S."

"The word 'minority' doesn't apply anymore."

From students standing with eyes fixated on television screens in the International Center to tears being shed at the Union, the MSU community gathered to celebrate the first day of a new

presidency.

Between bursts of applause, the crowd in the Union stood in silence as Obama was sworn in at noon.

"The range of emotions went from absolute joy, to deep reflection, laughter to tears," said Paulette Granberry Russell, director of the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, which hosted the event.

Meanwhile, members of the MSU College Democrats convened at Holden Hall to watch the day's events.

Music education and James Madison College freshman Joe Duffy said watching the celebrations was a culmination of the group's hard work throughout the election.

"The campaign was about coming together as a community and working together for a common purpose, and I guess it's just kind of a good way to celebrate our efforts," Duffy said. "It

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Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions assistant Paulla Sandoval tears up while watching the inauguration of President Barack Obama.