



Greetings Tigers!

On a beautiful fall afternoon in November of 1886, Thomas Green Clemson exercised the power of his pen to outline his and Anna's dream to establish a "high seminary of learning" on our beautiful campus. In November of 1889, the South Carolina Legislature approved the plan and officially signed the birth certificate of Clemson College. Clemson University began with an extraordinary vision and continues to grow and improve through the thoughtful and generous actions of our Clemson family. I can imagine Anna and Thomas looking down upon our great University, hearts bursting with pride for the amazing traditions that have been upheld and honored from their single act of philanthropy.



JoVanna J. King
Senior Associate Vice
President for
Development

Legacy Day 2018 was hosted by our students, and during two very special days, we honored those who have given before us and recognized those who give today as well as many others who have made provisions in their estate plan for the future. Please see photos from our Clemson Legacy Society Induction [here](#).

Legacy Month commenced with the Legacy Society Dinner to coincide with the anniversary of the signing of Thomas' Last Will & Testament on November 6, 1886, and members of the Clemson Legacy Society were also invited to add their signatures to the Clemson Legacy Registry, symbolizing the power of their personal philanthropy.



During Legacy Day, students enjoyed tours of the Fort Hill Mansion and a fun scavenger hunt to learn about the history of Fort Hill, the Calhoun family and the Clemson family. Copies of Anna and Thomas' wills were on display, and our students were invited to "leave their mark" by signing a special Clemson print. Legacy Day is a tremendous opportunity for our students to learn the history of our great University, to see the impact of philanthropy and to learn how they can honor our traditions today, tomorrow and forever.

A very special ceremony was conducted under the Second Century Oak at Fort Hill, wherein Homer '52 and Peggy Wyrosdick McConnell, of Kingston, Tennessee were inducted into the Fort Hill Legacy Society. The Homer E. McConnell, Jr. and Peggy W. McConnell Endowed Scholarship supports South Carolina students who demonstrate leadership, character and an ability to succeed. This society is a prestigious group of visionary philanthropists whose generosity leads to a gift of \$1 million or more to the University through their estate plan. Please view the photos of Legacy Day and the Fort Hill Leaf Dedication [here](#) and watch a video [here](#).



Later that evening, we inducted the newest members into our Cumulative Giving Societies at the Gratitude Celebration, which was a wonderful event. You can view photos [here](#). During this celebration, we honor those who have demonstrated their generous and faithful support to the University.



Just as Anna and Thomas believed Clemson was a valuable investment, our third Academic Cornerstone Partner, the Phyfer family, will impact many generations of students in the College of Business. Ben and Cheri have been loyal supporters to Clemson – both academically and athletically – and we are extremely grateful for their outstanding leadership and thoughtful generosity. You can read more about the Phyfer family and their Academic Cornerstone gift [here](#).



Our tradition of philanthropy is among many traditions that we all cherish at Clemson. As a University built upon the dedication of service to our country, we have honored our military heritage this week, culminating with Military Appreciation Day during the Clemson versus Duke game in Death Valley. We honor and appreciate all of the men and women who bravely defend our freedom and gratefully acknowledge the service and sacrifice made by these women and men – including Major David W.E. Black '76.

During summer breaks, David worked in textile mills and at a toy store in addition to securing student loans. And while procuring the finances to pay for college was a daunting task, he credits Clemson and Clemson ROTC with shaping his successful life and career. Major Black is now leaving a legacy at Clemson by creating an endowment that will provide unrestricted support for Clemson's Army and Air Force/ROTC program. The Atlanta resident hopes that the Major David W.E. Black '76 ROTC Endowment will relieve the financial pressure on students and give them the opportunity to enjoy their Clemson experience for everything that it has to offer. A planned gift made this great University possible, and it is with planned gifts – like the one created by Major Black – that Clemson University will continue to grow and thrive. Thank you, Major Black, for making the decision to benefit future generations of Clemson students and for so nobly serving our country. You can read more about Major Black and his endowment [here](#).



I also want to express my heartfelt gratitude for each of you. I am thankful for all of our students, faculty, staff, parents, administrators, alumni and donors who are shaping the future of Clemson University and enhancing the legacy of Thomas Green and Anna Calhoun Clemson.

With your thoughtful support, you are providing a wonderful gift to those of us who will forever carry Clemson in our minds and hearts. Please visit our [website](#), call us at 864-656-0663 or please write to us at giving@clemson.edu if we can be of service to you or your family.

We enjoy hearing from you and encourage you to let us know how we can help you. We invite you to learn more about IRA rollover benefits [here](#) or you may download our free [Wills Guide](#), which has been designed to assist you throughout the gift and estate planning process.

Blessings to each of you and warmest wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Go Tigers!
Gratefully yours,



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