Greetings from Clemson! The energy on campus is electric with students descending on Bowman Field to enjoy the beautiful springtime weather as the semester winds down and our seniors prepare for graduation.

The Clemson ring ceremony is perhaps one of the most memorable and lasting traditions at Clemson, whereas 850 graduates crossed the stage on April 4 at "The Well" to receive their Clemson rings from President Clements. See photos from this year's Ring Ceremony here. Congratulations seniors!

April 6th has always been a very special day for the University. We traditionally acknowledge our founders, Thomas Green Clemson and his wife, Anna Calhoun Clemson, on the anniversary of Mr. Clemson’s death — April 6, 1868. In celebration of their original gift, we launched the first inaugural Give Day initiative. We asked everyone in the Clemson Family to participate, and we were overwhelmed by the response. Together, you demonstrated your love for Clemson by giving more than $933,000 to ensure that the vision of Anna and Thomas Green Clemson will continue for generations to come. To go to the Give Day site to learn more, and please accept our sincere appreciation for your generous response. You made Give Day a huge success!

Clemson’s annual Orange & White game was held before a record-breaking crowd at Memorial Stadium on April 9. One of the highlights of the day was an exciting gift announcement, as Clemson Trustee Mark Richardson and his wife, Kathleen, gave $1 million to create a scholarship fund for the Emerging Scholars program. The Emerging Scholars program makes higher education a reality for students at five underperforming high schools along the South Carolina I-95 corridor. The funds will help ensure that all students accepted into Clemson’s Emerging Scholars program can afford to attend. Read more about the Richardson’s outstanding gift, and see photos and video here.

As part of recommendations from the Task Force on the history of Clemson, the Board of Trustees’ first historical marker groundbreaking took place on Tuesday, April 12. The event signaled the launch of Clemson’s commitment to tell the University’s full history. The marker near McMillan Hall recognizes the 70 to 80 enslaved African-Americans who lived at Fort Hill in 1849. The other side of the marker indicates that a nearby site was later used for a stockade to house convict laborers, most of them African-American, who cleared land and helped build some of the university’s first buildings. Other markers will be erected at Calhoun Bottoms and Woodland Cemetery. These historical markers represent one way Clemson is working to give a more complete and accurate public accounting of its history.

We are so proud of our University for acknowledging our past, celebrating our present and planning for the future for all of our deserving students. Thank you for your loyalty, dedication and steadfast commitment to help us enhance the unique and amazing Clemson Experience for current and future generations of students.

Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you and your family in any way. We also encourage you to consider your legacy at Clemson. Please visit our website, call us at 864-656-0663 or write to us at giving@clemson.edu. You can learn more about IRA rollover benefits here. Please download our free Wise Guide, which has been designed to assist you throughout the gift and estate planning process.

We hope to see you on campus very soon. GO TIGERS!

Gratefully yours,

JoVanka King
Senior Director
Principal Gifts & Gift and Estate Planning

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