Our excitement and gratitude continue as we celebrate the annual fundraising results for the 2017 fiscal year. We had an ambitious goal of $156 million, following the extraordinary success of our Wild Wednesdays campaign, which ended in June. While most universities experience a reduction in gifts immediately following a comprehensive campaign, Clemson proved that we are champions, both on and off the field. Your thoughtful generosity and determined spirit yielded $113 million in academic and athletics. To be successful in every endeavor, we must remain united as "One Clemson," and if we do so, we can accomplish anything. THANK YOU for everything you have done to help us achieve these remarkable results.

People give to Clemson for many reasons, and we love to hear each unique story. A common thread throughout these experiences is that Clemson University builds a very special place in the hearts and minds of so many. This was especially the case for Wayne Ouzts, whose relationship to the university began with his oldest brother's enrollment in 1946. After Wayne's service in the U.S. Army, he enrolled at Clemson and graduated in 1949. He spent a career with AT&T Missile Defense Systems as a lead engineer, developing state of the art communications systems. He established the Ouzts Family Scholarship Endowment, which provides need and merit-based scholarships to deserving students. Wayne has continued to make significant annual investments into his endowment, but his story does not end there. He helped to commemorate his 50th anniversary. Wayne created an ROTC scholarship in memory of a friend the next day during his freshman year. 50+ Dr. Clinton Dallen Alkin, Jr. Thank you, Wayne, for your dedication and amazing generosity throughout. You are making a tremendous difference in the lives of many students.

Please take a moment to read President Clements' blog, where he shares a reflection of the university's many accomplishments for the past year. He recognizes Clemson University’s ongoing national championship win, the completion of our record-setting Will to Lead capital campaign, the exceptional success of our students and the efforts of researchers all over the state. He shares President Clements’ sentiments of appreciation for the hard work that made last year a memorable one for all of us.

We invite you to view a special-in-a-lifetime event at a cost of a kind place on what will be a memorable day. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration is predicting that there will be the best viewing conditions in South Carolina for the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21. We will hope you will be able to join us for our "viewing" party. There will be plenty of rocking, open space, scientific presentations, expert demonstrations and vendors. Clemson will also provide solar glasses to protect viewers eyes from the sun's damaging rays.

Your remarkable support of Clemson, every day, in every way, is a special gift to all of us. Thank you for your words of encouragement, financial contributions and loyalty. We are here to serve you as we wish. Please visit our website, call us at 864-656-8000 or write to us at a giving@getClemson if we can be of service to you or your family in any way.

We enjoy hearing from you and encourage you to let us know how we can help you. Please learn more about the college benefactors here. You may also download our college gift guide, which has been designed to assist you throughout the gift and estate planning processes.

We are extremely proud of our Clemson family and severely thank each of you for making this an excellent year. With our 2018 Wild Wednesdays giving. Your support directly influences Clemson and moves us forward as we continue to reach new peaks. Thank you for your generosity and your support. We look forward to a delightful summer and making plans to join us on campus very soon. ASK GO FIGHTER!

Thankfully yours,

Clemson University