CLEMSON forever
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Greetings from Tiger Town!

We hope this finds you and your family enjoying a great summer! Campus is buzzing with summer school sessions and many prospective students – along with their parents – roaming around campus and enjoying downtown restaurants and merchants. After our 4th of July break, I took a walk across campus, and I was reminded of our deep appreciation and gratitude for our military heritage. We have many men and women who proudly serve our country, and I marvel at their unshakable determination, courage and sacrifice. Clemson's Military Heritage Plaza, the Scroll of Honor and the Cadet Garden in the South Carolina Botanical Garden commemorate and memorialize the lives of those who have sacrificed so much to ensure our freedom. Our future is built on the lives of those who have served in our armed forces and on the fallen heroes who have fought many battles to keep our nation free.

The Clemson Agricultural College opened in July 1893 with 446 students as an all-male military school for cadets seeking the highest academic excellence. In 1916, ROTC was instituted under the National Defense Act, and in 1917, the entire senior class enlisted in World War I. This was the first of many collective acts of bravery exhibited by Clemson University students and alumni. Since our University was founded, more than 10,000 Clemson alumni have served in the armed forces, and more than 490 have given their lives defending our nation.

The value of a solid military force has been a major part of its education. Clemson supplied more army officers for World War II than any other institution except West Point and Texas A&M. Clemson once had the largest infantry ROTC unit in the country. When we visit the Clemson Military Heritage Plaza, we see an array of ribbons, medals and honors for all branches of the military; footprints of brave service men; and inscriptions from a variety of classes.

The Clemson Scroll of Honor memorializes Clemson alumni who have given their lives in service to our country from The Great War (WWI) to the present. The Scroll of Honor is a place where people of all ages can gain a better understanding of the unimaginable sacrifice that was common among a special group of Clemson's alumni. Symbolism is designed into every aspect of the Memorial so that the experience embodies a clear and simple expression of the character, values and attributes held among Clemson's 494 soldiers who have fallen. One of the many questions that always makes me pause is "Who would you die for?" Please read more about the Scroll of Honor and the Military Heritage Plaza here.

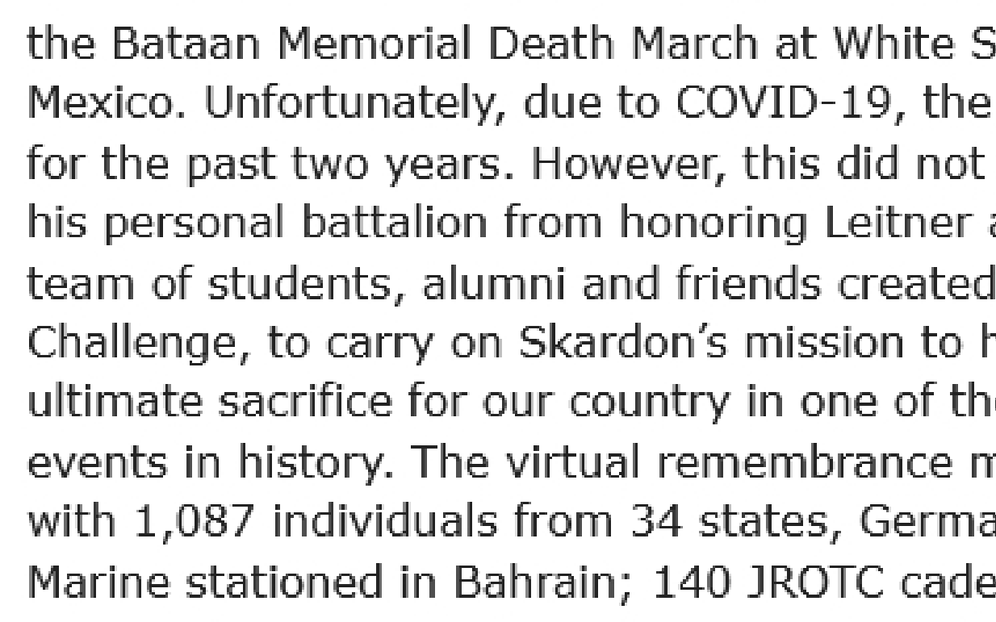
For the upcoming year, Clemson has 140 student cadets registered for Air Force ROTC (40% Female, 60% Male and 18% Non-Caucasian). The freshman class includes 35 new cadets with nine students receiving ROTC scholarships. Army ROTC has 130 student cadets registered (20% Female, 80% Male and 30% Non-Caucasian). The Army ROTC freshman class includes 55 new cadets with 29 national scholarship winners.

The Clemson Corps of Cadets is founded on deep and rich military traditions with a goal of preparing cadets with the tools, training and experiences that will help them succeed in any competitive environment. Cadets have the same college student experience like everyone else on campus, but when they graduate, some will become officers in the Army and Air Force. Our Fighting Tiger Battalion produces officers as problem-solvers and planners who are driven to achieve success with their team on every mission. Clemson University's Army and Air Force ROTC units celebrated the commissioning of 32 Second Lieutenants this past May during graduation ceremonies.

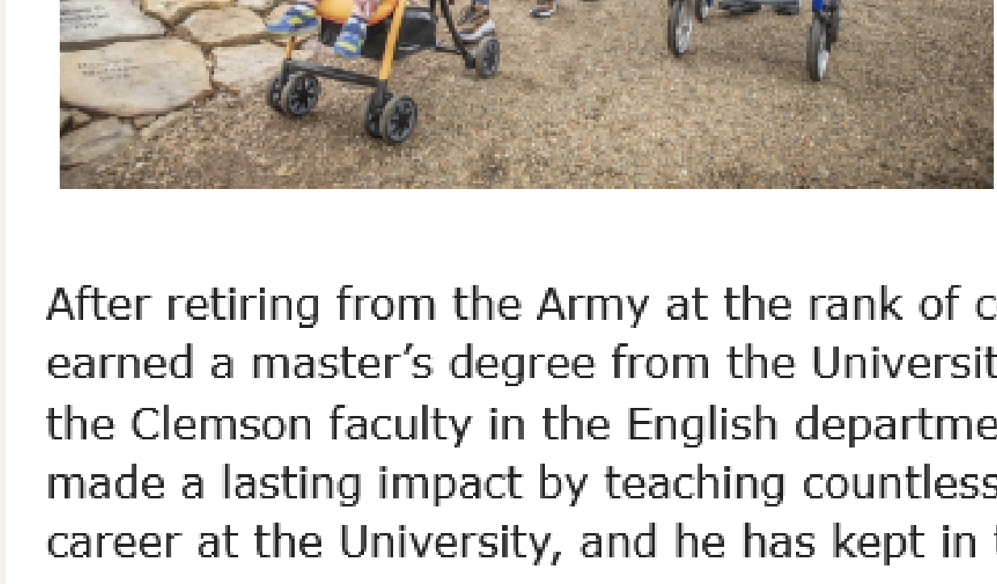
In addition, our Army and Air Force cadets have a commitment to our local community. This year their goal is to continue to build relationships with Clemson businesses, clubs, churches and organizations to create a sense of responsibility to take care of South Carolina's outdoors. The program works with the community to conduct a large-scale clean up to create a lasting tradition of preserving the environment and continue to spread this mission across the Upstate. Over the last four years, Clemson Army ROTC has made a significant impact on the quality of Clemson's beloved outdoors by covering 75 miles of shoreline and roads in the community, collecting and disposing of approximately 21,740 gallons of garbage.

The Clemson Corp and the Army Air Force ROTC program stands on the shoulders of those heroes who have come before. It is the Clemson Military tradition of excellence that produces the depth of character and bravery that we want to highlight. Because of this, it is our honor and our duty to recognize those who have represented our University through their military service. Among these heroic individuals is retired U.S. Army Col. Ben Skardon. At 104 years young, he continues to embody the best qualities of Clemson's determined spirit. Col. Skardon was bestowed the Clemson Medallion, the University's highest honor; the Alumni Distinguished Service Award; and the Alumni Master Teacher Award. Two endowments at Clemson have been established in his name, and in 2016, the flagpole in Memorial Stadium was dedicated to him. The governor of South Carolina honored him with the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest honor. In 2019, he received the Congressional Gold Medal. Col. Skardon shuns all recognition and prefers to shine the spotlight on others.

Col. Skardon has enjoyed a remarkable life, and his journey has been extraordinary. He fought in the Philippines in World War II, earning two Silver Stars and a Bronze Star for valor before becoming a prisoner of war when American troops were forced to surrender to the Japanese on April 9, 1942. Skardon survived the Bataan Death March and more than three years in Japanese prison camps, despite becoming deathly ill. Two fellow Clemson alumni, Henry Leitner and Otis Morgan, kept him alive by spoon-feeding him and eventually trading his gold Clemson ring for a small chicken, which they managed to keep hidden for his nourishment. It is a powerful story now shared at every Clemson Ring Ceremony as Clemson seniors receive their class rings.



Sadly, Leitner and Morgan did not survive the war; however, Col. Skardon honors them and other fallen heroes every year by walking in the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the March has been canceled for the past two years. However, this did not prohibit Col. Skardon and his personal battalion from honoring Leitner and Morgan. This year, a team of students, alumni and friends created an event, Clemson 8 Challenge, to carry on Skardon's mission to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country in one of the most brutal wartime events in history. The virtual remembrance march was a great success, with 1,087 individuals from 34 states, Germany, London, Guam and one Marine stationed in Bahrain; 140 JROTC cadets representing 19 high schools from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina; and 45 college ROTC cadets who "ruck marched" with 35-pound backpacks. Col. Skardon was the first to accept the challenge, and he walked eight miles over the course of six days with many friends, alumni and neighbors. The event raised more than $22,000 to benefit the Clemson University ROTC Department to provide scholarships and send a group of cadets to compete in the 2022 Bataan Death March Memorial Race.



After retiring from the Army at the rank of colonel in 1962, Col. Skardon earned a master's degree from the University of Georgia, then joined the Clemson faculty in the English department in 1964. Col. Skardon made a lasting impact by teaching countless students during his 19-year career at the University, and he has kept in touch with many of them throughout the years. In 1977, he was named the Alumni Master Teacher, an honor presented to a faculty member nominated by the student body and selected by the Student Alumni Council.

This week, Col. Skardon celebrated his 104th birthday. Despite the hardships he faced and years of war, he continues to exude happiness, strength and courage, and it is an honor and a privilege for all fellow Tigers to call him "family." Please join me in wishing Col. Skardon a very happy birthday! We remain grateful for the extraordinary legacy he has created – both in and out of the classroom. Thank you, Col. Skardon, for your remarkable service to our country and your unwavering commitment to our beloved Clemson.

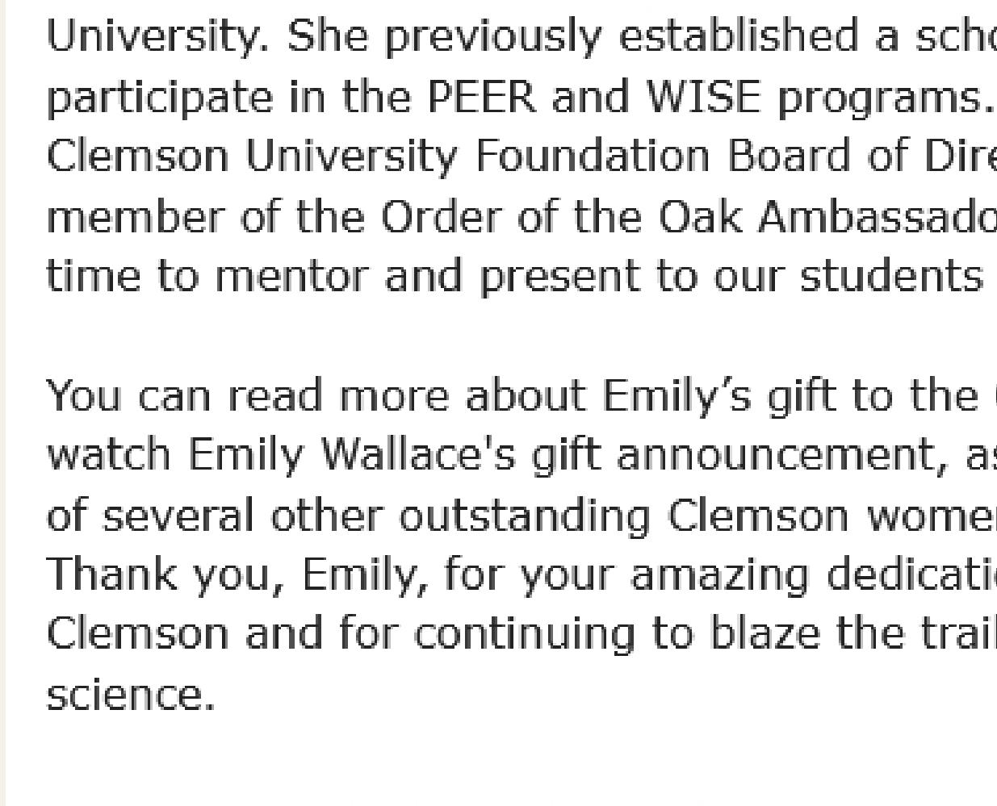
Col. Skardon's full story was recently featured in Clemson World, and I encourage you to read that here.

During a recent virtual panel of female leaders in math and science hosted by Dean Cynthia Y. Young, Ph.D., the College of Science had a very special announcement: Emily Peek Wallace, a panelist and Clemson alumna, has made an investment of $1.25 million to establish the Emily Peek Wallace '72 Endowed Directorship for the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences. The purpose of this endowment focuses on increasing student engagement and success as well as enhancing the relevance of the curriculum as the School prepares the next generation of leading mathematicians, statisticians and data scientists for both research and business application tracks.

Ever since she arrived on Clemson's campus in the fall of 1968, Emily has been a trailblazer. Although times are much different now, she was often the sole woman — or one of only two — in her technical courses.

Since graduating with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics, Emily — a first generation college graduate — has generously given back to the University. She previously established a scholarship for women who participate in the PEER and WISE programs. Emily now serves on the Clemson University Foundation Board of Directors, and she is a founding member of the Order of the Oak Ambassadors. Emily also allocates her time to mentor and present to our students in the classroom.

You can read more about Emily's gift to the College of Science here and watch Emily Wallace's gift announcement, as well as hear from a panel of several other outstanding Clemson women in math and science here. Thank you, Emily, for your amazing dedication and generosity to Clemson and for continuing to blaze the trail for women in math and science.



As you make plans to visit Clemson, please make time to visit the special areas throughout our campus that celebrate our University's military heritage.

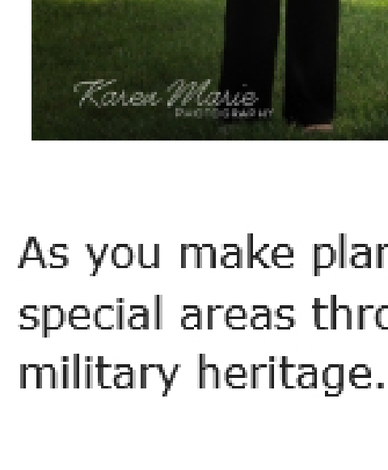
The men and women who have and continue to serve our country are leaving a legacy of commitment, sacrifice and honor. This inspires me to reflect on my own legacy, and I encourage you to do the same. Impacting future generations of Clemson students is a valuable experience, and it is always our pleasure to help you explore ways in which you can make a difference at Clemson University today, tomorrow and forever. Please visit our website or send a personal email to us at giving@clemson.edu. We always enjoy hearing from you!

Additionally, you can find information about IRA Charitable Qualified Distribution (QCD) benefits here. For information about general estate planning, please download our free Wills Guide, which is designed to help you navigate your thoughts and plans before you visit with your attorney and/or financial advisors.

Please make plans to join us on campus again soon!

Gratefully yours,

JoVanna



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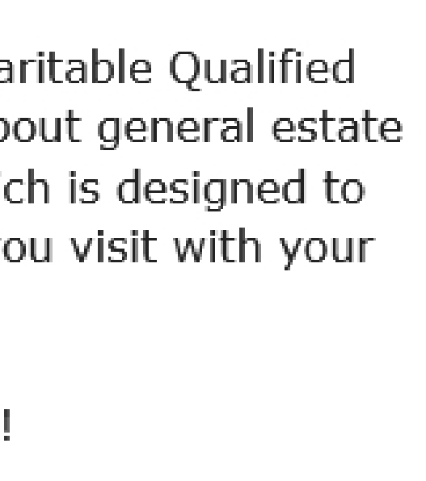
Finances

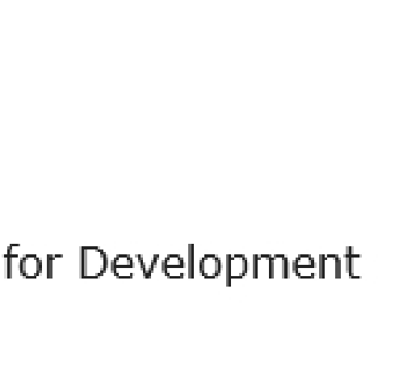


Delta Air Lines Reports Earnings

Treasury Yields Fluctuate

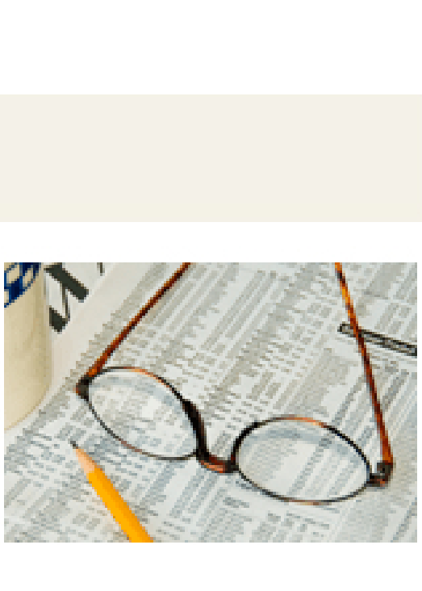
Mortgage Rates Fall Further

Savvy Living



The Hidden Dangers of Sleep Apnea
How can you know when someone has sleep apnea? My husband has become such a terrible snorer that he wakes himself up at night, and he keeps me up too.
Read More »

Washington News



Advance Child Tax Credit Payments Sent to 35 Million Families
On July 15, 2021, the IRS sent over $15 billion in Advance Child Tax Credit (ACTC) payments. The first set of advanced payments will benefit approximately 35 million families with an estimated 60 million children. Payments will be made each month during the...
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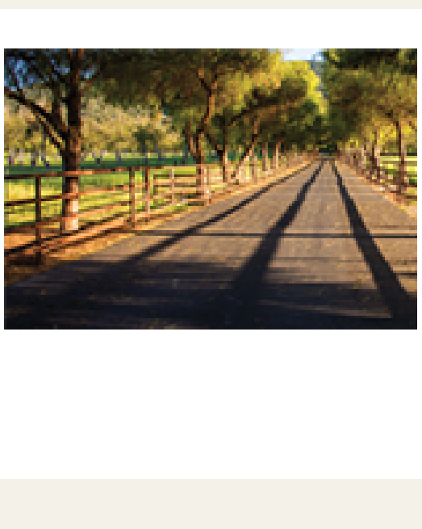
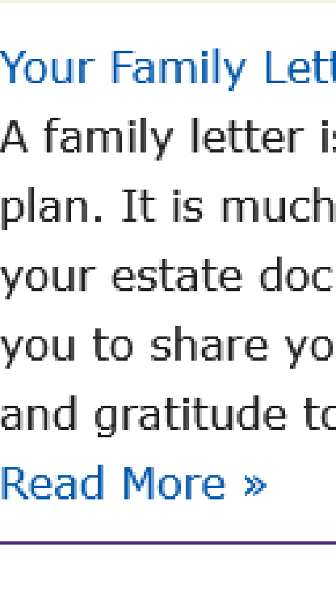
Personal Planner



Your Family Letter - Memorial Services
A family letter is a key part of a good estate plan. It is much more personal than many of your estate documents. A family letter allows you to share your heart and show appreciation and gratitude to family members.
Read More »

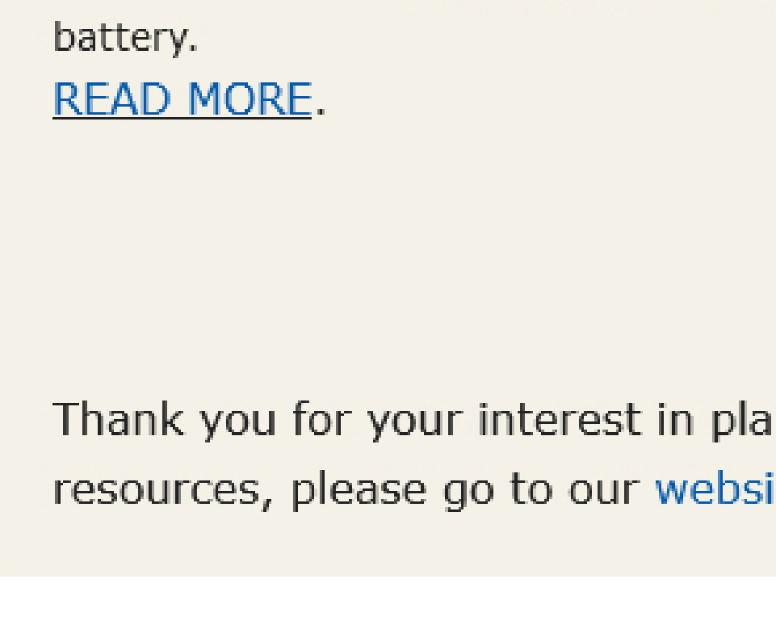
Donor Stories

Learn how others have made an impact at Clemson through their acts of giving.

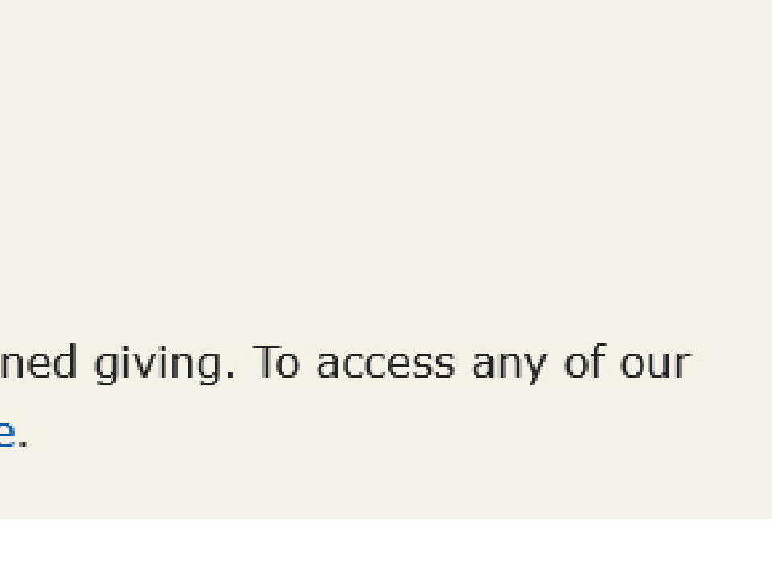


Standing On Shoulders of Strangers
Attending college is a transformative experience. It is four years of new experiences, challenging academics and personal growth. For Michael Puldy '84, this was definitely the case. Before attending Clemson, Michael had only traveled outside of his home state of Florida once. Upon completing his freshman year, Michael had traveled to Chicago, throughout the eastern seaboard, and to Charleston for a stay in a Civil War period house near the battery.
READ MORE.

Thank you for your interest in planned giving. To access any of our resources, please go to our website.

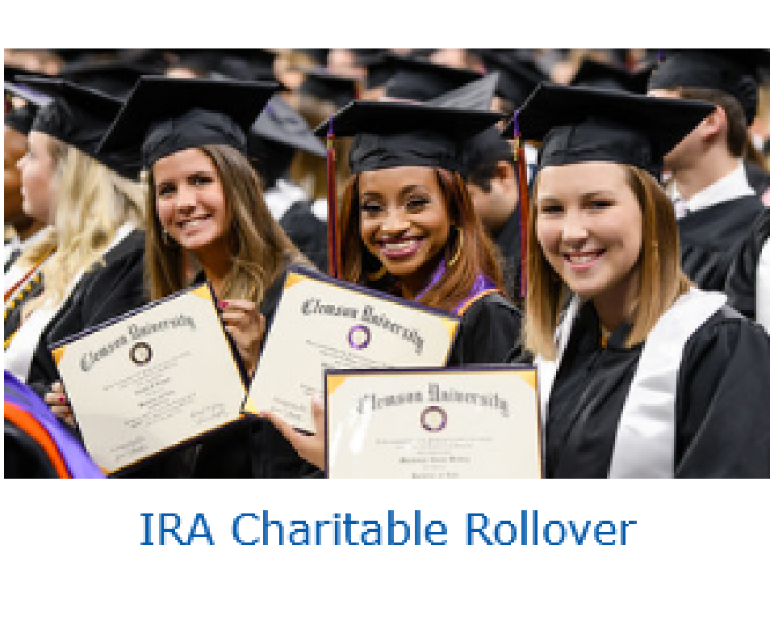


Learn about Wills



IRA Charitable Rollover

Bequest Language



Charitable Gift Annuity

FREE ESTATE PLANNING GUIDE

PLANNED GIVING CALCULATORS

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