Greetings from Clemson! As another academic year comes to an end, we have a lot to celebrate! Clemson University employees wrapped up the 2014-2015 academic year with awards and farewells at the year-end general faculty meeting. President Clements made many exciting announcements including that Clemson has reached its highest national ranking ever as one of the nation’s top 20 public universities. And of course, we could not have achieved that ranking without our faculty and staff who work tirelessly to help our Tigers achieve their goals. President Clements also stated, “This year we set a record for the number of undergraduate applications. We had almost 22,500 applications for 3,000 slots in the fall freshman class, and the academic profile of those applications is at an all-time high.”

Almost 3,000 students received degrees Friday in three separate commencement ceremonies at Littlejohn Coliseum. In addition to the 2,996 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees presented to students, University officials bestowed an honorary Doctorate of Humanities on 1978 alumna Michael J. Hedger of Columbia in recognition of his dedication to enhancing the quality of health care in the state and its community while improving the delivery of care to its citizens. In keeping with tradition, President Clements shook the hand of every graduate as they crossed the stage. We extend our best wishes to our graduates as they begin an exciting new chapter of their lives.

Professional engineer Richard “Dick” Cottrelling and his wife, Nancy, of Seneca have pledged $200,000 to establish the J. Richard (S6) and Nancy W. Cottrelling Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering Endowment. The endowment will support a Distinguished Professor in the Glenn Department of Civil Engineering in the College of Engineering and Science. “We appreciate this generous gift from the Cottrellings, as well as the countless hours that both Dick and Nancy have invested in promoting engineering at Clemson,” said Anand Gramopadhye, Ph.D. An endowed professorship will enable Clemson to attract and retain a professor with national prominence.

We are excited to announce that the Clemson University team participating in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon revealed its highly innovative, affordable design and construction methodologies for a house that will be built on South Carolina and other Southern states. The students constructed their home, Indigo Pine Tent, using the same methodologies they use to build Indigo Pine West for the competition. The team includes more than 100 students and faculty from across the University collaborating on the design, construction and promotion of a prototype, three-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot, low-environmental impact solar house. In October, the student teams will showcase their solar-powered houses in Irvine, California.

The University is on track for a record year in private fundraising. The Class of 2015 recently joined a family of more than 137,000 Clemson alumni, and it’s not forget that football season is only a few short months away. It is a very exciting time for our Clemson Family!

As you reflect on your memories and experiences at Clemson, we ask you to consider what makes Clemson so special to you. Give a book, a t-shirt, or express your gratitude for all that Clemson has meant to you and your family. Please take a moment to watch this short feature. It is a wonderful reminder of what Clemson means to many of us and why we are faithful Tigers. We would not be where we are today without your continued support and thoughtful generosity.

We also encourage you to consider including Clemson in your estate plan. Please take a look at our Free Will Guide, which has been designed to assist you throughout the planning process. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you and your family in any way. For more information, please visit our website, call 864-656-0063 or email giving@clemson.edu.

We look forward to seeing you on campus soon. Many thanks and GO TIGERS!

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