Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

November is a very special month for Clemson University. Today I would like for the Clemson Family to celebrate the milestone in its rich history, honored alumni and donors who continue to illustrate the importance of giving back, and to recognize our sincere gratitude to those who have come before us to lay the foundation for this amazing place, and to encourage you to make plans to be a part of Clemson's future.

The Legacy Day Celebration honors the signing of Thomas Green Clemson's will, which led to the founding of this great university was in 1826. Each year, we celebrate the fact that our university began through an act of philanthropy by Anna Calhoun Clemson and Thomas Green Clemson. Many students joined us at Ft. Hill to celebrate the signing of several donatives from Clemson University as a symbol of their commitment to include Clemson in their estate plans.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the members of the Fort-Hill Legacy Society, who are memorialized by bronze leaves scattered under the majestic limbs of the second century oak at Ft. Hill. Each of the personalized bronze leaves represent an individual or couple who created a bequest or a trust resulting in a gift of $1 million or more for the benefit of Clemson University. The beneficiaries have demonstrated enlightened acts of philanthropy that will benefit Clemson forever.

This year we included William "Bill" Brooks, Class of 1952, of Raleigh, NC into the Fort Hill Legacy Society. View photos and learn more about 2015 Legacy Day Activity.

In addition, we celebrated the generosity and leadership of several significant donors as they were inducted into Clemson Giving Societies at the annual Gratitude Celebration. See photos of the event, and view alumni of Clemson President's Remedies. As the President commented, "Mr. and Mrs. Clemson would be proud!"

Clemson hosted its First Clemson History in Plains State which was held on Bowman Field on November 5th. This year’s event featured a presentation by Clemson alumnus Eric Young, a descendant of Thomas Clemson and Frances Young, the first black students of the University. Read more about Clemson's History in Plains State and view photos of the event.

Clemson’s current Alumni Scholars were honored at a dinner in the #1 Fortune 500 company, and as we continue our journey, we are proud to share this milestone with you. View photos of the dinner on the Clemson Alumni website: view photos of the dinner here.

Drake Loftin ’07, M.S. has turned a personal tragedy into something meaningful for others. Loftin is a research fellow at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the lead author of a study published in the journal Science. The study found that rats can detect a subtle change in the flavor of a delicious treat, like a piece of chocolate. In his new book, Loftin draws attention to the importance of reducing the risk of cancer and other diseases by encouraging people to make healthier choices. View photos of the dinner here.

I am grateful for Drake and others who have contributed to the benefit of our students. I am also grateful for those who have followed the example set by the generosity of alumni and the green Clemson by giving back to their alma mater and their estate plans. When someone provides for future generations of people they will probably never meet or know, they understand their place in the living chain of Clemson history.

If you have included Clemson in your estate plan, we would be honored to offer you membership in the Clemson Legacy Society and encourage you to add your signature to The Clemson Legacy Society Registry. The Registry, an archival binder book that is on display at the Hill, serves as a permanent record of Clemson Legacy Society members that will be treasured and celebrated by future generations. As you consider what you can do for Clemson, both now and in the future, you are invited to work with us to explore various ways in which you and your family can make a difference at Clemson. We encourage you to download our free guide, which has been designed to assist you in the process. To learn more about the donation process and the REACH brochure, please click here.

Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. Please let us know if you have any questions or if we can assist you in any way. You may visit our website, call us at 864-656-5666 or email us at giftplanning@ Clemson.edu.

We hope you are planning to visit campus soon. GO TIGERS! Thank you for your interest in planned giving. To access any of our resources, please go to our website.