Greetings, fellow Tigers!

Excitement and spirit filled the air during Homecoming weekend festivities. It is one of our oldest traditions – when Clemson alumni and families return "home" from across the country to encourage and support our student organizations as they build Homecoming displays and construct a house for Habitat for Humanity on Bowman Field. We also enjoyed Tigerama, one of the nation's largest student-run pep rallies on Friday evening, and then woke up to prepare for our tailgating rituals and activities. It was an exciting weekend that culminated with an exciting Tiger win against the Boston College Eagles!

During the first quarter of the game, we announced former Clemson tennis champion David Horton Wilkins '68 – who has served many political appointments, including United States Ambassador to Canada – was selected for the 2021 Bond Distinguished Athletes Award. Wilkins received a custom-designed gold ring and his name was inscribed on a glass plaque prominently displayed by the elevator in Nieri Family Student-Athlete Enrichment Center at Memorial Stadium. In 2003, Wilkins received an honorary doctorate degree from Clemson and the Distinguished Service Award from the Clemson Alumni Association. In 2007, he was named to the Clemson Board of Trustees and served a six-year term and as Chair of the Board of Trustees beginning in 2009.

Eight years ago, Margaret Segars Bond '84 and her late husband, former Clemson golfer Steve Bond '80, established the Bond Distinguished Athletes Award. The award honors former Clemson athletes who exemplify great character, leadership, citizenship and service while supporting Clemson Academics and Athletics and significantly improving the communities in which they live and serve. The honor focuses on former Tiger student-athletes who were successful both on and off the field and have made it a priority to enrich the world around them. You can read more about the award and Ambassador David Wilkins here.

We have so many Clemson traditions that stem from our rich military heritage. The pride of our military heritage is carried through the years by the Clemson Family – especially our veterans and those actively serving to protect and defend our freedoms. It takes a strong constitution to lead a life devoted to service and sacrifice. One must be dedicated to purposes greater than oneself, and Harry Findley '71 exemplifies that dedication. From serving in the Armed Forces to teaching, he has given back with this time, talent and treasure. Harry has always been committed to paying it forward. In that spirit, he has ensured the education of students in the field of biology through an estate gift that supports the previously established ***Dr. Harry Findley '71 and Catherine T. Findley Student Assistance Endowment***. This endowment provides support for graduate students studying microbiology or biology.

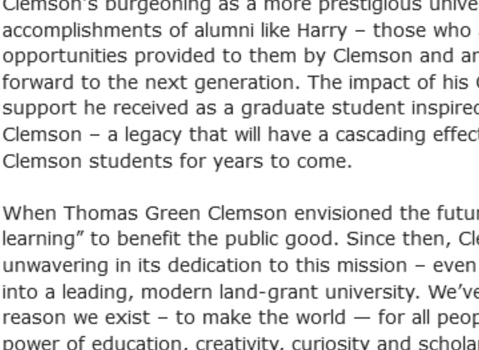
From an early age, Harry's life was influenced by service. The son of a career Air Force officer, Harry was born at Donaldson Air Force Base in Greenville, South Carolina. His father's career required frequent moves, and the Findley family was transferred often – from locations like Arlington, Virginia to England.
Upon his father's retirement, Harry completed high school at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson, South Carolina and endeavored to attend an out-of-state university. After his freshman year out of state, Harry returned home to work part-time and attend night school. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and completed Basic Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning in Georgia. Harry served a 12-month tour in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade from 1966-1967. He was called home after that tour to serve as an advanced infantry instructor at Fort McClellan, Alabama, preparing the brave young men for the difficult times they would face ahead.

After earning an honorable discharge, Harry entered Clemson University in the summer of 1968 with the aid of the G.I. Bill – beginning his career in science.

Harry recalls fond memories of days on Lake Hartwell, in the Experimental Forest, and time spent preparing for Homecoming weekend and football games. His experience culminated in "the feeling that Clemson was a wonderful place to be, and how fortunate I was to be there!"

Harry's admiration and dedication to education led him to continue his education and pursue a master's degree in microbiology, which would help him launch a successful and meaningful career as a cancer researcher. "I was very appreciative of my opportunity to attend graduate school at Clemson, and for the graduate stipend that made this possible," Harry says. "I was also inspired by my graduate advisor, Dr. Mike Johnson of the microbiology department, and other faculty I came to know during my graduate training. So I wanted to give back to the graduate program and help support these opportunities for future students."

Today, Clemson remains committed to our graduate students and research. The College of Science is pursuing excellence in scientific discovery, learning and engagement that is both locally relevant and globally impactful. Researchers within the College of Science are designing new drugs, charting new galaxies and creating new gadgets. And many of these researchers are graduate students. Gifts supporting our graduate students, like the gift from Harry, is a gift of discovery – a gift that will help change the world.

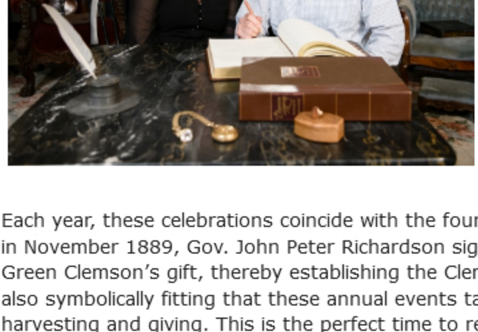


Clemson's burgeoning as a more prestigious university begins with the accomplishments of alumni like Harry – those who appreciate the wealth of opportunities provided to them by Clemson and are committed to paying that forward to the next generation. The impact of his Clemson education and the support he received as a graduate student inspired him to create a legacy at Clemson – a legacy that will have a cascading effect of change and growth for Clemson students for years to come.

When Thomas Green Clemson envisioned the future, he saw a "high seminary of learning" to benefit the public good. Since then, Clemson University has been unwavering in its dedication to this mission – even as it has evolved and matured into a leading, modern land-grant university. We've never lost our focus on the reason we exist – to make the world — for all people — a better place through the power of education, creativity, curiosity and scholarship.

With more than 5,000 students in 130-plus graduate and professional degree programs, Clemson University's faculty and students are reimagining the world we live in. Harry is a wonderful example of the impact of Clemson's Graduate School. Those who came before Harry planted the seeds to yield a great harvest for the future, providing him with the financial support needed to explore the world of science and research. Today, he is planting the seeds for tomorrow, ensuring future generations of Clemson graduate students have the resources needed to succeed and thrive at Clemson – and beyond.

Harry is a proud member of the Clemson Legacy Society, a recognition bestowed to anyone who includes Clemson in their estate plan. Members of the Clemson Legacy Society will be invited to participate in activities on November 11-12, and many will demonstrate the 'power of their pen' by signing the Clemson Legacy Registry in the parlor of Ft. Hill where Thomas and Anna married more than 180 years ago. Clemson University will also host a Legacy Society Dinner to recognize those who have made the decision to secure Clemson's future. Everyone is invited to join us for the Fort Hill Legacy Society Bronze Leaf Dedication on Friday, November 12 at 3 P.M., as President Clements will lead a ceremony under the Second Century Oak to honor current members of the Fort Hill Legacy Society and also dedicate another bronze leaf for the newest inductees. This is a posthumous honor for those who bequeath $1 million or more to perpetuate the highest ideals of Clemson University to fulfill our land-grant mission of outstanding teaching, research and public service. We are looking forward to celebrating the dedication of all of our Legacy Society members and their plans to leave a personal mark on the future of Clemson University.



Each year, these celebrations coincide with the founding of our great University, for in November 1889, Gov. John Peter Richardson signed a bill accepting Thomas Green Clemson's gift, thereby establishing the Clemson Agricultural College. It is also symbolically fitting that these annual events take place during the season of harvesting and giving. This is the perfect time to reflect on how each of us can plants seeds today for the growth of tomorrow. We are here to help you explore the ways in which you can make a difference and to answer the question: What seeds will I plant today that will become the harvest for future generations?

We hope that you will reach out to our team to help you explore the benefits of philanthropy. It is always our pleasure to assist you and your family members as you craft a vision for your legacy. We have useful online resources you can access and navigate at your convenience. You may also visit our website or send a personal email to us at giving@clemson.edu. In addition, 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.

As we walk around the Clemson campus, the benefits of philanthropy can be seen all around us – from the smiling faces of our students walking to class to the researchers making groundbreaking discoveries in our labs. I look forward to seeing you on our beautiful campus – where you can see firsthand the thriving beneficiaries of your thoughtful generosity. GO Tigers!

Gratefully yours,

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P.S. I want to highlight that we have one of the best planned giving teams in the country. Our team of fundraising professionals is driving a culture of philanthropy that provides resources and inspiration through charitable gift and estate planning. Let us help you craft an investment, during life or at death, that will yield you and your family the most rewarding and gratifying ROIs available. Please help us protect, preserve, and enhance the *Clemson Experience* for future generations of Tigers.

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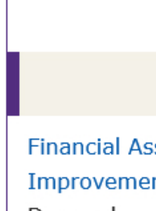

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Finances

Delta Air Lines Posts Quarterly Results

Treasury Yields Fluctuate Amid Rising Prices and High Demand

30-Year Mortgage Rates Climb Above 3%

Savvy Living

Financial Assistance for Aging-in-Place Improvements

Do you know of any financial assistance programs that can help seniors with home improvement projects? I would like to help my grandparents make a few modifications to their house so they can continue living there safely, but they live on a fixed income.
Read More »

Washington News

Largest Social Security Increase in Four Decades

The Social Security Administration has announced a 5.9% increase in benefits for 2022. This is a dramatic change over the 1.3% increase for 2021. During the past decade, the increases have generally been less than 2%. Approximately 70 million Americans will...
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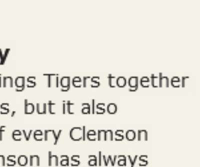
Personal Planner

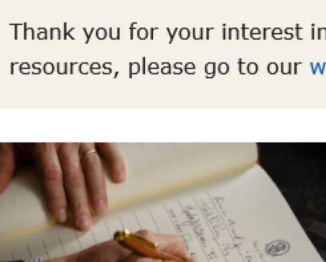


IRA and 401(k) Designated Beneficiary Options

Each year, IRAs and 401(k)s are subject to required minimum distributions (RMDs). Because the distributions start at just under 4% at age 72 and then slowly increase, many IRA and 401(k) plans earn more than those payouts and will continue to grow.
Read More »

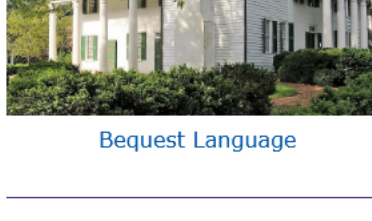
Donor Stories

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



A Ring of History
The Clemson ring brings Tigers together in extraordinary ways, but it also represents a piece of every Clemson family's history. Clemson has always been a big part of Ann's life because of her father's and grandfather's connections, and their rings represent this special bond. Not long before her father passed away, he misplaced his own Clemson ring. But after finding her grandfather's ring all these years later, Ann is hopeful that she will one day find her father's Clemson ring. READ MORE.

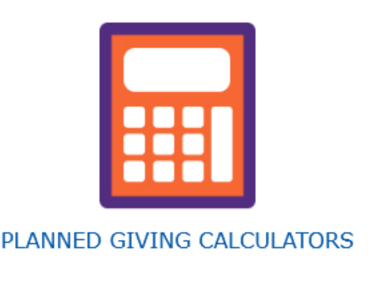
Thank you for your interest in planned giving. To access any of our resources, please go to our website.



Learn about Wills

IRA Charitable Rollover

Bequest Language



Charitable Gift Annuity

FREE ESTATE PLANNING GUIDE

PLANNED GIVING CALCULATORS

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