CLEMSON forever
Your plan today will create a lasting legacy at Clemson.

Greetings, Tigers!

Home – is something that Tigers refer to often when talking about Clemson. Home is defined as "the abiding place of affections." The Latin root word for "home" is actually the same word used for human being, person and people. At its very core, home is where your heart is and the place that contains the hearts of those you love and trust.

A home is also a place where you feel warm and cozy. Where you have things around you that are special and have meaning; however, the most important aspect of home is where you are surrounded by people you love and those who love and support you.

From the moment you step on our beautiful campus, you sense it. When you join the Clemson Family, you join a tradition of excellence and a determined spirit where "best is standard." There is a heartfelt connection that Tigers feel each time we take part in one of the University's beloved traditions. Whether it's Solid Orange Friday when all those who love Clemson can be found wearing orange as a visible demonstration of unity or when we join arm in arm to sing and sway to the alma mater proudly waving hands in the air as though we are saluting our past, present and future, these traditions uphold the values and quality reputation of our beloved Clemson. We are unified in our commitment to excellence in everything we do. Tiger Rag, "the song that shakes the Southland," elicits movement in our hearts, minds and bodies to stand tall and pave the way for a "Win" on every field of competition. We are committed to preparing champions who will make a real difference in the world around us. Collectively and instinctively, we understand exactly what Joe Sherman '34 meant when he said, "There is something in these hills."

Lewis and Ree Miller of Spartanburg, South Carolina have always felt that Clemson is their home. Because of their dedication and love for Clemson, they have made a Cornerstone Partner pledge of $2.5M supporting IPTAY and Clemson University Athletics. The Millers are the 16th founding Cornerstone Partner to Athletics since the initiative began in 2014. In recognition of the Millers' visionary and transformational gift, the WestZone Club in Memorial Stadium has been named in their honor.

In addition to being Cornerstone Partners, Lewis and Ree have given to IPTAY for 55 consecutive years. They invested in the Life Membership program and give annually at the Heisman ($12,000) level.

Lewis, a lifelong Clemson Tiger, earned his Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management at Clemson University in May 1971. While a student on campus, he was actively involved in intramural sports and his fraternity, Kappa Sigma. Since then, he spent his entire career with the Southeastern Paper Group, where he began as a Warehouse Manager working his way to his role as CEO.

Memorial Stadium is such a special place on our beautiful campus, especially to the Clemson Family. It feels so fitting that their family will forever be a part of the facility with the naming of the Lewis and Marie Miller Family WestZone Club.

Ree, a 1973 graduate of Winthrop University, is active in the Spartanburg community, specifically serving others when there is a need. She and Lewis support the Hope Center for Children devoting their efforts to assist with the organization's mission to build stable, healthy families and provide children a safe place from abuse and neglect.

Lewis, like Ree, is dedicated to helping others. In addition to the Hope Center for Children, he supports Project Hope, which provides a lifespan of services for the autism community. He also sits on the board of directors for the Mountainview Nursing Home.

Thank you, Lewis and Ree, for your thoughtful support of Clemson Athletics. Your gift will meaningfully impact our student-athletes for years to come, giving them the necessary resources to be champions on the field and in the classroom. For that and so much more, we are forever grateful! You can read more about the Miller Family and their commitment to Clemson here.

LEWIS & MARIE MILLER FAMILY
WESTZONE CLUB

Our faculty and staff are among the nation's top educators and administrators, all committed to providing the support and services our students need for success during their academic and professional careers. Clemson's faculty and staff are a community of high-achieving researchers, teachers, scientists and artists who use their talents to support our students and create solutions for the world's pressing issues. Internationally recognized faculty members, top-tier students and abundant opportunities for meaningful research in both undergraduate and graduate degree programs confirm that Clemson University is the "high seminary of learning" our founders intended. At Clemson, a diverse group of researchers are driven by a singular purpose: using their unique gifts to create lasting impact. Our students are the beneficiaries of that long tradition and commitment to research, teaching and service.

W. Kirby Player, Ph.D. knows firsthand what it means to describe Clemson as "home." He has called this University "home" for as long as he can remember. Growing up less than three hours away in Bishopville, South Carolina, Kirby's loyalty to Clemson began at an early age and continues to this day. Along with Kirby, his brother, father, grandfather and numerous extended family members are all Clemson alumni, and many of his family are among those whose influence has transformed Kirby's life. Tiger Rag, the roar of the Clemson cadence count and the Clemson campus atmosphere are a part of his greatest memories growing up.

While an undergraduate, Kirby served in Student Government, and he was elected as student body president in 1982/83. During his college career, he was involved in several campus groups. He was a member of Kappa Sigma, Tiger Brotherhood, the University Chorus, Campus Crusade for Christ and the Clemson Collegiate Future Farmers of America (now CCFFA). He was also a University Union student staffer and inaugural campus tour guide. Kirby fondly recalls Student Government retreats and traveling with the chorus each spring. These types of extracurricular activities, so prevalent at Clemson, helped him foster meaningful relationships with faculty, administrators and fellow students. Among his most memorable Clemson experiences was watching the victorious Clemson Tigers win the 1981 National Football Championship. In 1985, while attending a Clemson Christian Fellowship meeting on campus, Kirby met Marilyn, his future wife, in the Poole Agriculture Center Auditorium, often referred to fondly as the "P & A" (Plant and Animal Sciences). They built a friendship for 22 years, which later blossomed into love. The two were married in 2008. Marilyn, who earned her masters of education at Clemson, served as an elementary school teacher for more than 20 years. She taught in the surrounding Clemson area, Columbia, South Carolina and in Istanbul, Turkey for five years.

Very proud of his family's legacy in agriculture, Kirby is also proud to be a third-generation Clemson graduate. At Clemson, Kirby earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and a master's degree in parks, recreation, and tourism management (PRTM) with an emphasis in human resource development. In 2014, during the 28th year of his Clemson career, he earned a doctorate in therapeutic recreation – a special moment for him and the University he has so proudly served for many years.

Kirby serves as a lecturer in the Agricultural Sciences Department in the College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences (CAFLS) and has a joint appointment in the PRTM Department. He is also a member of The National Agriculture, Alumni and Development Association (NAADA) and the International Association of Programs of Agricultural Leadership (IAPAL). Kirby refers to his role at Clemson as a "mission, not a job," and that positive approach has a profound impact on our students and their educational experiences. He tells his students, "It is my greatest desire is to make a difference in your life!"

His commitment to our students – through teaching, coaching, advising and mentoring – has played a significant role in their success. His students leave Clemson feeling empowered and prepared for the next step in life. Like so many other professors and mentors at Clemson, Kirby is shaping the lives of our world's future leaders.

A farm boy from Bishopville, South Carolina, Kirby was raised on a cotton, corn, wheat, peanut and soybean farm in the Pee Dee of South Carolina. His brother and niece have continued this legacy and are the 4th and 5th generations to steward Pondville Farms.

Kirby is also the director of South Carolina's Palmetto Leadership Program for the Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (PLEAF). PLEAF is housed in CAFLS, Clemson Extension and the Public Service and Agriculture Division and is supported by key industry related cooperating partners from around South Carolina.

This program is a two-year intensive instructional, experiential learning and networking curriculum designed to facilitate personal and professional growth and success, while sharpening character and leadership skills for each participant. PLEAF candidates are the brightest and best of South Carolina's current and future leaders engaged in the industries of agriculture, forestry and all aspects of stewarding of our state's natural resources and environment. Upon completion of the Palmetto LEAF program, graduates will have a comprehensive set of tools, experiences and contacts which will allow them to lead in their community, county, state, nation and within their industry.

Kirby says, "The importance of South Carolina's agriculture, forestry and natural resources industries cannot be overstated in terms of both economic impact and their role in shaping the lives of South Carolinians. That's why Clemson decided that now is the time to provide an avenue through which the state's best and brightest can lift these industries even higher and take the next steps in their careers."

As a prominent leader within CAFLS – the core of Clemson University's land-grant heritage – Kirby's mission is to "progress Clemson's longstanding and effective tradition of promoting and supporting agriculture" and "to see Thomas Green Clemson's vision of an agricultural university continue to thrive."

Kirby's personal and professional Clemson experiences are woven into the fabric of his life. The University's vision and mission that "agriculture matters at Clemson," has greatly influenced Kirby's decision to give back in a way that is in keeping with the great foundation Clemson has given him. Kirby has faithfully supported the University annually since his graduation in 1983, proudly stating, "I have seen the difference current and planned gifts can make." To honor his family legacy, Kirby and Marilyn established a generous estate gift to support the **Cleland Blain Player, Jr. '48 & Player Family Memorial Endowment** in memory of his father and the Player family. Cleland Blain Player, Jr. was a 1948 agronomy graduate, a farmer and an outstanding leader in agriculture. This endowment provides support for CAFLS alumni activities that engage current CAFLS students.

We are forever grateful to Kirby and Marilyn for their wonderful leadership, thoughtful generosity and lifelong commitment to the future of our great University. He says, "Being intentional about giving back to the institution that has given so much to you. And to be able to create a plan to give is humbling and an honor." Kirby is an amazing advocate for our founder's vision to support alumni engagement through the act of giving annually and for the future. He is a remarkable representation of how our University's professors play a key role in our students' lives – not only as educators but also as mentors. It is this kind of commitment and investment that ensures our students find success while at Clemson and beyond.

Home is always where the heart is, and as graduation approaches, many of our seniors yearn to stop the clock, so they can linger "at home" a little longer and soak up the love and support that has been abundantly provided since their first day on campus. Once they embark on the next chapter of their lives, they realize that Clemson is forever woven into the fabric of their lives and will always surround them as a guiding light of support and confidence to conquer the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We are all shaped by the people who have created a sense of belonging and many of us have benefited beyond measure as result of their generosity. We create our own legacy by our actions and deeds. Kirby Player was shaped and influenced by the people in his home in Bishopville and his home at Clemson, which led him and Marilyn to include Clemson in their estate plan. Lewis and Ree Miller describe feelings of great pride when they don the Clemson Tiger Paw and are committed to sharing the love of the Clemson Family with future generations as Cornerstone Partners. As a member of the Clemson Family, how will you invest and shape the students, faculty, and programs of Clemson's future?

It would be a pleasure for our team to assist as you consider how you will expand and enhance the Clemson Experience for those who call Clemson home now and in the future. We are happy to offer information and guidance for planning your charitable giving to the University. We have useful online resources on our website, or you may write 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, designed to help you navigate your thoughts and plans before you visit with your attorney.

The semester is in full swing, and cooler weather has started to arrive. Before we know it, the leaves across campus will be turning the most wonderful hues of red, yellow and orange as the fall breeze carries them through the air. All seasons are special on our beautiful campus, but there is something I especially love about fall in Tiger Town. What an amazing place to call home! We sincerely hope you and your family are making plans to join us on campus again soon!

Go Tigers!

Gratefully yours,

JoVanna

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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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Finances

Oracle's Shares Fall Despite Reporting Increased Revenue

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Mortgage Rates Relatively Stable

Savvy Living

Symptoms of COPD

I have struggled with shortness of breath for several years now. I just thought I was experiencing normal aging and had put on a bit of weight, but a friend recently told me about COPD. Could I have COPD and not know it?

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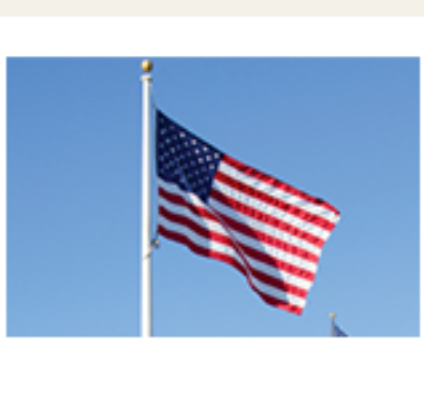
Washington News



September ACTC Payments and Potential Extension

On September 15, 2021, the Internal Revenue Service sent out the third set of Advance Child Tax Credit (ACTC) payments. Over 35 million families received a total of approximately $15 billion in payments. Most of the payments were direct deposits to bank...

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Personal Planner

Social Security

Linda asked, "When should I take my Social Security? I will turn 57 this year and have a strong earnings history, having paid into Social Security for nearly 35 years."

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Donor Stories

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

A Piece of Home

Giving - it also means caring. That is what the Clemson Family does - they give, and they care. It doesn't matter how large or small. Because the small gifts add up to something larger. Brian and Jaime Reynolds embody the idea that everyone can give back to a community that has given them so much. They give, and they care. READ MORE.

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

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