

# eNEWSLETTER



**JoVanna J. King**  
Senior Associate Vice  
President for  
Development

## Summer greetings from Tiger Town!

It's impossible to choose a favorite season in Clemson, for each provides us with uniquely rich and beautiful colors, weather and activities. While the hustle and bustle of Clemson greatly subsides in the summer, it is still a wonderful time to be in Tiger Town. On a stroll across the beautiful, green Clemson campus this summer, you will inevitably pass groups of incoming freshmen partaking in orientation and be able to share in their anxious anticipation for their upcoming official arrival to our campus. Many of us can still remember those same feelings of excitement, restlessness and nervousness when we were beginning our own Clemson journeys. As nervous and uncertain as they may be, we know that their futures at Clemson are full of promise and possibilities, and I am elated to watch their individual journeys unfold during the next four years.

You will also undoubtedly hear the contagious laughter of young children who are attending various camps across campus. Their faces, full of excitement and wonder, warm my heart, for they give me a glimpse of the future for our University and the world. Though they may not realize it now, these are the experiences that will shape their lives and ones they will look back on in the years to come.

Melinda Chappell '82 knows these feelings of being a young child on the Clemson campus, dreaming of one day walking the dormitories and sidewalks as a student. She remembers the feelings of anxiousness and excitement when first stepping onto the Clemson campus as a student, and she relishes in the honor and pride that she feels when she returns to the campus as an alumna. Melinda's passion for Clemson led her to Tiger Town while numerous surgeries as a young child that resulted in physical therapy peaked her interest in a major – and eventually a career – in recreation and parks administration with an emphasis in therapeutic recreation. Upon graduating, Melinda was able to fulfill her goal and utilize her degree and her passion for helping children and teens struggling with physical disabilities by working for a psychiatric hospital as a recreational therapist.

During her career as a recreational therapist, Melinda has also worked tirelessly with nonprofits, including the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Muscular Development Center in Columbia, Limitless Sports, Coastal Adaptive Sports and Teen Angels. In addition to her involvement with non-profits throughout the area, Melinda is currently the director of the North Myrtle Beach Aquatic and Fitness Center. Melinda believes the sky is the limit when it comes to philanthropic endeavors and generosity, a mentality that led her to Tiger Town once again. Considering ways to leave a legacy that reflected both her passion for helping others through sports and her love of Clemson, she created the **Melinda E. Chappell '82 Endowment for Recreational Therapy** to provide unrestricted support for the Clemson University Recreational Therapy (CURT) Program – or its successor. When funds are reached to endow this program, a second endowment, the **Melinda E. Chappell '82 Golf Endowment**, will be directed to the Clemson Ladies Golf Team. Thank you, Melinda, for your philanthropic spirit and your unwavering commitment to Clemson! You can read more about Melinda's planned gift to Clemson [here](#).



Clemson University recently celebrated a monumental day on our campus as Clemson leadership, alumni, donors and student leaders (past and present) gathered during the groundbreaking ceremony for the Samuel J. Cadden Chapel. This has been a dream in the making for many, many years. More than twenty years ago, a small group gathered on the Clemson campus and discussed the need for an important element missing from our wonderful University – a stand-alone Clemson chapel that provides a quiet place for meditation, introspection or worship. The chapel is named after Samuel J. Cadden, a Clemson student who passed away unexpectedly in 2015, and will be located adjacent to the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts. Ken and Mary Cadden, the parents of Sam Cadden, made the lead gift of \$1.5 million in June 2016 that launched an inspiring fundraising campaign. Less than three years later, pledges received for the chapel from more than 1,500 donors have exceeded \$7 million. Among the 1,500 donors are four pillar donors who have made significant pledges to the chapel: Melvin Younts, Charles and Susan Barker, Roy McCall and Ashley Johnson. A long-time dream shared among the Clemson community is now becoming a reality because of these generous gifts from our donors.

Ken and Mary spoke at the groundbreaking event, expressing their desire to carry on their son's legacy. Sam was a rising junior majoring in financial management at the time of his death. Following his death, his parents discovered a wish list that included a desire to one day have a building at Clemson University named in his honor. As they placed their shovels in the orange sand at the groundbreaking ceremony, Ken and Mary came one step closer to fulfilling their son's wish. Please read more about the chapel and the groundbreaking event [here](#), view photos [here](#) and watch a video recapping the special event [here](#).



Whether it's honoring a loved one's legacy or deciding how to leave your own mark on Clemson, the decision to support our University is life-changing – not just for you, but for the future generations of students who have yet to even step foot on our campus. Your gifts today are building a legacy at Clemson that will make a difference tomorrow – just as the gift from Thomas and Anna Clemson continues to impact each member of the Clemson family today.

We enjoy receiving your calls, emails and letters, and we encourage you to let us know how we can help you. Please visit our [website](#), call us at 864-656-0663 or write to us at [giving@clemson.edu](mailto:giving@clemson.edu) if we can be of service to you or your family in any way.

Please learn more about IRA rollover benefits [here](#). You may also download our free [Wills Guide](#), which has been designed to assist you throughout the gift and estate planning process.

The end of our fiscal year, June 30, is quickly approaching. Please don't forget make your annual gift by giving us a call at 864-656-5896 or visiting our [website](#). Because of your continued generosity and commitment to Clemson, we are impacting future generations of Clemson students and providing them with limitless opportunities.

I hope you and your family are enjoying a wonderful and relaxing summer! Please make plans to visit our beautiful campus and make sure you stop by the Class of '55 Exchange for some delicious Clemson ice cream and blue cheese!

Go Tigers!

Gratefully yours,

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