

Greetings, Tigers!

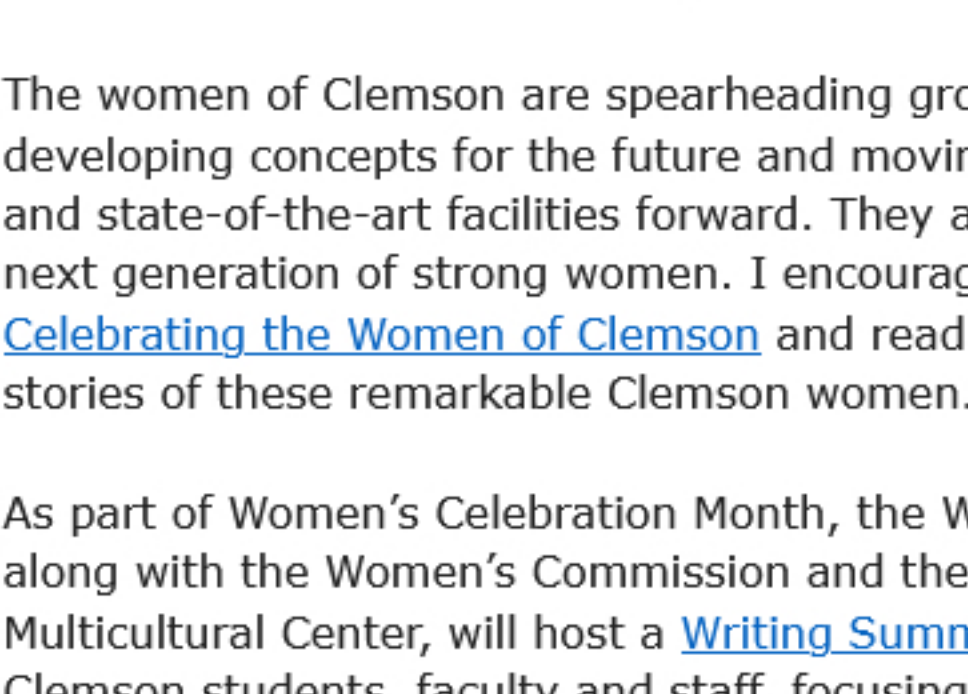
Throughout our nation's history, women have inspired, built and shaped our American experience into one that embraces access, equality and opportunity. Even amid hardships and obstacles, American women continue to blaze trails against injustice and to shatter barriers, expanding the possibilities for future generations of women to grow and lead the world. Women's History Month is a time to honor the many contributions women have made in American History. It's when we celebrate women, their influence and their accomplishments, as well as the proud legacy of female leadership. When he designated the first National Women's History Week, President Jimmy Carter noted, "The achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America were as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well."

If the last year taught us anything, it's that we can challenge everything we thought was normal, true and real. Oprah Winfrey once advised us to "step out of the history that is holding you back. Step into the new story you are willing to create."

As we step into that new story, we celebrate the achievement of American women, not forgetting those who have come before us who made great sacrifices as they envisioned a better future for our world.

That same vision for a better future is found in the story of Clemson as this great University's foundation is inextricably bound by the influence of a woman – Anna Calhoun Clemson. After Anna passed away, the estate fell into the possession of her husband Thomas Green Clemson who gifted the land to establish a "high seminary of learning" – what we now know as Clemson University.

In Jerome V. Reel's *Women and Clemson University: Excellence – Yesterday and Today*, Cathy Sams wrote: "Anna's role extended far beyond her family fortune and Fort Hill. She shared her husband's vision of economic progress through scientific education, and often used her own influence and family contacts to lobby legislators and influential friends to support the idea. Richard Simpson, executor of Clemson's will and member of the school's original Board of Trustees, once wrote that Anna should receive equal recognition with her husband for founding the school—a rare tribute in a day when a woman's opinion was generally not highly regarded or valued."



The recognition and tribute paid to Anna Calhoun Clemson serves as a beacon to encourage and inspire women to become leaders, problem solvers and innovators who make meaningful contributions to American society. [The Clemson University Commission on Women](#) was established to improve the quality of life for women at Clemson. The Commission's charge is to discern the status of women and document findings; discover and pursue the removal of institutional barriers identified by the Commission; collect information and/or conduct research regarding issues which affect women; and explore problem areas that limit equal opportunities and advancement. In addition, the President's Commission on the Status of Women honors individuals annually who have made outstanding contributions to improve the status of women.

The women of Clemson are spearheading ground-breaking research, developing concepts for the future and moving our academic programs and state-of-the-art facilities forward. They are shaping the world for the next generation of strong women. I encourage you to join me in [Celebrating the Women of Clemson](#) and read firsthand the inspiring stories of these remarkable Clemson women.

As part of Women's Celebration Month, the WCM Planning Committee, along with the Women's Commission and the Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center, will host a [Writing Summit & Symposium](#) for Clemson students, faculty and staff, focusing on the theme of Embracing Intersectionality. Moreover, they are assisting Special Collections & Archives in documenting the experiences of women in academia through a collection of published thought-pieces. We encourage members from across the Clemson community to participate and give our students this unique opportunity to publish and work with fellow authors.

From the establishment of this University and throughout its long history of excellence in education, women have been investing in its future. One of these women, [Angela "Angie" Pike '92](#), has followed in the legacy of Thomas Green Clemson and Anna Calhoun Clemson by creating a specific bequest through her estate plan. Growing up in Spartanburg, Angie always dreamed of attending Clemson. Surrounded by a love for the University in her family from the time she was a little girl, her love for Clemson – especially the football program – grew as well. Experiencing Clemson football is one of Angie's passions, fueled by wonderful memories of tailgating with family and friends. Angie holds these memories as priceless treasures.

Angie also attributes spending time with Clemson alumnus, Larry J. Smith '71, as tremendously influential to her becoming a Tiger. Smith, renowned for his work in agricultural economics, personified how the Clemson experience provides a foundation of success in the lives of our students.

Angie's passion and love for Clemson only grew stronger as attending classes and participating in campus life introduced her to many new friends. Angie found that these new friends, with who she would bond with the most at football games sitting in the student section, began to feel like family. For Angie, football is more than just about winning; it is an experience that enhances her bond with the Clemson Family. When the football team succeeds, she sees it as the success of the whole University – the culmination of all the experiences that make Clemson special. Angie also found a deep bond in Greek life as a member of the Chi Omega sorority. "My family is my Clemson Family – the majority of the friends I have today either went with me to Clemson or I met at Clemson. They are my family now and my life. Clemson was the single greatest time in my life," says Angie. "There's a debt of gratitude. I feel like I owe something back to Clemson. It's a gem of a university."

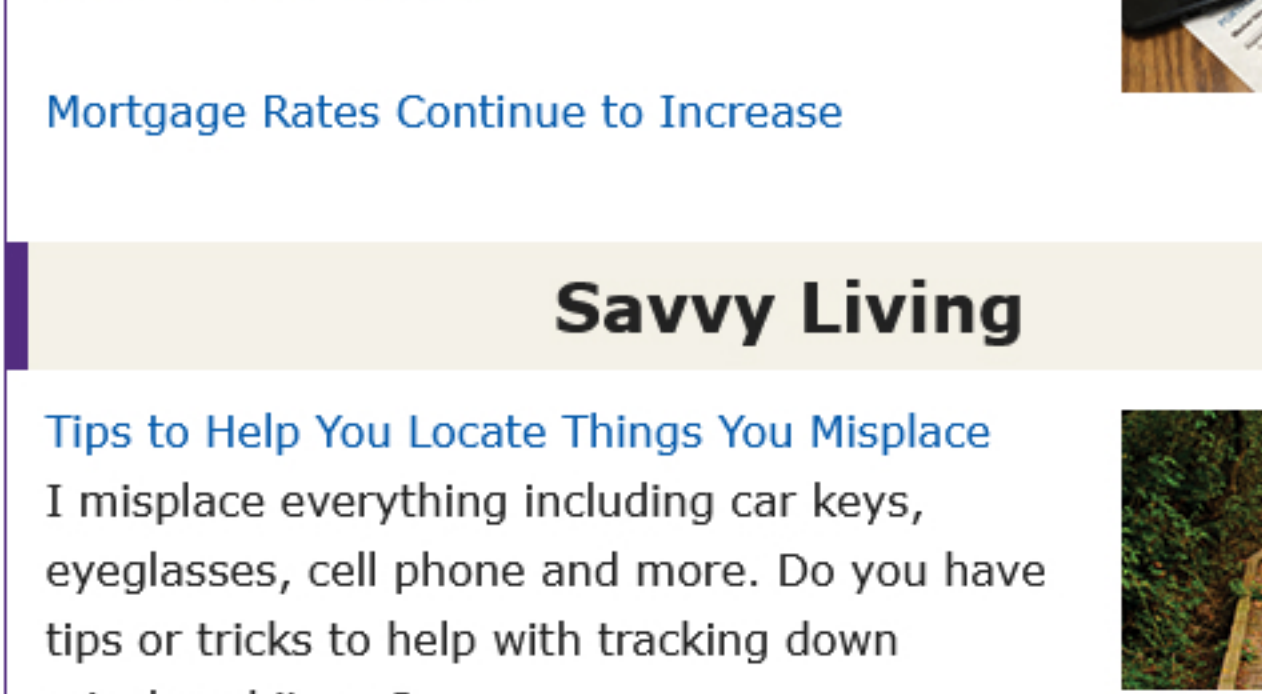


After graduating from Clemson with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, Angie went on to earn a master's degree in education from Converse University. Angie became a valued educator teaching elementary school students. Watching her students rise above challenges and succeed was the most fulfilling mark of success. The idea of paying it forward whenever possible is a driving force in Angie's life. She feels there is no better way to accomplish that than through devoting oneself to educating young people.

Now Angie splits her time between her work in medical sales and her involvement with animal rescue organizations, such as Low Country Lab Rescue and the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust for elephant rescue.

Like so many, Angie remains a loyal and engaged member of the Clemson Family. She enjoys staying informed about all things Clemson, including academics, student life and athletics. Several years ago, Angie was especially moved by the ESPN feature on a Clemson player, highlighting how many student-athletes have benefited from their athletic experiences in ways that lifted themselves and their families out of financial hardship. The story of adversity and perseverance inspired Angie to contact IPTAY to learn about how she could make a difference and invest in the future of Clemson Athletics. She learned about the powerful impact she could make in the lives of Clemson student-athletes by establishing a future gift through her estate.

Captivated and inspired by the drive and sacrifice made by Clemson athletes, Angie made provisions in her will to fund the **Angela M. Pike '92 Endowment for IPTAY**. Knowing that she will contribute to the success of future students fulfills part of her dream while helping others achieve theirs. This future gift will establish an endowment that will support our amazing student-athletes for many generations to come. Angie's generosity is a tangible expression of what Clemson means to her, and planning a future gift of support to the program she loves is the greatest investment toward paying it forward. "There's so much joy watching football and athletics succeed, performing and producing at the highest level," Angie says. "It's not just that we have a great football team. The program represents all people, the experiences, relationships and friendships that have lasted a lifetime. My decision to support these young men and women came out of that. I want to leave a legacy for students who have to make sacrifices in order to pursue their passion. I want the future young men and women of the Clemson Family to come to school without being burdened and for them to succeed."



This month we celebrate the women of Clemson, and Angie Pike exhibits the legacy of generosity that Anna Calhoun Clemson influenced so many years ago. There are many women in the Clemson Family who continue to encourage and inspire other women to become leaders, change agents and innovators. Think of the outstanding women who have shaped you and made a difference in your life. Think of how you can celebrate them and pave the path for other women to follow their example of love and sacrifice. How will you serve, inspire and influence the next generation? Please consider your role in paying it forward for all the opportunities and blessings that have been bestowed on you and your family. Your current and future financial support is a direct way to invest in the future of our great University and our students.

We are forever grateful for your thoughtful support and dedication to Clemson, and we sincerely hope you will reach out to us directly if we can assist you and your family in any way. Please visit our [website](#) or send a personal email to us at giving@clemson.edu. 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.

Please mark your calendars for April 21 – Clemson's sixth annual **Give Day**. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together as Tigers to move Clemson forward. Your gift is an expression of your gratitude for Clemson and support of our mission. When you make a gift to Clemson, you help fund scholarships and initiatives that would not exist otherwise, but beyond all else, you are supporting Tigers.

We are looking forward to the day when we can stand together on our beautiful campus and reflect on the tenacity and perseverance of the Tiger spirit during challenging times. In the meantime, we salute all of the incredible women around us who continue to inspire us to be our very best. Please stay healthy and safe.

Go Tigers!

Gratefully yours,



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Finances

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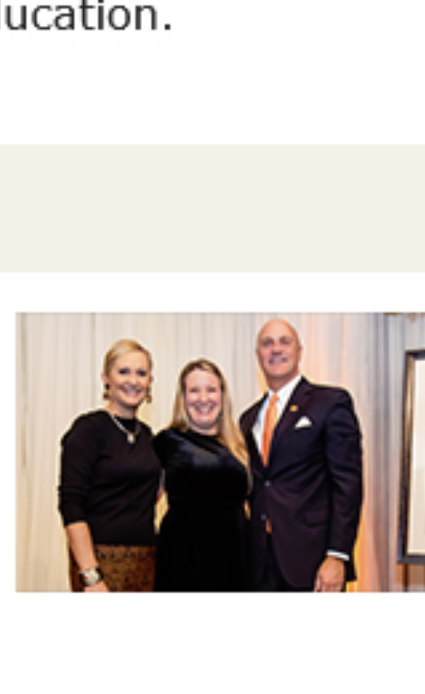


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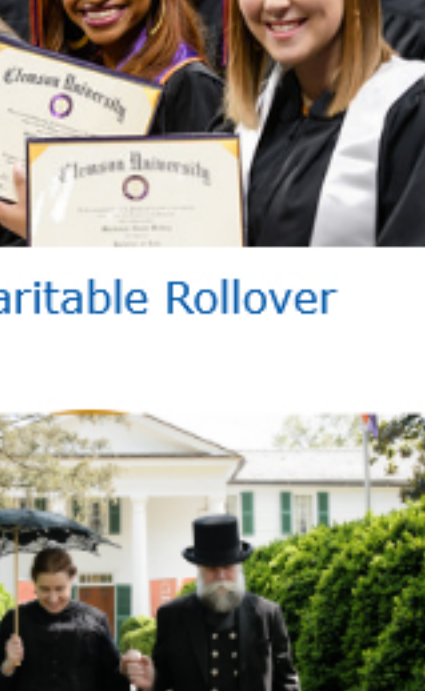


Washington News

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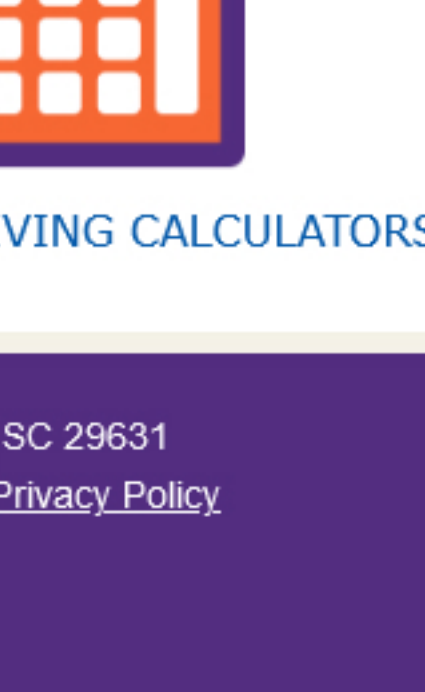


Personal Planner

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