

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 milestones in its rich history, honor alumni and donors who continue to illustrate the importance of giving back, and to express 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.



**JoVanna J. King**  
Senior Director  
Principal Gifts & Gift and  
Estate Planning

The Legacy Day Celebration to honor the signing of Thomas Green Clemson's Will, which led to the founding of this great University was started in 2009. 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 our legacy and several donors came by to sign the Clemson Legacy Registry as a symbol of their commitment to include Clemson in their estate plan.

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 beautiful leaves demonstrate enlightened acts of philanthropy that will benefit Clemson forever. This year we inducted William "Bill" Brooks Thayer, class of 1952, of Raleigh, NC into the Fort Hill Legacy Society. View [photos](#) and [learn more](#) about 2016 Legacy Day activities.

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. View [photos](#) of the event, and view [video](#) of President Clements's remarks. As the President commented, "Mr. and Mrs. Clemson would be proud!"

Clemson hosted its first Clemson History in Plain Sight which was held on Bowman Field on November 14. This year's event featured a presentation by Clemson alum Eric Young '95, a descendant of Thomas Fruster and Frances "Fannie" Benson-Fruster, who were both slaves of school founder Thomas Green Clemson. [Read more](#) about Clemson History in Plain Sight, and [view photos](#) of the event.

Clemson's current Abney Scholars were honored at a dinner in the IPTAY suite at Memorial Stadium. The Abney Foundation has established scholarship endowments at fourteen colleges and universities across the state of South Carolina. We are very thankful to the Abney Foundation for creating the largest endowed scholarship program at Clemson University! View [photos](#) of the dinner here.

Drake Loflin '07, M.S. '10, has turned a personal tragedy into something meaningful for others. Loflin established the Joseph Melton "Josh" Loflin III, '07 Memorial Scholarship Endowment earlier this year. Drake and Josh met at Clemson, fell in love and married. A tragic plane crash took Josh's life in 2014, but his legacy and his love for Clemson will live on in the lives of students for generations to come. Read more about the Loflins and Drake's gift to the University [here](#).

I am grateful for Drake and others who have created endowments for the benefit of others. I am also grateful for those who have followed the example established by the generosity of Anna and Thomas Green Clemson by remembering the University in their estate plan. When someone provides for future generations of people they will probably never meet or know, they understand their place in this 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, leather-bound book that is on display at Fort 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, we would be delighted to work with you to explore various ways in which you and your family can make a difference at Clemson. We encourage you to download our free [wills guide](#), which has been designed to assist you throughout the planning process. To learn more about IRA rollover benefits, please click [here](#).

Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. Please let us know if have any questions or if we can assist you in any way. You may visit our [website](#), call us at 864-656-0663 or email us at [giving@clemson.edu](mailto:giving@clemson.edu).

We hope you are making plans to visit campus soon. GO TIGERS!

Gratefully yours,

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