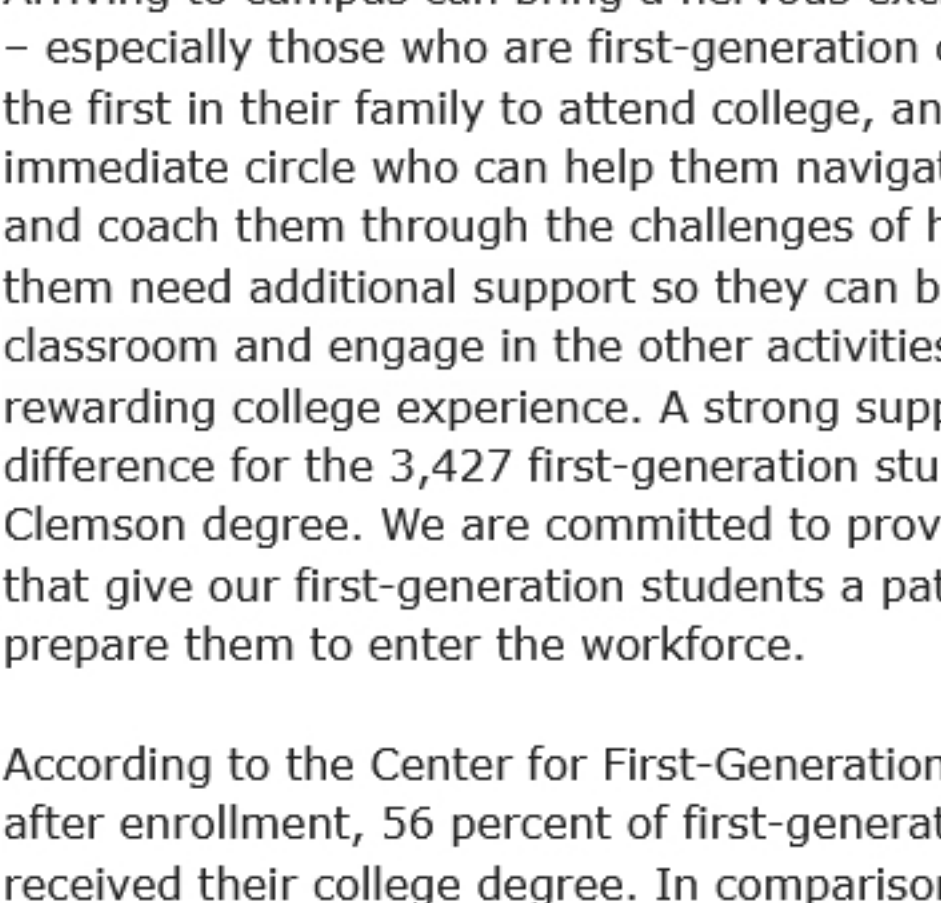


Greetings, Tigers!

Excitement fills the air as our students have returned to campus! Our hearts are grateful for the rich Clemson Experience we know they will receive from our faculty and staff this year. After receiving a record number of applications for Fall 2021 admission, Clemson has welcomed a new class of more than 4,600 freshmen with diverse backgrounds, life experiences and perspectives. They are high-achievers eager to learn, both in and outside of the classroom. They are ready to take on new challenges, make a difference in the lives of others and leave a lasting impact on this campus and their communities. It truly is a joy to watch them grow and develop into amazing individuals.



Arriving to campus can bring a nervous excitement among our freshmen – especially those who are first-generation college students. They are the first in their family to attend college, and they have no one in their immediate circle who can help them navigate the new set of standards and coach them through the challenges of higher education. Many of them need additional support so they can be competitive in the classroom and engage in the other activities that make for a rich and rewarding college experience. A strong support system makes all the difference for the 3,427 first-generation students currently pursuing a Clemson degree. We are committed to provide resources and programs that give our first-generation students a pathway to graduation and prepare them to enter the workforce.

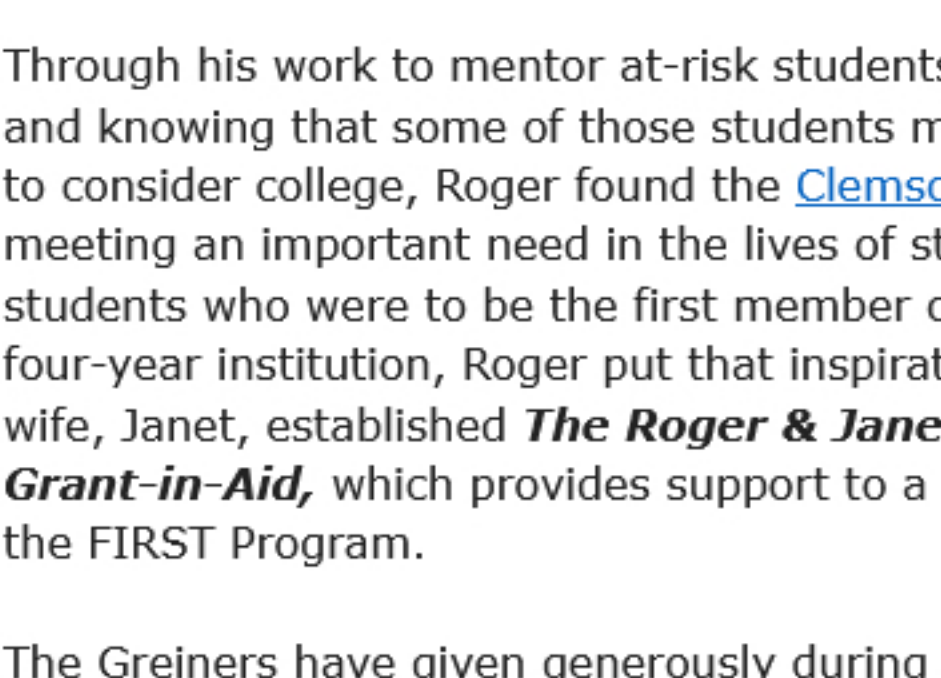
According to the Center for First-Generation Student Success, six years after enrollment, 56 percent of first-generation students have not received their college degree. In comparison to this national average, Clemson's 6-year graduation rate for our students is 78 percent. This is an amazing testament to the determined spirit of our students and our University's commitment to their success. In addition, among our current enrollment for first-generation students, 75 percent are in-state students and 30 percent are from under-represented populations.

The resources Clemson provides for our first-generation students includes financial support from scholarships and Clemson FIRST Program designed specifically for them to alleviate stress and allow them to focus on their education. Financial and emotional support alters their life trajectory for the better and gives students an opportunity to forge a path for success.

FIRST provides mentoring by peers, academic coaching, faculty interaction, test review sessions and tutoring, study skills and time management training, workshops and speakers, informational newsletters and referrals for internships. Along with academic support, FIRST offers a variety of enriching activities, community service projects, leadership positions, recreational sports and opportunities to make lifelong friends. FIRST is kicking off an alumni-mentoring program this fall, called FIRST AlumNet, which will connect first-generation alumni with FIRST Program students. We see higher retention rates among those students who participate in the FIRST Program from their first year to second year at Clemson.



This support structure is made possible through the generous support of our donors to first-generation scholarships and the FIRST Program. Roger Greiner is uniquely aware how giving generously can significantly impact a first-generation student's future. His commitment stems from his desire and vision to remove financial barriers so that first-generation students have the opportunity to succeed at Clemson. A New York native and graduate of the University of Miami with a bachelor's in business administration, Roger enjoyed a successful career as an insurance company executive. After retirement, Roger looked for a place to replant his roots – and he landed "where the Blue Ridge yawns its greatness."



As he transitioned into the Clemson area, it did not take long for him to see that retirement would involve giving back in a substantial way. Through friends – both new and old – he quickly became involved in the community and the University. Shortly after retiring to Clemson, he became involved with Zest Quest, a local program focused on mentoring and providing support for at-risk students in local public schools. Roger felt especially inspired by their stories of dedication and perseverance amid hardship. He would do "anything [he] could to encourage them and keep them motivated" to overcome obstacles in their lives. Roger provided mentorship for the students as they faced challenges with school and home life, encouraging them to stay focused and continue their education.

Through his work to mentor at-risk students in the Clemson community and knowing that some of those students may be the first in their family to consider college, Roger found the [Clemson's FIRST Program](#) was meeting an important need in the lives of students. Inspired by Clemson students who were to be the first member of their family to attend a four-year institution, Roger put that inspiration into action. He and his wife, Janet, established *The Roger & Janet Greiner Annual FIRST Grant-in-Aid*, which provides support to a student who participates in the FIRST Program.

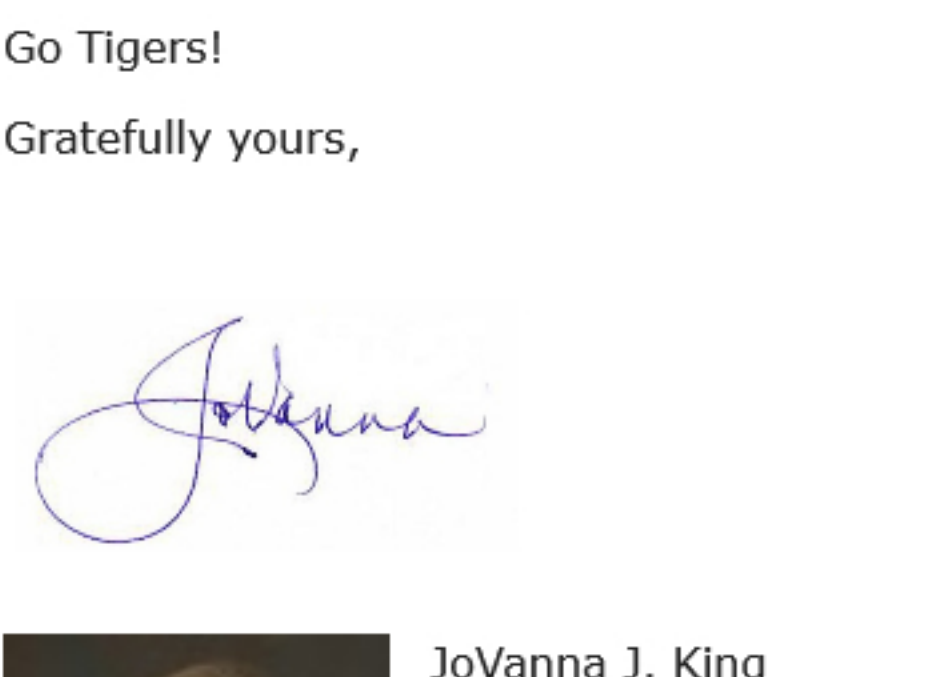
The Greiners have given generously during their lifetime, and they have also made a significant provision in their estate plan to enhance their support for first-generation students when they are no longer here to personally cheer them on. *The Roger & Janet Greiner Clemson FIRST Endowment* will provide perpetual support for our students. In addition, *The Roger & Janet Greiner IPTAY Endowment* will provide grants-in-aid for our student-athletes. *ROGER* continues to mentor students, from elementary through high school. His mission is to see the next generation succeed – especially our first-generation students at Clemson. Read the Greiners full story [here](#).

The generous support from Clemson's alumni and friends, like Roger and Janet, provides future generations with access to successful programs that support and aid students during their Clemson journey. At Clemson, we believe in the value of hard work, and we promote and pursue that work tirelessly. We believe that our collective mission as a University is to positively impact the lives of our students to maximize their success and in turn position them to prosper as they move forward and change the world. We endeavor to help each of our students reach their goals and objectives in life.

Roger's relationships with students inspired him to give back to future generations of first-generation Clemson students. There are so many opportunities across our campus where you can support our students today, tomorrow and forever. As you consider the legacy you would like to leave at Clemson, we would be honored to help you explore the many ways in which you can make a difference through your thoughtful generosity. Please visit our [website](#) or send a personal email to us at giving@clemson.edu. We always enjoy hearing from you! Additionally, 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.

I want to leave you with these thoughts. We often find role models that capture our attention and inspire us to keep moving forward. Michelle Obama comes to mind, as one of our nation's most famous and accomplished first-generation college graduates. She said, "attending college was like learning a whole new language." Her advice to a group of students was 1) Don't be isolated 2) Engage in campus life 3) Ask for help 4) Find your passions and 5) Enjoy!

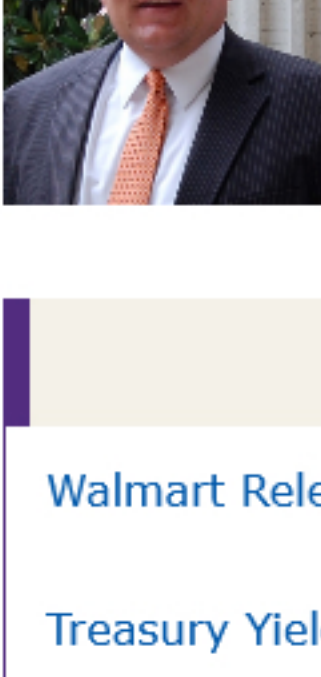
Closer to home, Clemson has at the helm an amazing leader and role model who is a first-generation college graduate, President Jim Clements. As the grandson of a coal miner and a firefighter and son to parents who taught him and his three older siblings that education was the key to a better life, his passion to pursue a life and career in higher education was ignited – paving his path to help give others the same opportunity he was given. Under his extraordinary leadership, Clemson University has been recognized as a [First Forward Institution](#) by NASPA's Center for First-Generation Student Success. This designation recognizes universities that have shown a commitment to the success of their first-generation student populations. He is personally involved with the program, offering mentorship to students in the same position as he found himself during his college career. President Clements is a nationally recognized leader in higher education, and the Clemson Family is incredibly blessed in so many ways by his visionary leadership, especially his commitment to make a difference in the lives of our students every day.



College is such a wonderful experience – it is a time to grow and expand your horizon in a safe and encouraging environment. We are extremely fortunate that Clemson is intentional about making sure that each of our students are exposed to unique and life-changing opportunities. We are anxious to see what the fall semester has in store for all of us. We pray that it includes good health and happiness for everyone. In the meantime, please stay safe and know how grateful we are for your steadfast support and encouragement.

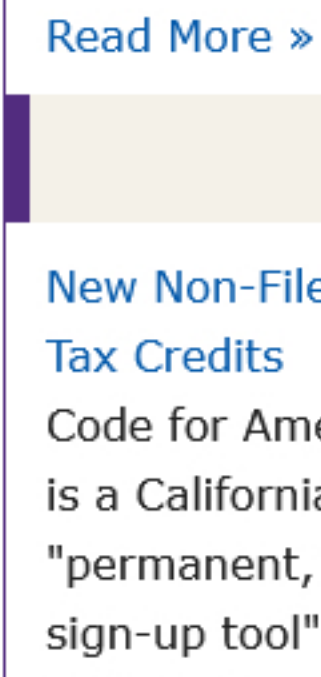
Go Tigers!

Gratefully yours,

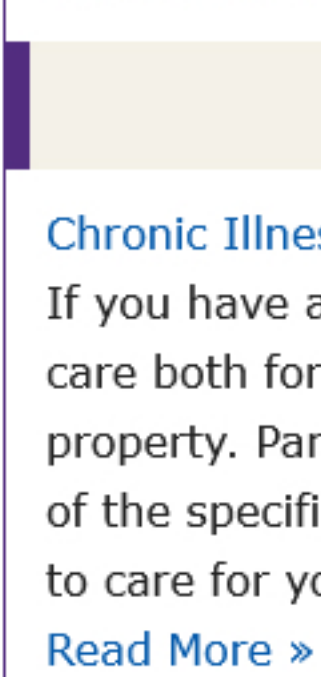


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P.S. I want to highlight that we have one of the best planned giving teams in the country. Our team of fundraising professionals is driving a culture of philanthropy that provides resources and inspiration through charitable gift and estate planning. 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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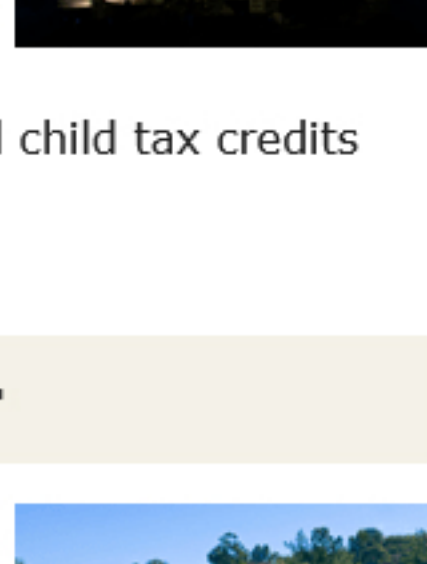


Savvy Living

[How to Choose a Blood Pressure Monitor](#)

I just found out I have stage 1 hypertension and my doctor recommended I get a home blood pressure monitor to keep an eye on it. Can you offer me any tips on choosing a good one?

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Washington News

[New Non-Filers Online Tool for Advance Child Tax Credits](#)

Code for America Labs, Inc. (Code for America) is a California nonprofit that is developing a "permanent, multi-lingual, and mobile-friendly sign-up tool" to help Americans receive advanced child tax credits (ACTC). The new online tool may help an...

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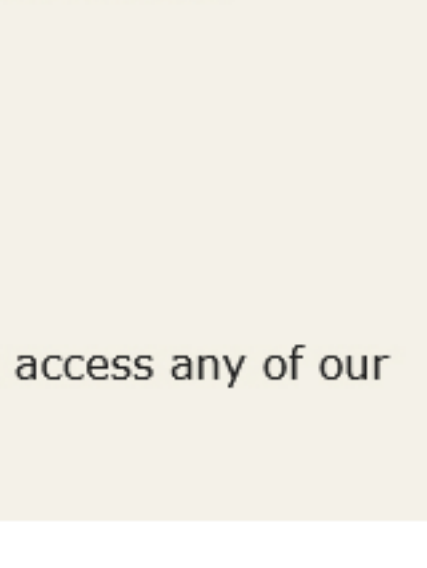


Personal Planner

[Chronic Illness - Care of Your Property](#)

If you have a chronic illness, you will need to care both for your person and for your property. Part II of this article will explain some of the specific preparations that are important to care for your property.

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Donor Stories

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

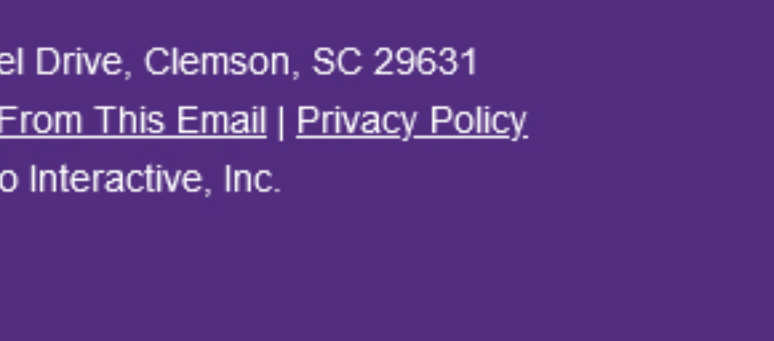


A Lifetime Connection to Clemson
Growing up as a child in the small town of Cowpens, South Carolina, Gwen Shoneke always cherished her grandfather's Clemson beanie cap and colorful stories about his time as a student at the University. Gwen's grandfather, Dr. George Dean Martin, graduated in 1915 from Clemson Agricultural College and became a pharmacist and owner of Cowpens Drug Store. Gwen's grandfather introduced her to the Clemson Family. Because of his love for Clemson, she generously donated his diploma and 1915 yearbook to the Alumni Association in his memory. She also made a future commitment to create an endowment for future generations. [READ MORE.](#)

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



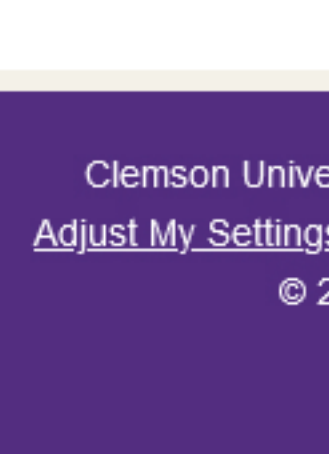
[Learn about Wills](#)



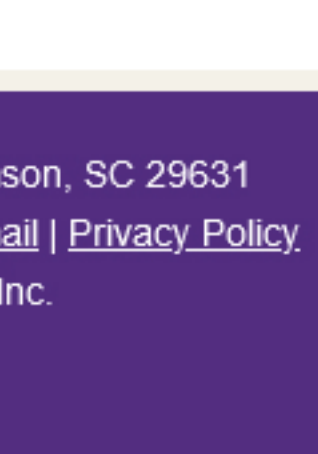
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