

Greetings from Tiger Town!

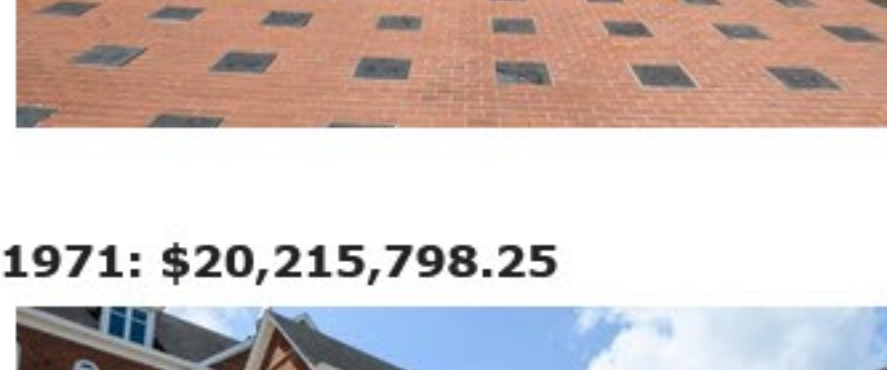
Warren Buffet, one of America's great investors, said, "Someone is sitting in the shade today, because someone planted a tree a long time ago." Clemson University is a nationally recognized university today because of the seeds planted – the investment made – by Thomas and Anna Clemson and those who followed in their philanthropic footsteps. Their generosity has enhanced the fruitful lives of generations of Clemson students, and the plan you make today – the seeds you plant – may benefit future generations of Clemson students.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year on June 30th, I encourage you to reflect on the legacy you would like to leave. Every gift, both current and future, to our University ensures future generations of students receive an exceptional Clemson education and the unique Clemson Experience. In addition to making annual gifts ([click here](#)), your legacy can be further cemented at Clemson through a planned gift. We encourage you to visit our [website](#) to learn more about how various types of gifts can be beneficial to both you and your family and our great University.

Last week, Clemson welcomed home more than 600 Tigers for the Golden Tiger Reunion. While this is typically an annual celebration, COVID-19 sadly kept the classes of 1970 and 1971 from participating the past two years. So this year was truly special! The classes of 1970, 1971 and 1972 all joined together for their induction into the Golden Tiger Society. Throughout two days of celebrations, our Golden Tigers reunited with their former classmates and commemorated their induction by participating in a graduation-style ceremony. Each Golden Tiger was called on stage and presented with a Golden Tiger Society induction certificate and lapel pin. Attendees also participated in University presentations, campus updates, campus tours and other activities.

My favorite part of the Golden Tiger Reunion – and what I think is most special – is the presentation from the classes of their Class Gifts to Clemson University. These totals represent the total support of each class since their graduation:

1970: \$20,609,141.03



1971: \$20,215,798.25



1972: \$42,559,319.75



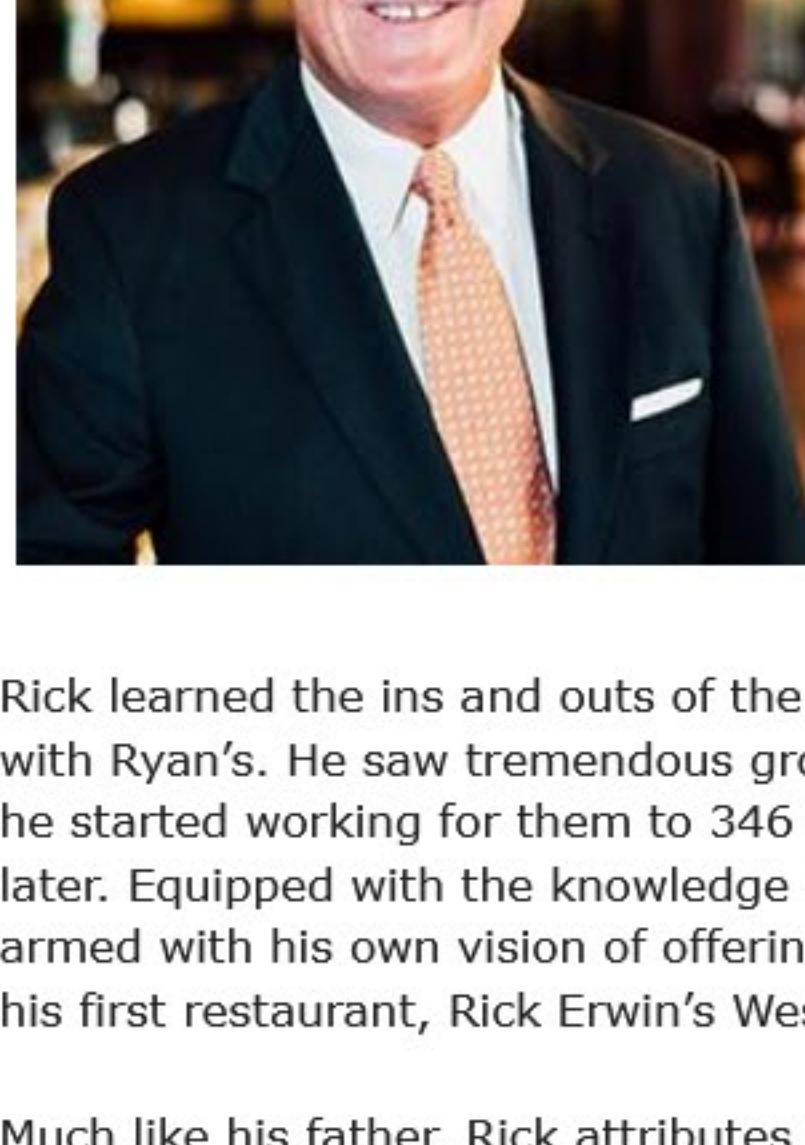
What an amazing impact these Tigers have had – and continue to have – on our University!

Our decision to invest in Clemson is often based on personal experiences and the strong relationships within our Clemson Family. Our relationships in life define us. This is especially true for Rick Erwin. The relationships he has formed throughout his life have influenced him greatly, and most recently, these relationships have inspired him to make a planned gift to support Clemson University.

For all of Rick Erwin's life, he has been surrounded by people who made him (in his words) "better"—from his family and extended Clemson Family to his friends and business partners.

Rick learned the importance of relationship building as it relates to leadership from his father, Mike, whose business success he attributes to the power of connection. Rick witnessed his father strive to get to know and understand his co-workers and leaders during his successful career in the textile industry.

This powerful example gave Rick the inspiration to build strong relationships in his own life, both personally and professionally. Sadly, while in his early 20s, Rick lost his dad to heart disease and cancer. In the wake of this loss, Rick wanted to help support his mother and sister and took a job with Ryan's Family Steakhouse, where he – again – was surrounded by good people who influenced him in ways he would only fully realize later.



Rick learned the ins and outs of the restaurant business during his 23-year career with Ryan's. He saw tremendous growth, from four restaurants in the chain when he started working for them to 346 restaurants in 22 states a mere two decades later. Equipped with the knowledge of what it takes to operate a restaurant and armed with his own vision of offering a memorable dining experience, Rick opened his first restaurant, Rick Erwin's West End Grille, in 2005.

Much like his father, Rick attributes his success to his emphasis on leadership through relationship-building. Rick watched his parents' friendships grow and flourish at Clemson tailgates and beyond. "Those long-time friendships were forged and nurtured through the mutual love of our Clemson Tigers," he said. He fondly recalls his parents' friendship with [Melvin and Dollie Younts](#) which pre-dates his birth. "The Yountses and my parents went to the Sugar Bowl to see the Tigers play about a month before I was born. So I guess you could say I've been a Clemson fan since before I was born," he reminisced. "That realization hit me a few years ago, when I found myself on a plane with Melvin, headed to the Sugar Bowl once again."

Rick says that he has chosen to leave an unrestricted planned gift to [IPTAY](#) because he truly believes in and has faith in Clemson's commitment to excellence and leadership development. He wants to give others the ability to forge strong relationships and become better people by surrounding themselves with good people.

"I was never blessed to have children, so my interest – when I leave this earth – is to be able to leave something that will help a large number of people," he said. "I have a lot of faith in Clemson's leadership, and I am certain, in leaving an unrestricted gift, that Clemson will use this to benefit students and prepare them for the future. When I put my head on my pillow at night, the knowledge that I will be able to help a significant number of people is something that I'm very proud of." Rick says that will be the legacy he leaves, as he believes that the growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.

With thoughtful consideration, Rick established an estate gift that will strongly impact others and also serve as a reflection of his life and the relationships that shaped it. We hope Rick's story, which you can read in full [here](#), will inspire you to consider how you can make a plan today that will have a significant impact today, tomorrow and forever. Our team would be honored to assist as you explore the various types of planned gifts and their benefits. You are most welcome to contact us directly by emailing us at giving@clemson.edu.

Our [website](#) features useful online resources to guide your thought process. For information about general estate planning, our [free Wills Guide](#) is available to help with your plans before visiting with your attorney and financial advisor. Additionally, you can find information about IRA Charitable Qualified Distribution (QCD) benefits [here](#).

We sincerely hope to see you on our beautiful campus very soon. In the meantime, please enjoy your summer, and let us know how we can support you and your family. We value and appreciate *everything* you have done for our wonderful University.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones, and as always, Go Tigers!

Happy Father's Day Weekend,



JoVanna J. King
Senior Associate Vice President for Development
110 Daniel Drive
Clemson, SC 29631
864.656.0663 telephone
864.940.7983 mobile
jovanna@clemson.edu

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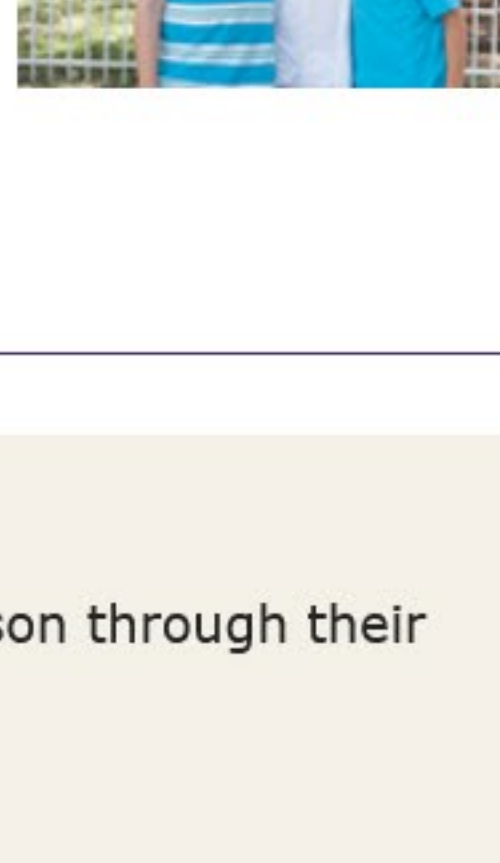


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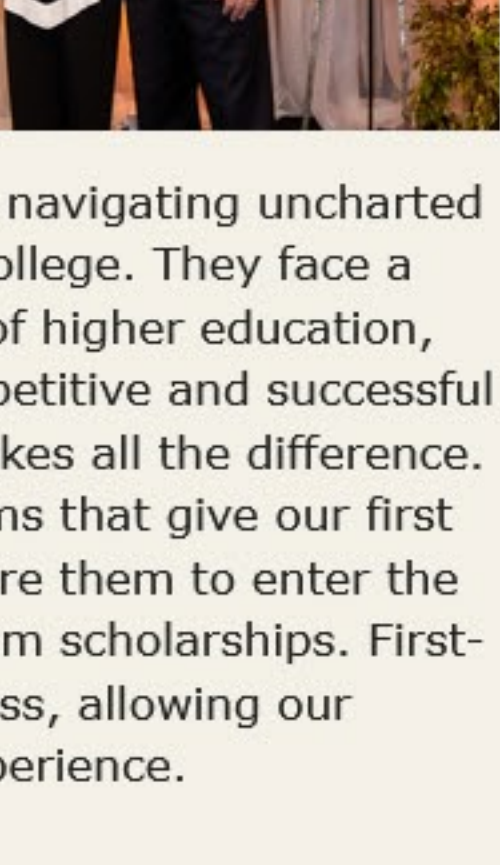


Washington News

[Should the IRS File Your Income Tax Return?](#)

April 18, 2022, was a significant day for over 160 million Americans who filed a 2021 federal income tax return. Collectively, taxpayers spent approximately 2 billion hours and over \$30 billion in the process of preparing these tax returns.

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Personal Planner

[Seven Questions on Gifts to Children](#)

Many questions arise when we consider the options for giving to children. Why should we give? When, what and how should we give? Will gifts impact the self-esteem and initiative of the child?

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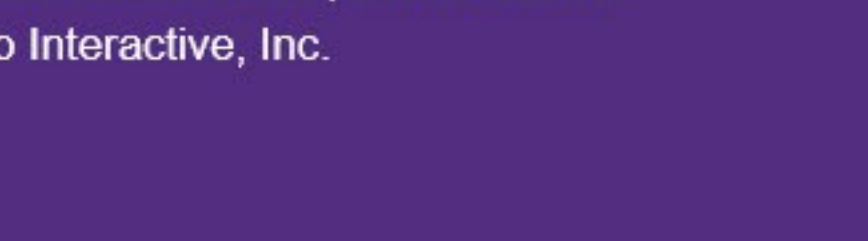
Donor Stories

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

[Fueling future generations of FIRSTS](#)

Aspiring to be first is inherent in many of us. It is a goal worth pursuing; however, it is not without difficulties. For first-generation students, college comes with a set of special challenges for these student and their families. First-generation college students are navigating uncharted territory, as they are the first in their family to attend college. They face a new set of standards while adjusting to the challenges of higher education, and many need additional support so they may be competitive and successful toward degree completion. A strong support system makes all the difference. Clemson is committed to provide resources and programs that give our first generation students a pathway to graduation and prepare them to enter the workforce. These resources include graduation support from scholarships. First-generation student scholarships alleviate additional stress, allowing our students to focus on their education and the college experience.

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



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