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Greetings from Tiger Town!

Whether the year ends or the year begins, the Clemson Tigers will always be on top. In spectacular fashion, our football team routed both [The University of Notre Dame](#) and [The University of Alabama](#), respectively ranked third and first in the nation. The thrilling wins topped off the first perfect season in the era of the College Football Playoff, and the Tigers' victorious 15-0 record was signified by hoisting the National Championship trophy.

Yet, our players' actions off the field are what make them champions. As a team, Clemson earned the American Football Coaches Association Academic Achievement Award, which is awarded to only five schools based on academic achievement. While each of the players are heavily involved in the community, Christian Wilkins being awarded the 2018 William V. Campbell Trophy characterizes the champion spirit of this team. Given to the player with the highest combined success in academics, on-field performance and exemplary community leadership, Christian Wilkins has shown us what it means to be a true champion – champions on the field, champions in the classroom and champions in the community.



Our players' hard work, sportsmanship and dedication is exemplified in each of their actions, and I am forever proud to be a part of the Clemson family alongside such upstanding young men. The accomplishments of our players were enthusiastically on display this past Saturday during Clemson's National Championship Parade and Celebration in Death Valley. Many of the players – including Hunter Renfrow, Christian Wilkins, Mitch Hyatt and Clelin Ferrell – spoke of their united journey to become college football's premier team. Their expressions of gratitude for their coaches, families and fans were overtones to an important Clemson belief: Best is the standard, and with honesty, integrity and respect, it can be achieved. The joy of this championship will eventually fade. However, the character of their souls will shine bright into the future.



The awe-inspiring display that has graced the beginning of this year has demonstrated what it means to be a Clemson Tiger. To each of us, however, it begs a question: "What will my Clemson legacy be?" Before our two most recent championships, Emily Wallace was inspired by Dabo and Kathleen Swinney to answer that question for herself. Recognizing her education at Clemson was a catalyst for her successful career, Emily established the [Emily Peek Wallace '72 Scholarship Endowment for S.T.E.M.](#), which provides scholarships for students who require financial assistance in STEM fields. When Emily Peek arrived at Clemson as a math major in 1968, she was one of the few Clemson women entering any STEM field at the time. Recipients of her endowment are encouraged to participate in the Women in Science and Engineering (W.I.S.E.) program to continue to counteract the lack of women in her field. In 1981, Emily and her husband, Jack, joined SAS Institute and were among the first 100 employees of the Cary, North Carolina company, where Emily now serves as the Senior Director of the Knowledge Management Center. Emily's philanthropic spirit was instrumental in a multi-million-dollar donation of software and services to Clemson University by SAS – a global company with 15,000 employees. Thank you, Emily, for your dedication, service and commitment to Clemson! You are a true role model for all of us! Please read more about Emily Wallace and her scholarship endowment [here](#).



The Clemson Alumni Association recently named Janice Childress McCrary as an Honorary Alumnus, a distinction for steadfast Tiger supporters whose "blood runs orange" but who never attended Clemson. An individual recognized with the Honorary Alumnus designation is considered a member of the Alumni Association in the class year in which they are presented with the honor. Jan is passionate about Clemson University and has given generously of her time, talent and treasures to our great University, including serving on many of our University's boards and committees. We would like to officially welcome Jan to the Clemson family as an alumna! Thank you, Jan, for your extraordinary devotion and commitment to Clemson.



Please consider how you could leave a legacy at Clemson. We would be honored to help you and your family evaluate and consider how you can make a powerful impact for our students, faculty and staff – today, tomorrow and forever.

It is always a pleasure hearing from you, and we sincerely hope that you will contact us if we can assist you and your family in any way. You may link to our [website](#), call us at 864-656-0663 or write to us at giving@clemson.edu. We also invite you to learn more about IRA rollover benefits [here](#). Please download our free [Wills Guide](#), which has been designed to assist you throughout the estate planning process.

With coats on and hot coffee in hand, students are beginning this new semester filled with anticipation inspired by our National Champions. We hope you will make plans to visit us soon and enjoy your own brisk walk across Bowman Field with a renewed sense of being part of the best of the best!

GO TIGERS!
Gratefully yours,



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