



Greetings from Tigertown!

I want to begin with a warm congratulations to our newest Golden Tigers, the Clemson Class of 1973! They were inducted into the Golden Tiger Society last week by Clemson University President, Jim Clements, and Clemson Alumni Association Executive Director, Wil Brasington.



Every June, the Clemson Alumni Association celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion class by inducting them into the Golden Tiger Society. This annual celebration reunites Golden Tigers with their former classmates and commemorates their induction by participating in a graduation-style ceremony. Each Golden Tiger is presented with a Golden Tiger Society induction certificate and lapel pin.

Each year, we look forward to welcoming our Golden Tigers back to

campus. These are the men and women who have guided us and inspired us – who helped write the history of Clemson.



*Pictured: Joe Jones and George Bennett*

Golden Tigers who were previously inducted are invited to return to the reunion every year, and we can always count on George Bennett to be there to reunite with his fellow Tigers.

George Bennett, former executive secretary of IPTAY and long-time Clemson supporter, is known for creating more than one Clemson tradition. While a student at Clemson, he was a varsity Cheerleader for three years and the head cheerleader his senior year in 1954. George persuaded his father to buy a small cannon that would be fired after the Tigers scored a touchdown. A tradition was born – one that is still carried on today. George is also responsible for starting Clemson's \$2 bill tradition, which began with Clemson's trip to Georgia Tech in 1977. He wanted to show the businesses and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce how much of an impact the Clemson fan base and alumni made on the local economy when

they came to town.

These Clemson traditions have become significant parts of our history – known not only to the Clemson Family but across the country.

These types of traditions are what Vincie Albritton '84 was looking for when deciding where to go to college. She describes growing up as a "military brat" as both a blessing and a curse. Because her family moved so often, she didn't feel that she had the same experience many of her friends had, growing up in the same house, going to school with the same friends. When it was time for Vincie to apply to colleges, it was important to her to find a place that provided a traditional experience. She says, "I wanted it all, a solid education, football Saturdays, pep rallies, and a family atmosphere. A place to call home."

She found that at Clemson.

Her father had seen the value of Greek life during his fraternity days at Georgia Tech and encouraged Vincie to go through recruitment (or “rush” as it was known at the time). Following her father’s advice, Vincie pledged Pi Beta Phi. “Having two older brothers, I had never experienced sisterhood until joining Pi Beta Phi,” Vincie says.

Graduating in December of 1984, Vincie began her career in Atlanta, working in a law office and earning a paralegal certification. She dealt mostly with litigation and intellectual property law. A lifelong learner, Vincie returned to the classroom in 1996 and earned her MBA with an emphasis on entrepreneurship from Kennesaw State at night.

Armed with her new MBA, Vincie moved back to the Upstate in 1997 to work with a medical device manufacturer.

When looking online, Vincie discovered a job posting at Clemson that would change everything for her. The job posting related to the managing and marketing of university intellectual property. She says, “I realized that my education, my experience as a paralegal, and my skill in marketing and sales had led me to this role.”

During her 23 years working for the University, Vincie partnered with strong mentors who impacted her in many ways. Vincie developed technology marketing strategies, served as the business officer for the office of research and graduate school, and served as the University research security officer. She also worked with business start-ups, managing the CURF business incubation facilities located in Pendleton.



Over the years, Vincie has given to Clemson’s general scholarship fund and to the Women’s Alumni Council Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson scholarship fund. “I am aware of the importance of the general scholarship fund for all students, but when I retired this past year from Clemson, I wanted to be more focused and more intentional with my giving than in previous years,” said Vincie.

As a Clemson alumna, Vincie believes that she has a responsibility to support and sustain the education of the next generation of women who come to Clemson.

Just as Vincie chooses to enhance her legacy by supporting the next generation of Tigers, both during her life and with a significant estate gift commitment to create a permanent endowment that will carry on her inspirational work, we encourage you to reach out to our team to discuss how you too can make a difference in the lives of others.

As we approach the end of our fiscal year on June 30<sup>th</sup>, I hope you feel inspired to reflect on the legacy you would like to leave for future generations. Every gift to our University – both current and future – ensures students have the opportunity to experience Clemson’s greatest traditions and create their own memorable experiences. In addition to making annual gifts, 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 wonderful University.

Information about IRA Charitable Qualified Distribution (QCD) benefits can be found [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 of course, we would love to hear from you directly by emailing us at [giving@clermson.edu](mailto:giving@clermson.edu).

As I watched our Golden Tigers relive their golden years as Tigers last week, the closeness of Father's Day was not lost on me. I was reminded of the "titans" of Clemson: Frank Howard, Gene Willimon, George Bennett. Those of our past and our present who had a hand in establishing our greatest traditions. When Thomas Green Clemson signed the will to create what is now Clemson University; when Gene Willimon placed the Rock on the Hill; when George Bennett fired the first cannon for a Tiger touchdown; and when George had the first Tiger Paw added to a \$2 bill. These are the moments that created Clemson traditions.

As we celebrate Father's Day this weekend, I am especially thankful to these special men and all the men within the Clemson Family. They are sons, brothers, fathers, uncles, grandfathers, dear friends and mentors. Through their inspiring words and motivational actions, they have made Clemson the outstanding University it is today.

Australian poet Pam Brown wrote: "Dads are most ordinary men turned by love into heroes, adventurers, story-tellers, and singers of song." And I cannot think of a better way to describe the extraordinary men of our Clemson Family. I hope you spend this weekend celebrating the special men in your life.

Fall will be here before we know it, but I hope you are making plans to visit campus even sooner. The sidewalks are less crowded, and the classrooms are largely empty, but summer is still a wonderful time to return to Clemson.

Happy Father's Day! And a very Happy Birthday to George Bennett, who is 90 years young today! We wish George continued good health and happiness, and we tip our hat to him for helping Clemson create and enhance so many of our treasured traditions!

Go Tigers!

JoVanna King