

WOMEN AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY



President Barker and Becky Epting during the February 2005 unveiling of the University's historical marker celebrating the 50th anniversary of Clemson coeducation. The marker is in memory of Margaret Marie Snider Coker, Clemson's first woman graduate (from Clemson World, Spring 2005).

Epilogue

CLEMSON WOMEN TODAY



*From Clemson World,
Fall 2005.*

'Women Change America'



Carolyn Risinger Boltin M '99

Agricultural and applied economics graduate Carolyn Boltin of Goose Creek received the U.S. Department of Defense's Women Change America award during the 2005 National Women's History Month.

The U.S. Coast Guard nominated her for the honor as a math, science and engineering role model for women. At the time, she served as chief of the Natural Resource Damage Division of the National Pollution Funds Center in Arlington, Va.

In August, she became deputy commissioner for the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in Charleston. She

now heads the office that is responsible for preserving sensitive and fragile areas while promoting responsible development in the eight coastal counties of South Carolina.

Earlier in her career, Boltin was a researcher with the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson where she focused on coastal zone plantations.

Kristie A. Kenney '77

Clemson political science graduate Kristie Kenney became the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador last fall. A member of the U.S. Foreign Service, she's also served as senior adviser to the assistant secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the U.S. Department of State.

Earlier in her career, she served as executive secretary of the State Department, the first woman to hold that position. She headed a staff responsible for interagency policy coordination and crisis management, working directly for Secretaries of State Colin Powell and Madeleine Albright. She also led the State Department transition team from the Clinton to Bush administrations.

Kenney's overseas posts include economic counselor at the U.S. Mission in Geneva, economic officer at the U.S. Embassy in Argentina and consular officer at the U.S. Embassy in Jamaica.

Her Washington assignments include director of the State Department Operations Center, a detail to the White House as a member of the National Security Council staff and political-military officer in the Office of NATO Affairs.



*From Clemson World,
Spring 2003.*

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Marie Gilliland Wheat '91

Marie Wheat of Arlington, Va., has been appointed by President George W. Bush as deputy chief of staff for the United States Peace Corps. In her new capacity, she manages the press operation, congressional relations, private sector initiatives, and policy and planning for the agency. Previously she was director of the Peace Corps' Office of Congressional Relations.

In December, Wheat accompanied the director of the Peace Corps to Armenia and Jordan visiting Peace Corps volunteers at their project sites and meeting government officials who work closely with the country staff at each post. Most notable of these was His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan, who expressed appreciation for the Peace Corps' work in Jordan and his desire to reopen the program at the appropriate time.

Before her appointment to the Peace Corps, Wheat served as chief of staff in the office of Congressman Jim DeMint. She has extensive experience in government and on Capitol Hill and has worked as a senior staff member to the Senate Subcommittee on Oversight, the House Budget Committee and the office of Congressman Steve Largent.

Wheat was also a policy analyst at Citizens for a Sound Economy, a seminar coordinator for the Strom Thurmond Institute at Clemson and a White House press intern. She graduated magna cum laude from Clemson with a double major in economics and political science.



[Left to right] Virginia Cole Skelton; Carol Creel, Jerry Reel, Dorothy Ashford; and Margaret Kirkland Worsham.

Year after year, undergraduate and graduate women from all over the nation and the world come to study at Clemson. Currently representing forty-eight percent of the student body, they are more than competitive in academics, in athletics, in extracurricular activities, and in student government. As graduates, they then follow generations of strong role models.

Clemson women, for instance, are a dominant force in early childhood, elementary, and secondary school teaching. Among their strengths are mathematics, history, and sciences. The University, with its aggressive master's degree programs, learning centers across the state, and vital summer program in Advanced Placement institutes, has supported the elementary, middle, and secondary school systems—not only in South Carolina but also in the Atlantic, southern, and eastern states. The fields of psychology and nursing also have engaged many Clemson women who work to improve people's lives in highly diverse ways.

Clemson alumnae have long excelled in what was once a man's world. For example, Virginia Cole Skelton, Carolyn Creel, and Margaret Worsham have all had outstanding careers in real estate and business, as have Delores Kimes Barton with IBM and Georgia A. Callahan, who is Chevron Texaco's general manager for global policy and strategy for environment. In communications and the media, P. J. Black, Debbie Graham Dunning, and Kim Wilkerson are among the best in their profession. The same is true for Marilyn Walser Thompson, 1974, formerly a Pulitzer Prize-winning editor for the *Washington Post* and author of *The Killer Strain: Anthrax and a Government Exposed*, and for Emmy-winning Jane Robelot De Carvalho, 1982, who was Clemson's first graduate to become a national newscaster and who is now the co-host and media relations director for a broadcast ministry that airs in 191 countries (*Clemson World*, Winter 2005: 17). Another alumna, Amanda Miller, 1997, is the associate director of public relations for the United Soccer Leagues and coordinator of the twenty-game television package on Fox Sports World (*Clemson World*, Winter 2005: 36).

Of the women who came to Clemson on ROTC scholarships, a number have gone on to military careers. An outstanding example is mechanical engineering alumna Stacy L. Yike, who is



Georgia A. Callahan



Marilyn Walser Thompson



Jane Robelot De Carvalho

a major in the U.S. Air Force now working as a political military planner for the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon. Two of the many Clemson alumnae in medicine are Lisa Schwartz, a highly regarded oncologist in California, and Ann Gregorie Kulze, 1983, who has a private practice, a corporate wellness consulting firm, and gained a national reputation with her *Dr. Ann's 10-Step Diet* book. In the legal field, Dorothy Ashford served as Senior Legal Counsel to the retirement firm of TIAA-CREF. And Darra Williamson Cothran is an esteemed partner with the Woodward Cothran and Herndon legal firm.

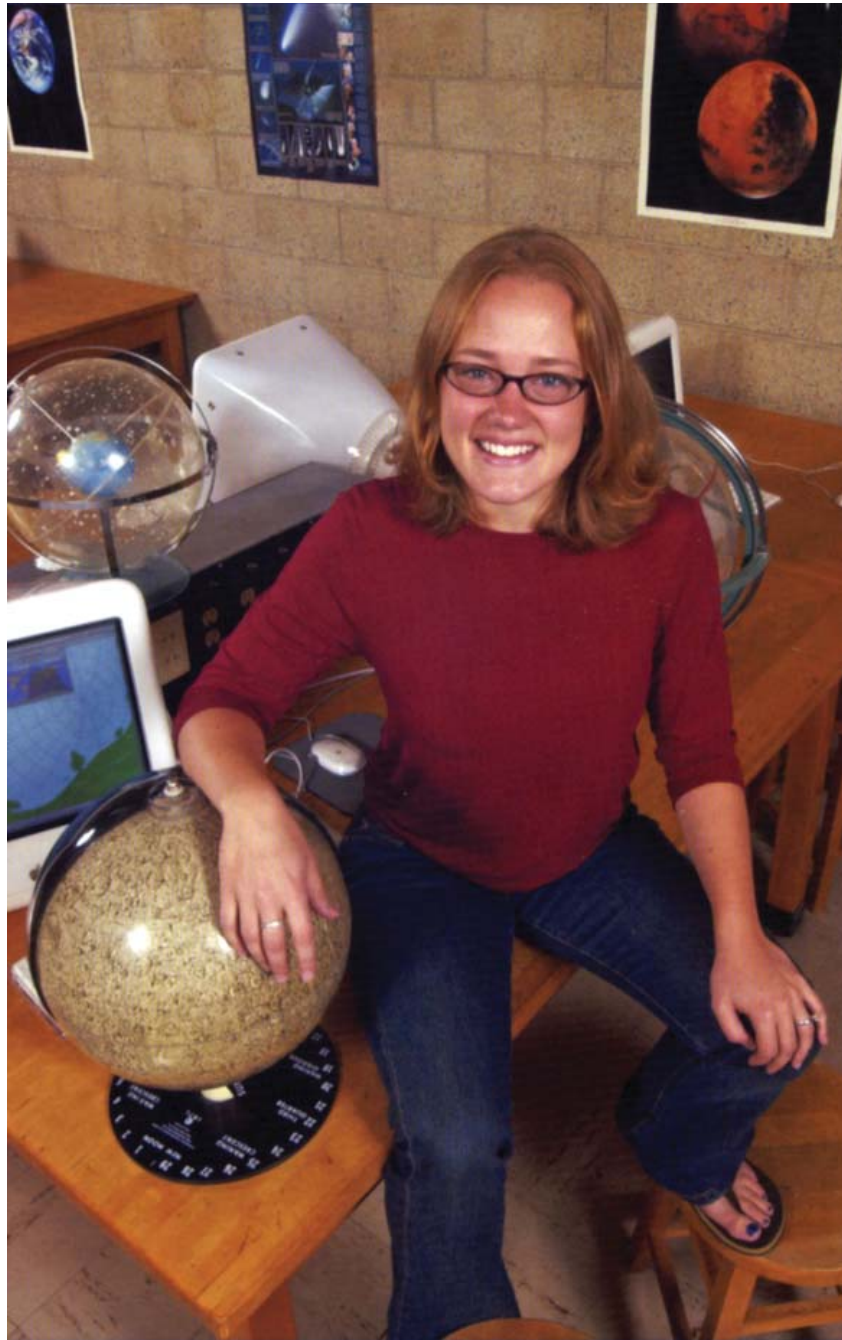
Another of the interesting spheres in which Clemson women are excelling is in international activities. In August of 2005, the U.S. ambassador to Ecuador, Kristie Anne Kenney, 1977, reminded the faculty, staff, and students that, although she counted herself a “middle row” student at Clemson, her teachers’ shoving her to move out on the limb and her great variety of experiences from study to sorority to sports have equipped her very well to talk about agriculture or football (soccer) on her missions. A Clemson alumna of 1975, Elizabeth Perry Gourlay, is serving the U.S. State Department in Bangladesh, while Marie Gilliland Wheat, 1991, is Deputy Chief of Staff for the United States Peace Corps.

Such high achievements and contributions have become hallmarks for the kind of leadership Clemson’s 39,000 alumnae are providing to the state, the nation, and the global community. Moreover, its women graduates and students, like its women faculty and staff, have changed first Clemson Agricultural College and, after July 1964, Clemson University in significant ways.⁹³ As President Jim Barker has pointed out, “The admission of women into the Clemson family is one of this University’s great success stories. Clemson women have made Clemson strong. Without all that our women faculty, staff, students, and graduates have accomplished and contributed, we can only speculate what Clemson would be today. Certainly every major transition has made Clemson a better, stronger institution, moving it from an all-male, all-white military school to a civilian, coeducational, desegregated research university that we can proudly say is among the nation’s most outstanding public universities.”⁹⁴

All this began with the remarkable vision that is reflected in the will of Thomas Green Clemson and the desires of Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson. And as joint heirs of that vision, Clemson’s women—from its alumnae and students to its faculty, administration, and staff—will continue to honor that legacy with their excellence.



Peering into the Future . . .



Deep space—Clemson University “physics and astronomy graduate student Abigail Daane got the chance to peer into the Milky Way using Keck One, the world’s largest optical telescope . . . owned and operated by the University of Hawaii, University of California schools and California Institute of Technology” (Clemson World, Fall 2005).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Bryan	Bryan, W. W. <i>Clemson: An Informal History of the University</i> . Columbia, SC: R. L. Bryan Press, 1979.
CULA	Clemson University Library Archives.
Lander	Lander, E. M. <i>The Calhoun Family and Thomas Green Clemson: Decline of a Southern Patriarchy</i> . Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1983.
Russell	Russell, Nancy Ann. "Legacy of a Southern Lady: Anna Calhoun Clemson, 1817–1875." Unpublished Dissertation. The University of South Carolina, 2003.
Schaffer	Schaffer, Alan. <i>Visions: Clemson's Yesteryears: 1880s–1960s</i> . Louisville, KY: Harmony House, 1990.
STI: TTE	Strom Thurmond Institute Series: <i>Through Their Eyes</i> .

ENDNOTES

1. Floride Bonneau Calhoun lived from February 15, 1792, until July 25, 1866.
2. John C. Calhoun lived from March 18, 1782, until March 31, 1850.
3. Lander, 12.
4. Lander, 142.
5. Lander, 228.
6. Anna Maria Calhoun Clemson lived from February 13, 1817, until September 22, 1875.
7. Thomas Green Clemson lived from July 1, 1807, until April 6, 1888.
8. John Calhoun Clemson lived from July 17, 1841, until August 10, 1871.
9. Floride Elizabeth Clemson Lee lived from December 29, 1842, until July 23, 1871.
10. Cornelia Clemson lived from October 3, 1855, until December 20, 1858.
11. Floride Isabella Lee lived from May 15, 1870, until June 4, 1935.
12. Russell, 5.
13. Interview: Tilla Williamson to Reel, 2003.
14. Nancy Bennett to Reel, 2004.
15. Letter: Professor Helene Riley to Reel.
16. CULA, 18:67.
17. CULA, 18:12.
18. CULA, 18:3.
19. Schaffer, 27.
20. Interview: Rebecca Epting, 27 May 2004.
21. Interview: Lander with Don McKale. STI: TTE.
22. Schaffer, 77, 79.
23. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 1918.
24. Bryan, 192.
25. Southwest Louisiana University is now the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.
26. Interview: Virginia Cole Skelton with Reel, 2004.
27. CULA, Series 28 Biographical Files.
28. *Announcements 1986–1987*.
29. CULA, 11:20.
30. CULA, 11:56.
31. Clemson University: Institutional Research.
32. *The Tiger*, May 3, 1988.
33. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 28 June 1946.
34. CULA, Series 37, Women Students.
35. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 16 June 1950.
36. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 31 March 1950.
37. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 13 October 1953.
38. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 18 June 1948.
39. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 20 June 1952.
40. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 3 March 1954.
41. CULA, Board of Trustees' Minutes, 25 October 1954.
42. *Announcements 1954–55*.
43. *Clemson World*, Winter 1996; Wertz to Reel, 2004.
44. *Greenville News*, 1/10/94.

45. *Announcements 1955–56.*
46. Interview: Skelton with Reel, 2004.
47. Ward letter to Reel, 12 July 2004.
48. Interview: Macaulay with McKale. STI,TTE.
49. Warner letter to Reel, 2004.
50. Warner letter to Reel, 2004.
51. *The Tiger*, 13 February 1959.
52. Interview: Anne Laverne Williams White with Reel, 2004.
53. CULA, Series 37, Student regulations: 16 October 1970.
54. CULA, Series 37, 19 January 1968.
55. Interview led by Cathy Campbell Turner and Jerome V. Reel, Jr., with Susan Delony in Tuscumbia, AL, April 25, 2004. Also Debbie DuBose interview with Reel, 2004.
56. Interview: Joy Smith with Reel, 2004.
57. Interview: Debbie DuBose with Reel, 2004.
58. Interview: Dunning with Reel, 2004.
59. *Pee Dee Magazine*, 17:3 (May–June 2004): pp 28-30.
60. Schaffer and Wactor, “Don’t Get Me Wrong, But...” *The Tiger*, May 2, 1957.
61. Letters, résumés, and clippings: C.W. Creel to Reel, 2004.
62. Interview: Worsham with Reel, 2004.
63. Interview: Anne Barnes with Reel, July 2004.
64. Interview: Epting with Reel, 2004.
65. Interview: Virginia Cole Skelton with Reel, 2004.
66. Letter to Reel, July 2004.
67. Green letter to Reel, July 2004.
68. Ward letter to Reel, 12 July 2004.
69. Bruorton letter to Reel, July 2004.
70. Interview: Macaulay with McKale.
71. Chou letter to Reel, 2004.
72. Chou letter to Reel, 2004.
73. Interview: Rebecca Epting with Reel, 2004.
74. Interview: Elizabeth English with Reel, 2004.
75. Miller letter to Reel, 2004.
76. Miller letter to Reel, 2004.
77. CULA, Series 11:122.
78. *TAPS 1963.*
79. James letter to Reel, 2004.
80. Interview: C.A.C. Turner with Reel, 2004.
81. Interview: Delony with Reel, 2004; Interview: Smith with Reel, 2004.
82. Interview: Cox with Don McKale, 1996. STI,TTE.
83. *The Tiger*, c. 1965.
84. *The Tiger*, c. 1965.
85. *Greenville News*, 21 July 1980, 1B.
86. Registrar’s Office: Grade Point Ratio for 2005 Spring Semester, and University Research Office.
87. Much of the content of this chapter was compiled by Liz Newall, with help and guidance of Clemson Sports Information, 2004, and was first published as “In the Games,” *Clemson World*. (Winter 2005): 18-23. See Publisher’s Note on p. vi, above.
88. *Announcements 1964–1965.*
89. Interview: Almeda Jacks with Reel, 2004.
90. Interview: Worsham to Reel.
91. Interview: Jacks to Reel.
92. Interview: DuBose with Reel, 2004.
93. Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina became Clemson University on July 1, 1964. The legislative act had been signed by Governor Daniel Russell on March 11, 1964. It then required the agreement of Creighton Lee Calhoun, the only living descendant of Thomas Green Clemson, through Clemson’s daughter, Floride Elizabeth Clemson Lee, the mother of Floride Isabella Lee Calhoun.
94. *Clemson World*, Winter 2005: 3. See also Publisher’s Note, p. vi (above), and back cover.

About the Author



Jerome V. Reel, Jr., Senior Vice Provost and Professor of History at Clemson University, was born and raised in New Orleans, where he acquired a taste for opera and crayfish. Dr. Reel was educated at Tulane University, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Emory University, from which he earned his Ph.D. in Medieval British History. He has published in the field of parliamentary history in the fourteenth century.

Dr. Reel joined the Clemson faculty in 1963 and has remained an active teacher since that time. In 1992 he was named Senior Vice Provost and, in 2003, University Historian. In that capacity he has directed four inaugurations, the Clemson Centennial, the commemorization of Clemson's desegregation and served on the committee to plan the 50th anniversary of coeducation at Clemson. His current research emphases are on the history of Clemson University and on music inspired by Arthurian legends.

In other activities, Jerry Reel has been active with Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, serving as elder. In addition, he has been president of the National Opera Association, the Association of University Summer Sessions, and National President of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. On campus, he works with a number of student groups and is an honorary member of Tiger Brotherhood, Blue Key, Golden Key, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the Order of Omega. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi Scholastic Honorary Fraternity, the Medieval Academy of America, an Honorary Alumnus of Clemson University, and an Honorary Board Member of the Clemson Corps.

His wife, Edmee, holds a Master's degree from Clemson and all three of his children are Clemson alums as are his two sons-in-law and his daughter-in-law. There are, as well, three granddaughters and three grandsons awaiting their eventual matriculation at Clemson.