

James W. Addison, Chair, Clemson University Foundation Board of Directors
CUF 75th Anniversary Remarks
September 26, 2008



Good evening. My name is Jimmy Addison. I am a current member of the Board of the Clemson University Foundation, like many of you in this room have been in the past, are now or will be in the future. On behalf of the Board, I add another welcome to you tonight.

As we know, volunteers are the lifeblood of the Clemson University Foundation. The Foundation would not succeed without so many people giving their time and talents and indeed, as Neill Cameron said earlier, their treasure. So a much-deserved and heartfelt "thank you" to all of you for your contributions to Clemson University and to the Clemson University Foundation.

I graduated in 1968 and if given an opportunity to do my life over, I would not change my Clemson experience. But as we saw in the video, in many ways Clemson today is not the Clemson of yesteryear or even last year or maybe even last week. And when we look at Clemson's next 5 year plan, we know that our institution will continue to evolve. We also know that Clemson will not lose its core values that President Barker has so aptly identified for us and so strongly stresses as an integral part of the Clemson experience.

How do we Clemson people keep our core values?

I submit that one reason is we recognize, appreciate, honor and celebrate our history. We know who we are, and we have a plan. So tonight is a celebration, and an entirely appropriate one. While we celebrate, let's pause for a minute and recognize some truths.

It has often been said that we drink from wells we did not dig and we warm ourselves at fires we did not build. Indeed, we have been left a wonderful legacy, and we should strive to leave a legacy for future generations.

And there is no doubt that we, as students, administration, faculty and alumni, stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before us – and I believe that, beginning with Thomas Green Clemson and continuing through a long line of dedicated administrators, dedicated faculty, quality students and, most importantly, dedicated and loyal alumni – we all stand on the shoulders of giants.

We have much to live up to. And in that regard, I am happy to report some good news about the Foundation. As you have heard earlier tonight, the Foundation manages over \$425 million. You have also heard the Foundation referred to as a nimble partner of the University. You have seen an example of that in CU ICAR. And what better example than the facility in which we dine tonight?

Other good news from the Foundation is that over the past 5 years, the Foundation has achieved a return on investment that in each year except one has beaten benchmarks we set for ourselves and has placed us among the top twenty-five percent (25%) of our peer institutions.

It's nice to report the good news. We still have much work left to do to help the University fulfill its goals, missions and vision. Our leader in establishing those goals, missions and vision is our University President, Jim Barker. Ladies and gentlemen, President Barker.