

Global Engagement and the History of Clemson University

Remember the Nazi technique: "Pit race against race, religion against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer!"

We must not let that happen here. We must not forget what we are defending: liberty, decency, justice. We cannot afford the economic waste of services of all loyal and patriotic citizens and non-citizens in defending our land and our liberties.

– Franklin Delano Roosevelt¹

Thomas Green Clemson's life included significant global engagement.^{2, 3} From 1826-1831, Clemson was a resident of Paris, France, attending classes at La Sorbonne, Le Collège royal de France, and auditing a four-year course of study at the School of Mines – being given such an opportunity as an international student. In addition to pursuing his education, he participated actively in political action during the “Glorious Three Days” in 1830, which was an open attack that resulted in the overthrow of Charles X of France. He returned to Paris from Philadelphia for a period in 1832-1834. During this time, he published his research in both English and German. He traveled in Europe often in the years 1826 – 1837, visiting Germany and the UK, as well as spending time in Cuba for scientific research. It appears that there were no barriers on his movement between countries to pursue his education and career.

In 1844, Clemson was confirmed as the chargé d'affaires in Belgium, holding this position until 1851. In this role, Clemson negotiated the first United States-Belgium commerce treaty.⁴ As of the November 2016 report,⁵ Belgium ranked 10th in current year exports for 2016. As Cross and Godts-Péters note, the time Clemson spent in Belgium, and Europe in general, significantly impacted the educational and research experiences of faculty, staff, students and the community.

The intention of Thomas Green Clemson to establish a “high seminary of learning”⁶ may be reasonably assumed to be influenced by not just the topic of his education, but the location of it. In a letter to one of his advisors, Clemson writes that the “Scientific Institute” that he desires to support should have four departments: mathematics, geology and mineralogy, chemistry and modern languages.⁷

This commitment to Global Engagement is echoed in the *ClemsonForward* plan;⁸ capitalizing on existing strengths in evidence-based global engagement will make Clemson University a perennial top 20 USNWR institution and a perennial Research 1 institution. We will measure our progress, by, in addition to many other factors, monitoring student participation in global engagement. Paraphrasing *ClemsonForward*, global engagement goes beyond just sending students to study abroad. It is an institution-wide commitment recognizing that international collaboration and training engages faculty, students, and staff, with multiple communities to serve and lead across local, state,

¹ Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Statement Against Discharging Loyal Aliens from Jobs.," January 2, 1942. Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*. <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=16220>, last accessed January 30, 2017.

² Cross, James P. and Sabine Godts-Péters. “The European Years: Thomas Green Clemson as Student, Activist, and Diplomat.” *Thomas Green Clemson*. Edited by Alma Bennett, pp. 51-72.

³ Reel, Jerome V. “The 1807-1838 Life and Education of Thomas Green Clemson.” *Thomas Green Clemson*. Edited by Alma Bennett, pp. 15-26.

⁴ Cross, James P. and Sabine Godts-Péters. “The European Years: Thomas Green Clemson as Student, Activist, and Diplomat.” *Thomas Green Clemson*. Edited by Alma Bennett, pp. 51-72.

⁵ U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (FT900), http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/Press-Release/current_press_release/index.html, last accessed January 29, 2017.

⁶ <https://www.clemson.edu/TGC200/the-will.htm>, last accessed January 16, 2017.

⁷ Reel, Jerome V. *The High Seminary, vol. 1: A History of the Clemson Agricultural College of South Carolina, 1889–1964*, Clemson University Digital Press, 2011, <https://cup.sites.clemson.edu/pubs/th-s-v1/th-s-v1-book.pdf>, last accessed January 29, 2017.

⁸ <https://www.clemson.edu/forward/documents/ClemsonForward-Plan.pdf>, last accessed January 29, 2017.

national, and international circles, ultimately improving the quality of life and economic security of South Carolina and those with whom we work.

Recent events directly threaten Clemson University's ability to achieve our Strategic Plan as envisioned in *ClemsonForward*. A member of the Clemson Family, Dr. Nazanin Zinouri, a 2016 doctoral graduate from Industrial Engineering, as the result of a recent Executive Order, was denied boarding on a flight into the United States despite her holding a valid multiple entry F1 visa.⁹

The results of Executive Order and its implementation are wide-ranging and may never be fully appreciated. A Clemson Family member, hoping to return to her dog, her home and her job, was excluded. Even if she is allowed re-entry into the United States, her feeling of belonging might never be restored, after having had a home in Clemson for seven years. Others across our community are deeply concerned about their families, friends and colleagues. We must be mindful of the toll that these concerns take and the weight of balancing these concerns and heightened senses of vulnerability and uncertainty while maintaining professionalism in the classroom, laboratory, conference room, studios, and office. Unfortunately, Clemson University faculty, staff, and students can no longer hope that such events do not occur; they have. Members of the Clemson family do feel isolated and vulnerable. Strength and courage grow when we listen and are supportive. Together, we can stay true to the vision of a globally-engaged institution of excellence.

ClemsonForward, developed with significant stakeholder feedback and endorsed by the Clemson University Board of Trustees in July 2016, details the most recent plan on the never-ending path towards the continued establishment of the high seminary of learning. The participation of the entire Clemson Family, not just those whose birth location coincides with a specific set of countries, is critical for success. Every person in the Clemson Family is a valued and important member – the alumni, current students, faculty, and staff – regardless of country or community of origin and free from discrimination or violation of free speech. The diversity of and within the Clemson Family is its strength.

Each member of the Clemson Family carries the benefit of the educational opportunities afforded by Thomas Green Clemson's Bequest, and as such, is equally charged to foster the same benefits of study as Thomas Green Clemson enjoyed as an international student himself.

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⁹ <http://www.wyff4.com/article/clemson-graduate-denied-re-entry-after-presidents-order-gives-interview/8652147>

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