

APRIL 2017

# CLEMSON

## STAFF SENATE NEWSLETTER

801 University Union  
Clemson, SC 29634  
Phone: 864-656-9000  
Email: StaffSenate-L@clemson.edu  
Web: clemson.edu/staffsenate



### 2017-18 STAFF SENATE PRESIDENT **MEET: LEIGH DODSON**

by Alex Foster

We are thrilled to introduce your new Staff Senate President, Leigh Dodson, a 28-year veteran of Clemson University and a die-hard advocate for the staff force here at the university. Leigh has served with the Staff Senate since 2015 and has made quite an impression in her relatively short time as a

representative for our one-of-a-kind staff force.

Leigh currently stands as the Director of Business Affairs for the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences (CAFLS), overseeing all business activities for the college. Supporting Leigh from the heart and from the home are her husband Joe, a Project Coordinator also with CAFLS, and her daughter Jo Leigh, one of Leigh's proudest personal achievements in life. One would do well to not forget her Yorkshire Terrier, Pee Wee, who loves playing ball so much that he would likely have a good shot with the Atlanta Braves if he was able to hold onto a bat!

*Cont. on p. 2*

## Meeting Summary

### CLEMSON UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE

April 11, 2017, 10:30 AM, Madren Conference Center

#### President's Reports

##### Deveraux Williams

- Overview of report to Board of Trustees (See p. 3)

#### Committee Reports

**Scholarship, Dan Hofmann:** Details on Staff Senate Spring Soirée (below)

**Membership, Shelly Geer & Bindu Rangaraju:** The Senate welcomes new Senators: Dustin Atkins (CCIT), Jeff Bright (Advancement), Sonya Campbell (PSA), Kayla Cleveland (Student Affairs), Glenda Cotton (Facilities), Michael Gilstrap (Facilities), Celeste Hackett (CoSci), Dionne Holt (Student Affairs), Barrett Kendjoria (CCIT), Dan Lewis (CCIT), Tim Nix (Facilities), Beth Perry (Financial Affairs), Amy Smedberg (Provost), Tonyia Stewart (CECA), Althea Thomas (Athletics), and Rebecca Ulmer (CES). Their first official meeting will be in May.

Returning Senators appointed/elected: Jan Lay (PSA – At-Large), Aubrey Miller (Financial Affairs), Bindu Rangaraju (Extension – At-Large), Lavonne Sloop (AAH – At-Large), Rebecca Trutwin (PSA), and Tom Warnock (Student Affairs).

#### Next Meeting

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 10:30 a.m., Madren Center**



## Staff Senate Spring Soirée

Purchase your tickets [HERE](#) for the Spring Soirée.

The Staff Senate is hosting a Spring Soirée to benefit our Staff Senate Scholarship Fund. The fund provides **twelve \$1,500 scholarships** per year to Clemson students who are the children of university staff members.

**When:** Friday, May 5, 2016

**Where:** The Fran Hanson Discovery Center, formerly the Wren House, in the South Carolina Botanical Garden. The main entrance is located off Perimeter Road between Highway 76 and Cherry Road.

#### Schedule of Events:

5:30 p.m. – Gates Open

6:00 p.m. – Dinner, entertainment by DJ Jazzy Jeff, Silent Auction bids

6:30 p.m. – Enjoy live music by the Adam Carter Band





## Cooper Corner

Catch up on an award-worthy film you may have missed!

### The Founding of Clemson University:

*A Confluence of People, Ideas, Time and Place*

This exhibit looks at the people, ideas, events and place which came together to create a land grant college in the upstate of South Carolina in the late 19th century. It is a story of circumstances, perseverance, tragedy, politics, exclusion and compromise which reflects the complicated times in which it occurred. The exhibit covers over 100 years of history and incorporates primary source materials from the Special Collections Library, including material from the Thomas Clemson Papers, Benjamin Ryan Tillman Papers and Richard Wright Simpson Papers.

The exhibit will be on display through May 15.

### Follow the library on social media

Everyone (we hope!) knows where the library is on campus—it's that big white building in the middle with the pond in front of it. But did you know you can get library information wherever you are?

Pick your favorite social media platform and the library is probably there, sharing research tips, tricks, library news, and other interesting stuff. Follow us for links to our blog post, photos, research guides, classes, events, and all kinds of other information.

Follow [@clemsonlibrary](#) on Twitter and Instagram or like us on Facebook. We'd love to connect and have a conversation.

### Have You Heard a Good Book Lately?

Do you love audiobooks but hate having to keep up with 7, 8, or sometimes even 16 discs?

Check out [OneClickdigital](#), an online database that allows you to check out eAudiobooks, including best-sellers and classics. Setting up an account is easy; downloads are even easier! And the best part?! You never have to remember to return the audiobook – It automatically removes from your account when your checkout period is over.

OneClickdigital is compatible with all popular listening devices, and mobile apps are available for the iPhone®/iPod®/iPad®, Android™, and Kindle Fire™.

Details on how to access OneClickdigital can be found on the [Popular Reading & Audiobooks webpage](#). Live toll-free technical support is available at 1-877-77AUDIO.



## Leigh Dodson takes over as Staff Senate President

*Dodson, cont. from p. 1*

Leigh takes special pride in representing the staff members at Clemson who do not necessarily have a voice to relay all of their questions, comments, and concerns to university leadership. Approaching every day with the mindset of “how can I help others”, Leigh has already begun her work as Staff Senate President, hitting the ground running and working already on staff benefits and development opportunities related to the university. However, Leigh has a knack for focusing on the little things as well, with a strong desire to meet as many staff members here at Clemson as possible while taking the time to give her sincerest “thank you” to those who make our lives and our jobs easier every day here at this great institution.

The focal point of Leigh's term as Staff Senate President still looks to be emphasizing the staff members themselves at the university, the ones who do all of the amazing work that goes unseen every day. With that being said, she is always willing to hear your questions, comments, concerns, and most importantly, suggestions as to what you want to see done here at Clemson University by contacting the Staff Senate President email address at [staff\\_senate\\_president-l@lists.clemson.edu](mailto:staff_senate_president-l@lists.clemson.edu). With a passionate desire to connect with everyone at Clemson, Leigh has also emphasized that she would love to have any and everyone add her on all of her social media platforms in order to stay as well connected as possible with all of her constituent groups:

Facebook: Leigh Dodson  
Twitter: Leigh@CUdleigh  
Instagram: CU.dleigh

Again, a huge welcome to Leigh Dodson as your new Staff Senate President, and we truly look forward to working alongside her to make Clemson University and its staff force the absolute best that both can be!

## Free Software Training:

**Where, When and How You Want It!**

Do you create flyers, postcards, posters, business reports, or end-of-year documents? Do you struggle with Word or Excel? Did you just get into the SDP program?

If so, you and/or a small group might like some “personalized” software training. If free sounds good, we would love to come to your conference or classroom to demonstrate different programs, provide customized training, or just hang out and answer questions about different software issues. We also have regularly scheduled Instructor-led training in our Barre training labs. Just contact us at [ithelp@clemson.edu](mailto:ithelp@clemson.edu) and put Custom Training Request in the subject line. Add a few sentences about your specific needs and we will contact you to set up a training time. It's THAT easy!

Thank you so much to all of our outgoing senators for your service to the Staff Senate and to Clemson University!



Adam Hunter, Wendy Howard, Jeff Kallin, Tina S. White, President Clements, Deveraux Williams, Herb Parham, Rusty McDonald, Kelli Blankenship, Joey Thames, Sarah Reeves.  
(not pictured: Tom Taylor, Erin Thomas, and Phillip Addington)

### The Senate welcomes new Senators:

Dustin Atkins (CCIT), Jeff Bright (Advancement), Sonya Campbell (PSA), Kayla Cleveland (Student Affairs), Glenda Cotton (Facilities), Michael Gilstrap (Facilities), Celeste Hackett (CoSci), Dionne Holt (Student Affairs), Barrett Kendjoria (CCIT), Dan Lewis (CCIT), Tim Nix (Facilities), Beth Perry (Financial Affairs), Amy Smedberg (Provost), Tonyia Stewart (CECA), Althea Thomas (Athletics), and Rebecca Ulmer (CES). Their first official meeting will be in May.

## April 2017 Report to Board of Trustees by Deveraux Williams

### Staff Senate Overview

As the outgoing President of Staff Senate, it has been my pleasure to represent the 3,500+ staff that make this great University what it is today! Below you will find some accomplishments that are very important to Clemson's staff.

- Was able to successfully fix the Tuition Assistance Program that was offered for so many years
- Conducted our first annual Staff/Faculty Veterans Appreciation Reception
- Almost finishing another successful year of Staff Development Program and updated some eligibility requirements that will allow more staff to participate
- Visited with several PSA REC locations to meet with staff
- Working with the other three Presidents with the Value Statement Project

### Tuition Assistance Program

When I began my term as Staff Senate President, one of my main goals was to look into tuition assistance. I am excited that the policy has been recently modified to provide 100% tuition funding for all eligible employees desiring to further their education. This program will begin this coming fall semester. I want to thank all those that were involved in the decision-making to make this possible. The Staff are truly grateful and appreciate the administration looking after them.

### Military/ROTC Partnership

Back on November 1st (during Military Appreciation Week), Staff Senate hosted our first Veterans Appreciation Reception by providing refreshments and a Clemson/USA lapel pin to all faculty, staff, and student veterans in attendance. Staff Senate plan to do something even bigger next year to show our appreciation to veterans.

### Staff Development Program

The Staff Development Program is moving right along and will be ending very soon. We plan to have the graduation on June 5th and very excited that the participants are reaching their goals. The Staff Senate thanks the administration for their continued support of this program now and well into the future. The goal of the program is to allow staff members to grow personally and professionally while at the same time strengthening their engagement with the university. Participants must complete 150 hours of personal and professional development, university-related service and core curriculum activities geared towards increasing the engagement between participants and the university as a whole

### Community Outreach

Staff Senate sponsored a backpack food drive via the Golden Harvest Food Bank, back in the fall. We set out with the goal of \$2,160 to sponsor 12 kids over the period of 1 year, and that goal was exceeded thanks to the generous donations of numerous individuals and/or groups around campus and the community!

### Staff Senate Road Trip to PSA REC Locations

Back in late January, my Staff Senate Executive team and I visited a number of PSA REC Facilities. We met with employees to tell them about the Staff Senate, the Staff Development Program, and the Staff Senate Scholarship Fund. In addition, we wanted to hear what concerns and suggestions they may have as well.

### Staff Senate Spring Soirée

Our annual Staff Senate Spring Soirée will be held on May 5th at the Fran Hanson Discovery Center in the Botanical Gardens. All proceeds will go straight towards the Staff Senate Scholarship Fund. We will have live music along with a silent auction and great food.



## STAFF SENATOR SPOTLIGHT

### Sue Whorton

Director, Academic Success Center

#### What is your role in the department?

I work with my staff to develop and deliver programs and services that can help undergraduate students succeed academically and achieve their education goals

#### How long have you been with Clemson University?

Since September 2000

#### Why did you choose to be a Staff Senator?

I wanted to get more involved at the university level, learn more about staff issues and concerns, and work to be part of solutions

#### How do you spend your time when you're not working?

Reading, playing golf, working in my yard, traveling and going to Clemson sporting events

#### What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I have a masters degree in theological studies

#### What is your favorite off-campus place for lunch?

Without a doubt, Loose Change

## STAFF SENATOR SPOTLIGHT

### Joanna Floyd

Director, Office of Industry Contracts (Research Division)

#### What is your role in the department?

My office supports faculty, staff and students in their pursuit of research funding from private industry. We review all sponsored research proposals to private industry, negotiate contract terms and conditions, and work with Clemson researchers and industry collaborators to ensure that agreements comply with university policies and procedures as well as State and Federal regulations and requirements.

#### How long have you been with Clemson University?

I was hired at Clemson in 2008 as Assistant Director of Licensing and Contracts with the Clemson University Research Foundation. I moved into my current role in 2013, when the Office of Industry Contracts was established.

#### Why did you choose to be a Staff Senator?

The Staff Senate provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with other offices and divisions on campus to address issues relevant to staff members. As a Staff Senator, I'm hoping that I can provide a voice to administration on issues that directly impact my constituents in the Research Division.

#### How do you spend your time when you're not working?

I live in Greenville, so I spend as much time as I can downtown outdoors with family and friends running the Swamp Rabbit Trail, shopping the Saturday farmer's market, and enjoying live music. There's never a dull moment downtown! I also enjoy reading anything that isn't a legal document in my free time and taking trips down to Edisto as often as possible.

#### What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I'm a Certified Judge with the South Carolina Barbeque Association.

#### What is your favorite off-campus place for lunch?

For a quick bite, Groucho's is my go-to lunch place. You have to try the Formula 45. If I have a little more time, I drive over to The Smokin' Pig in Pendleton. Be prepared to smell like a smokehouse in your afternoon meetings!

## STAFF SENATOR SPOTLIGHT

### Meg Newton

Academic Advisor/ Freshmen Orientation Coordinator in General Engineering.

#### What is your role in the department?

I am a professional academic advisor for approximately 300 freshmen engineering students. Currently, I work with the Calhoun Honors students as well as other freshmen in engineering and the freshmen Chemistry students one more year until they work out advising in their new college.

#### How long have you been with Clemson University?

5 years

#### Why did you choose to be a Staff Senator?

I wanted to be a senator in order to meet more people and get in touch with issues and topics that affect Clemson staff. Also, to give back.

#### How do you spend your time when you're not working?

When not working, I enjoy reading. I formed a book club a few years ago that meets monthly. It is a lot of fun. I also workout regularly, 3-4 times a week. My husband and I are empty nesters with 3 children, the youngest of whom is a sophomore here in civil engineering. He is also a senator in student government! Recently we started building our dream home in the country close to Six Mile on 15 acres with a little waterfall. We are downsizing and doing all the work ourselves. My husband is a building contractor. My daughter just got engaged to be married, so we have wedding plans to work on as well this year! The date is set for June 2017!

#### What might someone be surprised to know about you?

People are always surprised to know that in addition to a Master's degree in Higher Ed I have a BS from Clemson in Computer Science because I really don't 'speak' computer anymore at all!

#### What is your favorite off-campus place for lunch?

I love the restaurant 1826 in Pendleton for lunch when we can sneak away. They have amazing maple salad dressing!



## THE STAFF SENATE SCHOLARSHIP

Be a partner in education by supporting the Staff Senate Scholarship Fund

By donating to the Staff Senate Scholarship Fund, you will help children of Clemson staff members continue their education at Clemson. The fund provides scholarships for 12 students each year. You can donate any amount, and it's easy!



This newsletter is published monthly for all Clemson University employees. Reader comments, questions and suggestions are always welcome!

FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION

HERE

<http://www.clemson.edu/facultystaff/staffsenate/scholarships.html>