Hope your 2019 is off to a fantastic start!

As I basked in the Clemson spirit in Santa Clara witnessing our Clemson Tigers win the national championship, I heard Coach Swinney say in his interview, “We were not chasing the national championship, we were focused on being the best we could be every day.” Chasing excellence yielded perfection for Clemson Football this year.

As we relentlessly pursue excellence in science, we may not have national championships, but we will have a tremendous positive impact as we tackle tomorrow’s greatest scientific challenges and prepare the next generation of scientists.

Thank you for being such a big part of the education, research and experience that happens across our University every day. Thank you for being involved, engaging and exploring. Thank you for your dedication and commitment, your own discipline and rigor, and your service to Clemson and Science for the time this year. THANK YOU for your hard work and generosity.

Your support helps build world-class facilities and recruit extraordinary professors on the cutting edge of science who mentor and inspire our students. You let our students have the freedom to make mistakes, to learn by trial and error, to fail and to succeed. You allow our students to be who they are, to pursue their dreams as we aim, as we are most limiting when we limit ourselves.

As Clemson科研ers unlock the promise of tomorrow, I am inspired to know exactly what I want to talk about today. Chasing excellence yielded perfection. We are most limiting when we limit ourselves. Lest we think, “I can’t do that,” I want to challenge you to chase perfection. I want you to be the best you can be.

Perfect in every way

After the rousing victory, Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence holds the national championship trophy alongside teammates and coach Dabo Swinney (far right). Image credit: Clemson University

Perfect season

On route to their second national championship in three years, the Clemson Tigers became the first team in the modern era to go 15-0, anointing the 2018-2019 squad as the “greatest college football team of all time.” The Tigers crushed the vaunted Alabama Crimson Tide 44-16 on Jan. 7 in Santa Clara, California. True-freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence led the charge, playing with a calm and maturity well beyond his years. The following Saturday, tens of thousands attended a championship parade and celebration in downtown Clemson and at the stadium. The College of Science joins the Clemson University family in congratulating coach Dabo Swinney and his ultra-talented team of coaches and players. Up next: three out of four?

Perfect in every way

Honor stoles are a beautifully designed and well-deserved recognition of the hard work put in by students who have excelled in the classroom. Image courtesy of Caitlin Hanley

As today’s student leaders, Clemson’s ODK members are forging the future in a variety of ways

The Clemson Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), which includes 30 members from the College of Science, sells and distributes about 2,000 honor stoles each academic year. The profits benefit the campus and external organizations in extraordinary ways.

Clemson researchers work with citizen-scientists to better understand diversity of rattlesnake venom

The discovery that Mojave Rattlesnakes have multiple venom types that are more widespread than previously believed required a large research collaboration between principal investigators, students and almost 100 citizen-scientists in five laboratories across the United States and Mexico. The research was published in Scientific Reports.

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