

CLEMSON LGBTQ+ ALUMNI

2018–2019 Board Members



Brian Cave, '97 He/him/his

Chair & NYC Tri-State Area Representative

Brian, a Charleston, SC native, graduated from Clemson University in 1997 with a degree in PRTM. In 2006, he also received a Master of Arts in Theology from Union Theological Seminary in the city of New York. He currently lives in Union, NJ with his husband of 13 years; three dogs, Dasher, Jane & Gumbo; and one cat, Chewy. He is an accomplished professional in the areas of human resources, operations, project management, and event planning & management, working with non-profits, small companies and international corporations based in Charlotte, NC, New York, NY, Austin, TX, and London, UK. He currently works in New York City as the Operations Manager for Issey Miyake USA Corp., the USA division of Issey Miyake International headquartered in Tokyo. Brian was one of the founding members of the Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club (formerly known as CASE) and served on the board for many years in the past; he is excited to be back as the President again.



Patrick Cato '14 He/him/his

Vice Chair and Lowcountry SC Representative

Patrick is a 2014 graduate from Clemson University who lives on Isle of Palms, SC. He currently works at MUSC in NIH-funded clinical research. Having learned to market clinical research, budget with grant funds, and work alongside a variety of people (from doctors to patients to outside vendors), he brings a range of skills to the Board. He is motivated to work hard on behalf of the club to build a strong LGBTQ family at Clemson University and beyond. He believes we must stand together now more than ever to continue to build an enduring future for LGBTQ students.



Caroline Simpson, '97 She/her/hers

Secretary & Treasurer

Caroline, a Walhalla, SC native, graduated from Clemson in 1997 with a degree in Speech & Communications. She currently lives in Leander, TX a suburb of Austin, TX, with her husband and three kids. She is the owner of Virtual Admin Partner, where she partners with senior executives in companies of all sizes to provide virtual administrative services. Serving on the Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club Board is a small way for Caroline to give back to a school of which she is a proud alumna and that she continues to support. The Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club is also an important contributor and reminder to the entire Clemson community that we must continue to strive for equality for all current and former students, and that we must all work to move forward together. Caroline was previously the Secretary of the club from 2013 to 2014.



Josh Morgan, '10 He/him/his

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Josh is a 2010 graduate of Clemson University with a Political Science degree. He was a member of CGSA and co-founded the LGBTQ Task Force, now Commission, at Clemson University. Josh has worked at Clemson libraries since graduating and is currently the digital projects manager for the libraries, coordinating the digitization of cultural heritage materials from the National Park Service, Clemson University, and various institutions in South Carolina. Josh still serves as a member of the LGBTQ Commission and continues to work with administration on issues and policy change. He lives in Pendleton, South Carolina with his husband and looks forward to building a stronger relationship with our alumni and serving in any way he can.



Robin Chambers, She/her/hers

University LGBTQ+ Student, Faculty & Staff Liaison

Robin has been a staff member of Clemson University Libraries since 1993. Currently, she is the operations manager for the Libraries' offsite facility located within Clemson's Research Park. Often active in the community, she was a part of the original Lambda group that fought to establish an LGBT student resource on campus. She has served as member of the CU LGBTQ taskforce, now Commission, and looks forward to stepping into a leadership role this year. She hopes to bring her experience, context and campus contacts from serving on the CU Women's Commission to help strengthen all groups through collaboration in common goals. Robin is honored to be asked to serve on the LGBTQ+ Alumni Board of Directors this year.



Deedee Fazzone, '02 She/her/hers

Upstate SC Representative

Deedee graduated from Clemson University in 2002 with a BS degree in Computer Information Systems, minoring in Business Administration. After completing her MBA in 2011 and working as a Financial Analyst in the private sector for several years, she returned to Clemson last year working within CCIT as the Senior Business Manager for MITS. Deedee worked for TD Bank in Greenville, SC for 5 years before coming to Clemson where she served as the LGBTA (A = Allies) Co-Chair for North and South Carolina. She was responsible for supporting and advocating for employees of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities within the Carolinas. She also helped coordinate pride sponsorships for TD Bank in both North and South Carolina. Deedee lives in Greenville, SC with her wife of 7 years, Annette - also a Clemson grad. Go Tigers!!



Beverly Anne Smith, '81 She/her/hers

Charlotte/Rock-Hill Representative

Beverly, a Gastonia, NC native, graduated from Clemson University in 1981 with a degree in Sociology and minor in Communications. She currently lives in the Charlotte area with her fur baby, Bubba, a miniature Schnauzer. She was on the staff of The Tiger and Taps and began her career as a journalist with stints at the Greenville News and Gastonia Gazette. She later enjoyed a rewarding career in public relations with Duke Energy and seven years in Washington, DC as a coalition builder and outreach manager. Beverly is currently pursuing her passion for caring for others and a second career in nursing. She attends the Southeastern Institute in Charlotte and is an advocate for social justice, LGBTQ+ inclusion within the faith community and promoting the arts.



Benjamin Crumley, '97 He/him/his

Florida Representative

Benjamin was born and raised in Jackson, SC and graduated from Clemson in 1997 with a degree in Biological Sciences. He lived many years in Atlanta, where he attended Emory University for his Master's Degree to become a Physician Assistant. He then moved to New Haven, CT for general surgery residency at Yale University and then moved to Orlando, FL and now works at Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC) in Cardiothoracic Surgery. You may recall that ORMC was where all the Pulse victims were brought and treated. He is proud to be a Clemson Tiger and a founding member of the Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club (formerly known as CASE) and is very excited to continue telling alumni in Florida about the club. He looks forward to the growth of the club in the future.



Gregory Caleca, '05 He/him/his

Washington, DC Metro Area Representative

Gregory, a New York, NY native, graduated from Clemson University in 2005 with a B.S. in Construction Science and Management. He was a member of CGSA, Clemson Crew, a university tour guide, and the Student Body Treasurer. Greg has lived all over the southeast since graduating, constructing projects for Duke Energy, SCE&G, Dominion Energy, and AT&T. Currently living in the Greater Metro Washington, DC Area, Greg is doing transmission & distribution work for Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE). He is still very active with rowing and serves as the Chief Financial Officer for the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association (SIRA). Greg is excited about being elected to the Clemson LGBT+ Alumni Board and looks forward to working with alumni and the university, serving in any way that he can.



Micah McDade, '17 He/him/his

Chicago Representative

Micah J. McDade comes to the Chicagoland area fresh from Tigertown as a 2017 graduate of the Clemson University MBA program. Prior to that he was the marketing director at Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville, SC. Micah has spent the last 12 years in live entertainment marketing all over the country, including New York City (Broadway and National Tour marketing and press), Fort Worth (Bass Performance Hall, Casa Mañana Theatre) and Dallas, Texas (Tony Award-winning Dallas Theater Center). He earned his BA in Theatre performance from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He currently serves as the marketing director at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, IL and resides in Andersonville, Chicago. Go Tigers!



Chris Grace, '99 He/him/his

At-Large Member

Chris graduated from Clemson University in 1999 with a degree in PRTM. He recently relocated back to Clemson from Chicago. Chris has worked in the medical convention planning industry since graduating from Clemson. Along the way, he has also donated his professional skills to various non-profits like HRC (Human Rights Campaign), AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Equality Illinois, Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, and Deaf Illinois Awards events. Chris grew up across the lake from Clemson University in Seneca and was involved with the beginning of the Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club (formerly known as CASE). He's excited to become more involved in alumni activities and in the development of the Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club scholarship he helped to make a reality through his role as Endowment Chair.



John Jay Jacobs, '91 He/him/his

At-Large Member

Jay is a 1991 Clemson alumnus who spent sixteen years employed in the membrane switch and electro panel industry before returning to Clemson in 2008. After acquiring his Master of Science in Graphic Communications in 2010, he stayed to become Lecturer at Clemson University. He is pursuing a PhD in Rhetoric Communication Information Design while teaching in the Department of Graphic Communications. He is the department Safe Zone faculty and is an advocate for diversity and LGBTQ rights at Clemson. In addition to his industrial and academic experience, he's been a personal trainer, yoga instructor, model, artist, jeweler, writer, and licensed massage therapist.



Russ Madray, '86 He/him/his

At-Large Member

Russ graduated from Clemson University in 1986 with a degree in Accounting. After obtaining a graduate degree and working for several years in public accounting, he returned to Clemson and joined the faculty of the School of Accountancy, where he has taught since 1994. In 2014, the Student Alumni Council named Russ Alumni Master Teacher. He also serves as Scholar-in-Residence at Elliott Davis Decosimo, an accounting firm in Greenville, SC. Russ currently lives in Greenville with his partner, Philip Way (a graduate of that other university in South Carolina and a physician with Greenville Health System). Among other roles, Russ served as Young Alumni President in 1990 and was named Clemson's Volunteer of the Year in 1991. He has also served as President of the Greenville Clemson Club and as an IPTAY Representative. Russ plans to bring his Clemson Alumni Association experience, his organizational skills, and his passion for Clemson to his work on the CASE Board. According to Russ, "I came to Clemson as a student in 1982 and I have seen tremendous change over the last 35 years. By serving on the Clemson LGBTQ+ Alumni Club Board, I want to continue the work of those who served before me and build relationships between current students and alumni. Although progress has been slow and we still have a long way to go, I am optimistic about the future for full LGBTQ equality at Clemson University."

