

## 364 The High Seminary

safely. During the past twenty-five years, the two student bodies have contributed 90,000 pints of blood. McKenzie noted that the most important contribution involved teaching the collegians how to organize themselves to lead in service ventures.<sup>93</sup>

Another example of the rising service ethic in the student body grew from students' desires to create a Habitat for Humanity chapter. In 1992, Paul Anthony Acorn (Clemson 1994), representing a group of construction science graduate students, visited with the architecture dean, Jim Barker. They discussed the vision, and Barker supported the students. By the spring of 1994, the chapter, under Acorn's leadership, had reached out to the Rev. Mr. Christopher Heavner, the Lutheran (ELCA) student pastor attached to the University Lutheran Church, to serve as the group's off-campus advisor. Heavner, previously active in 4-H while growing up on the family farm in western North Carolina, had graduated from North Carolina State University. After seminary and his first pastorate position, he and his wife came to Clemson to work with students.



Larry W. Abernathy (Clemson 1969, M 1973) was elected mayor of the City of Clemson in 1984 and held that office until his death in 2012. He was one of the founders of Clemson's well-known town-gown committee, which tied more closely the University and the city. Clemson University Photographs, CUL.SC.

received her degree, while the eldest of her sons also attended Clemson, graduating with his mother.

In 1997, at the request of the town, the coalition built two houses. To help manage the chapter's portion of the materials expense, Clemson alumni in

The students conceived the notion of a Habitat home on Bowman Field alongside the large, colorful displays erected by fraternities, clubs, sororities, and a few other groups during homecoming week. At the end of the week, the unfinished, but usually dried-in, house was moved to its permanent site and finished across the winter. During the entire "first build" process in 1994, some 480 students, two dozen faculty, and about forty townsfolk, including faculty emeriti, wielded hammers and saws. The townsfolk at work included Larry Abernathy, the city of Clemson mayor, and Rick Cotton, the city manager, while a leader in the emeriti was Joe Dickerson from plant pathology. More than thirty additional students, along with the eventual owners, invested more time after the move. One family of owners of a later Habitat-built house found the wife/mother receiving a permanent campus job. She, with her supervisor's help, enrolled in classes and eventually