# Clemson applications hit high

## Nearly 20,600 students vying for 3,200 seats

**By Ron Barnett**
Staff writer

CLEMSON — Clemson University received a record number of applications for admission this fall, with nearly 20,652 students vying for 3,200 seats in the freshman class, university officials said Friday.

Applications overall are up 12 percent from a year ago, and applications for Clemson's Honors program have jumped by 60 percent in the past four years, with the median SAT of applicants hitting a record high of 1460, officials said.

"I think it's safe to say we're getting the state's best and brightest students," said Trustee Ronnie Lee, chairman of the educational policy committee.

The average SAT score of the freshman applicants accepted for this fall was 1282, although the university expects that some of those who were accepted will end up going somewhere else, said Robert Barkley, director of admissions.

More than 9,000 visitors have toured campus over the past three weeks during a recruitment program called Spring Blitz, President James P. Clements said.

"Bowman Field is packed, crowded with potential students and their parents who are here for tours and information sessions," he said.

The figures were released during the Board of Trustees' quarterly meeting as part of Clements' "report card" to the board.

Clements' told the board that after having discussions with faculty and staff over the past few months, he thinks it's time to re-evaluate the university's 2020 Roadmap, a plan for the future set by his predecessor, James Barker.

But he said he said he wants to continue pushing for a top 20 ranking by U.S. News & World Report, along with pursuing other measures of success.

The board also heard a report on Clemson's Will to Lead capital campaign, which grew from $761 million in February to $780 million. The goal is $1 billion.

Clements said former Clemson football great Michael Dean Perry has been named a member of the fund-raising campaign committee.