

# 5 interesting Clemson research projects

**Georgie Silvarole**

Anderson Independent Mail  
USA TODAY NETWORK - S.C.

There's a lot of research happening at Clemson University.

Just in 2017, the public university brought in more than \$109 million in research awards.

Here are five interesting projects:

## Recreate the MINI

Last year, BMW challenged a small team of Clemson students to recreate the iconic MINI. The car was redesigned with the drivers of 2025 in

mind, and BMW contributed more than \$2 million to the project.

## Lasers for the military

Last spring, two Clemson researchers received a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to support work on creating lasers for military use. The powerful lasers have the potential to disable missiles in midair.

## Robot shopping carts

In 2017, a pair of Clemson graduate students built a robot designed to

follow a shopper around a store (or a traveler around an airport). The prototype is a little clumsy and tends to bump into things, but its creators are planning to solve that issue by allowing shoppers to pair a cart with their smartphones.

## Effects of fungus in grass on sheep

John Parrish is the university's veterinarian, and he gets the pleasure of hanging out with all sorts of animals on a daily basis. The sheep are one of his favorites, though, and he cares for Clem-

son's 200-plus sheep and lambs.

## Football face masks

Two Clemson professors have studied football facemasks for years and are working on ways to equip helmets with masks that are more effective in terms of both performance and protection.

*Georgie Silvarole covers higher education for The Greenville News and Anderson Independent Mail. Follow her on Twitter @gsilvarole, or email at [georgie.silvarole@independentmail.com](mailto:georgie.silvarole@independentmail.com).*