A suggestion from a professor set a young man on his way to success and a life work of helping others. As the first in his family to attend college, Juan Gilbert was shocked when his professor first suggested he pursue college-level teaching.

Now a professor and chair of Clemson’s new human-focused computer division, Gilbert is a model to others who want to use their skills to improve quality of life for others. Among other innovations, Gilbert has recently pioneered a system to allow universal voting while eliminating errors and security breeches.

A word from a caring professor gave Gilbert focus and motivation, and he is determined to pay it forward. “He believed in me,” says Gilbert, “which led to my believing in myself.”

To support faculty like Juan Gilbert, call (864) 656-2121 or visit www.clemson.edu/isupportcu/faculty.
As the general population ages, more and more people will benefit from Martine LaBerge’s pioneering work in making knee replacements more comfortable and durable. As department chair in biomedical engineering, LaBerge brings her expertise to practical applications from orthopedics to vascular stents.

Drawn to Clemson as the birthplace of the bioengineering and biomaterial fields, LaBerge works tirelessly to build on that legacy as she and her students solve real-life problems.

“It’s my job to disseminate the passion that I have for the field,” says LaBerge. “As a result of their efforts, all of my students leave here with a patent application filed. They too are inventors and problem solvers.”

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