Food for thought: 20 percent of the food Americans eat is imported, much of it from emerging markets with questionable farming, processing, labeling and sanitation practices. This increases our risk of ingesting contaminants such as carcinogens, pesticides, bacteria, drugs, even heavy metals.

That tasty tidbit comes from Aleda Roth, Clemson University’s Burlington Industries Professor of Supply Chain Management, whose research reveals insufficient food and pharmaceutical supply chain management, and what she calls “the hidden costs of cheap food.” Roth, ranked among the top 1 percent of scholars in supply chain management and service operations strategies, was recently the first woman ever to be named a Distinguished Fellow of the Manufacturing and Service Operations Management Society (2009).

Her expertise is as crucial as the very food and drugs we consume, and is essential for early detection of contamination, for identifying and treating victims of tainted food and for helping avoid problems in the future.

“Risk in global food supply chains cannot be eliminated by inspections, auditing or testing,” Roth warns. “It takes better methods of prevention, sustainability and accountability.” And, she adds, “It won’t happen overnight or without funding.”
keep leading teachers and researchers. And, it will fund the initiatives that make a Clemson education exceptional, that build a knowledge-based economy and that drive innovation.

In short, this campaign is about building potential in people — students and faculty who will be the leading thinkers in the 21st century and carry on the intellectual and economic development envisioned by founder Thomas Green Clemson.

The Reality

Clemson’s unique focus on cross-disciplinary collaboration, engagement and enrichment prompted The Scientist magazine to name the University the 2007 No. 1 place to work in academia. But, to reach its full potential as a top-tier research institution, Clemson must recruit and retain eminent scholars, teachers and researchers, and continue the tradition of excellence established by current faculty.

Endowed chairs and professorships are the key in attracting these promising faculty members. Without these respected positions, Clemson will lose the most talented to rival schools. And at the world-class level on which Clemson University competes for faculty, these positions are no longer a perk — they are an expectation. Clemson wants to recruit and retain these eminent scholars for our students, academic programs, research and, indeed, as a pivotal factor in the economic prosperity of our state.

The Need

Clemson University needs to raise private gifts to support endowed chairs and professorships in areas strategically tied to the University’s road map. Key positions critical to advancing Clemson are located throughout the University:

- College of Agriculture, Forestry and Life Sciences
- College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities
- College of Business and Behavioral Science
- College of Engineering and Science
- College of Health, Education and Human Development
- Libraries
- Public Service Activities

The Impact

The entire Clemson University Family, as well as the state of South Carolina, will benefit from the recruitment of faculty members who not only conduct research and teach classes, but who contribute to the greater good of society. Funding endowed chairs and professorships will:

- Import the intellectual capital needed to put the University at the pinnacle of academic research.
- Bring the world’s leading researchers and scholars to South Carolina, which will enhance economic opportunities for individuals and industries throughout the state and increase the quality of life.
- Recruit more of the nation’s top students to Clemson, which will ultimately propel Clemson into the top 20.