



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Delta Zeta book drive to honor the memory of Clemson student Emily Yelton**

CLEMSON, S.C. – The Clemson University Chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority is collecting children’s books in memory of sorority sister Emily Yelton, 19, who died Sunday in the tragic Ocean Isle, N.C., beach house fire. Emily, who dreamed of being a kindergarten teacher, was compelled by the importance of early literacy education while taking a course titled “Family, Community and School Relations” this semester at Clemson.

Emily’s passion for helping young children learn to read was readily apparent to her sorority sisters.

“Delta Zeta has chosen this memorial book drive because Emily felt so strongly about our class discussions about book bins (traveling book-lending libraries) and promoting literacy,” said classmate and sorority sister Katie Bintz.

The visiting Clemson professor who taught Emily’s early childhood education course recalled that Emily always arrived for the 8 a.m. class with a smile on her face and would respond enthusiastically when the professor asked how the students were doing.

“She’d be the one who would chime up and say, ‘It is so good to be here and be in this class,’” said visiting professor Marilyn Madden, who is also the Executive Director of Pickens County First Steps. “I cannot tell you how touched I am that Delta Zeta would choose a memorial to Emily that would benefit the children she planned to one day teach.”

Delta Zeta will donate the children’s books to South Carolina First Steps, the statewide school readiness agency, and will place a message inside the cover of each one in memory of Emily.

Delta Zeta is collecting children’s books appropriate for children ages birth to 8 years old. Monetary donations are also welcome in order to offset the cost of preparing labels honoring Emily’s memory, which will be placed inside of the books.

Donations may be sent to:

- Delta Zeta, c/o Ashley Mills, 5609 University Station, Clemson SC 29632.
- Books may be delivered in person to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Office, 602 University Union in Clemson and Seneca High School. Additional donation sites may be announced in the future.

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*South Carolina First Steps is distributing this press release at the request of the Clemson University Chapter of Delta Zeta Sorority.*