John A. Zeigler, Jr.
A Centennial Celebration

College of Charleston School of the Arts
John A. Zeigler, Jr.

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 5, 2012

COLLEGE Of CHARLESTON
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
For John, beloved family and friends.
John Zeigler is an ardent supporter of the arts. In addition to supporting students at the College of Charleston School of the Arts, John also has supported performing and creative artists such as Carson McCullers, Patricia Robinson, Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, Maurice Sendak, and Prentiss Taylor with both his friendship and his professional guidance. He also has given of his time, talents and resources to cultural organizations such as the Poetry Society of South Carolina, the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and Spoleto Festival USA.

A sign of how important John is to the Lowcountry and to South Carolina is evident in the recognition that he has earned in his lifetime. In the last few years alone, the Association of Fundraising Professionals has given John a Special Merit Award, the College has conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, and the State of South Carolina has awarded him the Order of the Silver Crescent.

John provides inspiration to all South Carolinians who strive to make a difference in their community. Perhaps a quote from a 2001 College of Charleston Magazine article best represents his philosophy: “I don’t feel like I am doing something especially noble, I just enjoy seeing young people get along. ...Many students need help and I’m very happy that I have enough to contribute.” The article’s title was Investing in the Future, and that is just what John has done through his gifts to the College.

John Zeigler’s characteristic generosity and humility present an ideal that each of us can emulate. Through his desire to make the world a better place by helping young people he is a model for everyone, and we are honored to call him a friend.

Dean Valerie B. Morris  
School of the Arts  
February 5, 2012
Irwin Jiang, a John A. Zeigler, Jr. Scholarship recipient, performs Johannes Brahms’ *Three Hungarian Dances* during the centennial celebration.
"Congratulations on your 100th birthday!
There is no greater gift than the respect and love
you have received from the many people whose lives you have touched.
I’m sure that your family is very proud of your accomplishments,
and the positive impact you’ve made, as an artist, businessman,
and philanthropist, will serve as an inspiration for generations to come."

The Honorable Nimrata "Nikki" R. Haley, Governor of South Carolina
"Mr. Zeigler has been honored with many awards and titles in his life, he has received the order of the Silver Crescent, the highest honor given to a South Carolina citizen..."

South Carolina House of Representatives
State of South Carolina  
County of Richland

FLAG CERTIFICATION

House of Representatives

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the State Capitol building in Columbia, South Carolina.

Presented to John Ashbury Zeigler, Jr.
In Honor of Your 100th Birthday.

February 5, 2012

Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House
"I want to express my best wishes on the occasion of your 100th birthday. Your life serves as an example to others of personal achievement and selfless philanthropy and service that we should all strive to emulate. The seeds you have planted in this generation through your patronage and support of students will bear fruit for generations to come. I will follow your philosophy of “every little bit counts” and add my little bit to the heartfelt wishes of numerous others for a happy birthday and continued good health."

The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell, Senate President Pro Tempore
The Senate of South Carolina

"First, I'd like to congratulate Mr. Zeigler for obtaining the century mark. Secondly, I laud him for spending the century God has given him serving the College of Charleston and arts communities in such a unique and selfless fashion. Mr. Zeigler's has been - and hopefully will continue to be for years to come – a life well spent."

The Honorable George E. "Chip" Campsen, III
The Senate of South Carolina

"Through your life well lived, you served our great country during one of our darkest chapters as World War II consumed our world. Your energy and passion to serve others and make a difference in so many lives knows no bounds. As an acclaimed author, poet, teacher and through your love of music and the School of the Arts at the College of Charleston, your talents, gifts and influence empowers others to pursue their dreams."

The Honorable Harry B. "Chip" Limehouse, III
Speaker of South Carolina
February 3, 2012

Mr. John A. Zeigler, Jr.
Charleston, SC

Dear John,

As a United States Senator, it is my pleasure to wish you a happy 100th birthday! Reaching such a milestone in life is truly an outstanding achievement, and it is an honor to recognize you on your special day.

Please know that I am grateful for the commitment that you have shown to your community over the years. As you celebrate this most joyous occasion, I trust the love and support of your family and friends will surround you as you reflect on the past and anticipate another exciting year to come.

If I may ever be of any assistance to you or your family in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, happy birthday, John!

Sincerely,

Jim DeMint
United States Senator

Enrique Graf presenting John with a certificate acknowledging the scholarships he has established at the College of Charleston on his 90th birthday.
"Cathy and I wish you a spectacular day surrounded by your loving family and friends, with tables of delicious food, and lots of joyous celebration. At the close of the day, we wish for you many more wonderful birthdays filled with happiness, because you are a priceless treasure to your family, friends and community."

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House, South Carolina House of Representatives

"On behalf of the South Carolina Arts Commission and all of us who value the arts across our state, happy 100th birthday! Thank you for a century of dedication to the arts, artists and the institutions that work to ensure that they will inspire us for many generations to come. As you enjoy the accolades that come your way during your birthday celebrations, know that you have the gratitude and best wishes of a state that values your many contributions to the arts."

Ken May, Executive Director
South Carolina Arts Commission

"In a city known for its love and support of the arts, John Zeigler stands out as an artist and as an arts patron. His life is a shining example of how the arts can enliven, illuminate, and enrich our very being. Thank you for being such a wonderful role model for the whole world to emulate. Happy birthday!"

Ellen Dressler Moryl, Executive Director
City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs
"On behalf of the citizens of Charleston, I send John Zeigler my best wishes on his 100th birthday. From his personal friendship with and support of the artists of the Charleston Renaissance, as well as his own artistic contributions, to his focus on sustaining and uplifting the young artists who will be future stars, he is a model for everyone in our great city and our wonderful state."

The Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Mayor of the City of Charleston
On May 7, 2011, the College of Charleston conferred the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to John. The citation referred to his "everlasting commitment to generations of writers, musicians and artists..." and noted that his "generosity has enabled the creation of art that is enjoyed the world over."

top, Amy Tan and Chee-Hang See; bottom left, Friedrich Burgmuller; bottom right, Fernando Troche

Previous pages, The Game, written by John Zeigler, performed by School of the Arts Theatre students, Brenna McNamara, Elizabeth Watson, Rachel Epting, Allison Wilde, Anna Royal, Haley Barfield; Directed by Todd Mc Nerney
John and friends celebrate his centennial birthday on February 5, 2012.
“Bob and I love you very much. I thank you for your support without which I could not have done what I’ve done at the College of Charleston.”

Enrique Graf

“John, you are a shining star! We will follow your lead and continue to bring new stars in music to our community.”

Love,
Nina Liu

“You are the best—a great person and a great poet.”

Steve Rosenberg

Bravo! Thanks for your good works and inspiration to all... student, faculty, staff, alumni and folks like us!”

Michael and Tog Newman
"A hearty toast to you, Uncle John, on your 100th birthday. You've been a touchstone in so many ways to those of us lucky enough to be a part of your family. Try not to blush when I say how much we appreciate your modesty, practicality, thrift, generosity, and erudition, topped off by your fine, quirky sense of humor. A lover of travel, music, theater, literature, art and poetry (and a fine poet yourself!), we love you for the way you—by the very way you live your life—help us keep in mind the importance of all we need for a well-rounded life. Thank you for all that you've contributed to the lives of your extended family and to the many other recipients of your kindness and generosity through the years.

All our love,
George, Caroll & family

"Dean and I wish you a wonderful 100th birthday and future days to come. We love you very much and feel very fortunate to have shared so many experiences and memories with you. The visits to 9 College, the vacations on Sullivan's Island, the family reunions, meals at your home with the "best biscuits" and the best presents and advice that an uncle can provide. Your love of family has set a great example for all of us to follow. I can't express how your many generous gifts to us, our son and granddaughters have meant to all of us... You have been the BEST uncle I could ever imagine.

Love you very much,
Dean and Barbara Zeigler Gladden
“You are an inspiration to all of us that age has no limits in terms of the love of music. Your faithfulness to attending concerts, generosity to the students’ programs, and just being there for the College of Charleston is a tribute to your character. Happy Birthday!”

Bill and Dottie Rhett

“...congratulations to John Zeigler for all his generosity to students of the College, especially from Benny Plasencia, who is still doing a perfect job in his master’s studies at Florida University in Gainesville, Florida.”

Joan C. Middleton

“We are pleased that Uncle John is being honored for his life of service and commitment. He is an example for everyone to emulate.”

David and Peggy Dodds

"Happy 100th John, my dear friend! We loved being your next door neighbors in our early years in Charleston. Congratulations!!"

Phyllis Miller

“We are inspired by you John Zeigler, Jr. We think of you as our model. May you continue to shine for a long time.”

Dr. Norton and Mindelle Seltzer
"John Zeigler is one of my favorite people in the whole world."

Dean Valerie B. Morris
"Dear John, so it has come to pass! You’ve reached the 100 mark, lived through almost all of the 20th century, with its cruelties, contributed to the end of same, and returned home to live a life of beauty and intellect, surrounded by books, music, the arts, and like-minded friends who shared the good life with you. I am so proud to be part of your peaceable circle and continue to cherish your radiant smile and clear-headedness. I’ll be with you in thought on the 5th. Fondly..."

Ingrid Rose

"You inspire us for many reasons. One of your enduring gifts is your ability to gather people, experiences and communities together under your wing. where we all feel connected, cared for, and most of all, important. We are honored to be gathered up under your wing. Thank you for making us a part of something bigger than ourselves. Happy 100th Birthday, John."

Joe and Andrea Quiroz

“John, am so delighted to be included in your birthday celebration and wish you the happiest of days! Still miss you at the bridge table.”

Penny Walker

"Congratulations! Thank you for many years of being a Friend of the College of Charleston and the School of the Arts!"

Elizabeth Rivers Lewine

"You inspire me in more ways I can count."

Ashley Smith
"The $101.00 donation to your John Ziegler Music Scholarship includes a one dollar down payment on next year's birthday. Looking forward to the 2013 kumquat preserves as well. Heartfelt birthday wishes for a favorite friend. All the best..."

Billy Vandiver

“You’ve been blessed with wonderful genes, and we’ve been blessed with your friendships. Happy 100th and many more!! With love.”

Richard and Gayle (Newbury) Phillips

“Congratulations on a hundred! But even more congratulations-again-on The Edwin Poems. Anyone can make a hundred, nobody else could have written that poetry.”

Paul Weidner

“What an inspiration you are! Thank you for all you have done for the College of Charleston!”

Karen Jones
Family and friends honor John at his 100 year birthday celebration hosted by the College of Charleston School of the Arts.
“Bravo! And many thanks for your good works.”

Harriet and George Williams

"Happy Birthday, Dear Friend! You have given the world a multitude of talented young artists! God bless you!"

Kate Lloyd

"Happy Birthday, Mr. Zeigler! Your faith in the arts compels me to grow and to serve as you have so graciously."

George Metropolis, Mr. Zeigler's Clarence Award Recipient for 2011 - 2012

"Thank you for enriching not just our lives, but the city's."

Harlan Greene and Jonathan Ray

"Thank you for introducing me to my love of reading. It is something I will cherish forever."

Baylor Smith

“And many more!”

Claudia and David Cohen
Over the years, John A. Ziegler, Jr. has made more than 170 gifts to the College of Charleston. The effect that John's support for the arts has had goes well beyond the College. He has made gifts to cultural organizations such as the Charleston Symphony Orchestra and Spoleto Festival USA. In turn, School of the Arts alumni who have benefitted from Ziegler scholarships and awards make their own contributions to the arts community in the state, the nation, and the world.

Your legacy will forever live at the College of Charleston. We will always remember, "Everyone can, and should, make a difference."

To you, John, and many more!
**John Asbury Ziegler, Jr.** was born in Manning in 1912. He attended The Citadel and founded and edited *The Shako*, The Citadel’s literary magazine. At age 30 he enlisted in the Navy and was stationed in Alaska. John served as a radioman and was the Naval correspondent for the *Glacier Gazette*. He also served aboard the U.S.S. Dickens, a ship that carried soldiers to Iwo Jima.

One year after his honorable discharge, John co-founded a bookstore in Charleston and befriended many artists – including Carson McCullers (*The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*) and Maurice Sendak (*Where the Wild Things Are*) – while it was in operation. The Book Basement was acquired by the College of Charleston in 1971. There is a plaque on the house that refers to John as someone “whose steadfast support of the School of the Arts, its students and its programs in music, continues to ensure that orchestras, symphonies and operas world-wide feature College of Charleston alumni.”

In 2010, the College of Charleston Alumni Association gave John the Alumni Award of Honor (the only award the Alumni Association bestows on non-graduates) in recognition of his ongoing support of students at the College. That same year, on National Philanthropy Day, the Association of Fundraising Professionals gave John a special recognition award that acknowledged the ways in which donors can “touch, change, and sometimes even save, countless lives in ways of which they may not even be aware.” On May 7, 2011, the College of Charleston conferred the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree on John Zeigler. The citation referred to his “everlasting commitment to generations of writers, musicians and artists...” and noted that his “generosity has enabled the creation of art that is enjoyed the world over.”

On August 7, 2011, College of Charleston Board of Trustees member Jeff M. Schilz presented the Order of the Silver Crescent to John on behalf of South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley before family and friends, including P. George Benson, President, College of Charleston; Valerie B. Morris, Dean, School of the Arts; Gregory D. Padgett, Chairman, College Board of Trustees; the Honorable George E. “Chip” Campsen III, South Carolina Senate; and the Honorable Harry B. “Chip” Limehouse III, South Carolina House of Representatives. The College of Charleston School of the Arts nominated John for the award, which recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to a particular South Carolina city or community.
School Mission Statement

The School of the Arts plays a distinctive role in the lives and education of students and in the community by developing artists, art scholars and art leaders. The School's arts education stimulates creativity and critical thinking skills, activates the whole learning process and motivates a lifelong love of the arts. Within a city known for its cultural heritage, this superior education in the arts marks the school as a national flagship program for undergraduate education in the arts.

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