
TEXAS WRANGLERS

Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2018



Dear Texas Wrangler Alumni,

School is quickly coming to an end this semester, which means the Texas Wranglers are wrapping up another great semester. I want to give you an update on what our organization has been up to this semester.

This year has been great for our organization. We have continued to put forth our best into making our campus and our community a better place. Archer's Challenge and City Wide were great ways to give back, and new service events like Archer's Run give us motivation to continue pouring back into others. We had three Wranglers compete in fight night and are currently playing in the A league basketball IM championships.

The new President James Dial plans to grow the connection between Alumni and Wranglers by inviting y'all to come speak at meetings, sending out regular newsletters, and working with the Alumni Liaison to develop new solutions. We are grateful for you and your support and look forward to upholding the traditions and values of Texas Wranglers.

MFSF,
Alex Ju
President – Fall 2018

Summary

- 9/1 Mav Service Proj.
 - 9/16 Pease Park Service
 - 9/27 Spring 18 Inducted
 - 10/17 Basketball Tip Off
 - 10/17 Archer's Challenge
 - 10/21 Pease Park Service
 - 11/2 Fight Night
 - 11/2 Parents Weekend
 - 11/10 City Wide Hold Up
 - 12/8 Archer's Run
 - 12/10 Winter Formal
-

Spring 18 Service Project and Induction



S'18 sharing their Saturday with residents of Belmont Village Senior Living West Lake Hills

After learning that his grandmother, diagnosed with Alzheimer's, would be put in a home for better care, Ethan Escudero and the rest of S'18 dedicated their service project to improving the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's. Congrats to their class for raising over 3k for a local charity, Alzheimer's Texas.

[Link to Fundraising page](#)

Pease Park Service

We partnered with the Texas Lassos for one of our three visits to Pease Park this semester so far for a total of over 150 hours of service!



Wranglers, Mavericks, and Lassos posing after a few hours of work

Basketball Tip Off



Wranglers after tip off with S'18 Drayton Whiteside

The UT Basketball Team Tip Off was a blast as we got to see our very own S'18 Drayton Whiteside suit up with the team for the first time. Congrats to him for killing tryouts while finishing out Mavs. We'll be at every home game courtside so look out for us on Longhorn Network!

Archer's Challenge

For the third year in a row Honorary Wrangler Archer Hadley hosted Archer's Challenge at UT with the help of Wranglers and Mavs. Congratulations Archer on raising over 100k to improve accessibility infrastructure and bringing out over 700 participants!

Read below for information on Archer's Run, a fundraiser we planned to help him continue to raise funds to improve accessibility.

[Learn More/Donate Here](#)



Archer Hadley and Riley Derby cheesin after Archer's Challenge

Sigma Chi Fight Night



Don Dao (3rd from left), Martin Pham (4th from left),
Dan Carver (2nd from right)

This year we had 3 Wranglers step up to represent us at Fight Night, an annual boxing event that raises 100k for cancer research and support services every year.

Fighters were Don Dao, Martin Pham, and Dan Carver. They've been training for the last few months to prepare and all of them put up great fights!

Parents Weekend

Parents weekend at The Oasis on Lake Travis was a beautiful way to spend the evening and give back to the people who give us so much.

We strive to ensure that even when our calendar gets busy with social and service events, we stay connected to what matters most. Stay tuned for an update on Mom's weekend, currently being planned for next semester.



My family

City Wide Hold Up

This year we partnered with the Texas Lassos and Texas Sweethearts for City Wide Hold Up. In total we were able to raise \$6k.

This semester we plan to work with Archer and Easter Seals to find more ways to get Wranglers and Mavericks excited about the vision of ES.



F17 Henry Trentham and Denny Ortega posing with some awesome volunteers



Archer's Run



On December 8th we pushed Archer Hadley from San Antonio to Austin to continue raising funds for Archer's Challenge. [FB page with updates.](#)

Starting at 4am we ran 80 miles before arriving at the UT tower at 6pm, greeted by a huge group of Wranglers, friends, and family. Our efforts raised an additional \$6k for Archer's Challenge and the story got featured in the [Daily Texan](#). This was one of the most personally impactful events many of us have been a part of, thank you alumni for your donations and support.




Two Step Throwdown Spring Philanthropy Update

Dear Don

Just a short personal note to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your amazing and generous support of Mona Foundation in the past, and share with you a few updates so you can see the difference YOU are making:


In Haiti, in the absence of any functioning civil or political institution, and against a backdrop of total chaos and mass demonstration on the streets of Port-au-Prince demanding an investigation into the alleged diversion of \$3.8 billion from a Venezuelan oil agreement with Haiti and other Caribbean countries, the schools YOU are supporting are continuing with their amazing progress:

At New Horizon, Haiti, Solar panels are now installed, providing the school with continued and uninterrupted electricity for the computer lab and classrooms – **the first in the country**. The **Physics & chemistry lab equipment have been obtained** and they are made accessible to the students in a month. And the administrative committee is **defining the college scholarship qualification process**. **This fund was made available to us through the generous donors like you** who want to see that the New Horizon graduates will also have the opportunity to complete their college education so to better serve their home school and communities.



As the next step, New Horizon has **obtained official permission to create a teacher training center on its campus** to ensure availability of qualified teachers for both New Horizon and other neighboring schools. This project will start in 2019.


At Georges Marcellus, the construction of the kitchen is now complete enabling the school to provide a meal a day to all the students and **the construction of the latrines with a septic tank is in progress** and is scheduled to be completed in two months. **Most importantly teacher training sessions are continuing to improve quality of teaching and learning**. Since the completion of the teachers' assessment in 2017 and beginning of a continuous teacher training program, there has been a **23% increase** in the classroom average score in **Oral French skills** and a **65% increase** in the classroom average score in **written French skills**.



You will also be happy to hear that based on our 3-year growth plan, we will be supporting two new very promising projects in West Africa:

- Gambia, Starfish. Proposal to Mona Foundation for a Skill-Building center for young Girls, serving 100 students every year at the cost \$24K.**

Starfish, a community-based organization that has been in existence for 10 years, is a girls' educational program focused on providing Gambian girls scholarships to achieve the highest level of education and providing them with skills and experiences they need to find their voice and choices to achieve financial independence and uplift themselves and their families. More importantly, Starfish requires the beneficiaries of their program to leverage what they learn in service to their communities and humanity at large.



The skill center was founded by **Mama Kujabi, a victim of life-long violence and abuse who resolutely defied all odds** and started a small business, enabling her to support and educate herself and three daughters. Click on the picture to learn more about this remarkable and inspiring woman.

Sierra Leone, Programme for Children proposal to Mona Foundation Construction of a Junior Secondary School (JSS) in Njomborhun, Sierra Leone serving 5 primary schools in neighboring villages to educate 158 students, plus a water well and latrines, at \$54K.

Programme for Children is a registered Sierra Leonean NGO held in high regard in Sierra Leone for the work they do to support communities and build educational opportunities. Since 1980, **Joseph Williams-Lamin**, the founder PFC and currently member of the parliament, **in working closely with elders of each village**, and supported by their US based non-profit arm, **Schools for Salone**, have **constructed over 65 schools**, countless latrines and water wells, and provided scholarships for thousands of children to go to school.



Sierra Leone is extremely poor, and nearly half of the working-age population engages in subsistence agriculture. The minimum wage till 2015 was at \$1/day and now at \$3/day for a family of four. As of 2014, Sierra Leone was estimated as having the 11th highest **infant mortality rate** in the world. 2013 UNICEF report indicates that **88% of women in Sierra Leone have undergone female genital mutilation**.

Primary school completion rate in Sierra Leone is 66% but **JSS accounts for only 18% of student enrollment as it is very challenging** for students to continue their education past primary school in the more rural areas due to lack of a nearby JSS. Families must often decide between sending their student off to live elsewhere or walk significant distances to go to school.

I am confident that with the continued generosity of our wonderful supporters we will be able to add these two projects to portfolio and extend our support to more students, families and communities.

Thank you again for changing the lives of 450 students in New Horizon, 200 students at Georges Marcellus, and now 100 girls in Gambia and 158 students in Sierra Leone.

Warmest regards
Mahnaz

Mahnaz Javid | President & CEO
Mona Foundation
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Wranglers Serving Others

[Guillermo Beltran](#), [Martin Pham](#), and [James Dial](#) are a part of the Texas 4000 2019 Team and will be biking from Austin to Alaska over the summer of 2019 to raise money for cancer research. Read more about why they've taken on this challenge or donate in the links on their names.



Dane Redman and his mom partnered with their church to build a new home with electricity for citizens in Rio Bravo, Mexico. The build took 3 days and helped upgrade the family from a small shed with no electricity to a larger and more comfortable house with power.

Maverick Reese Costis is serving as the Project Manager for Team Thailand 1 from Projects with Under-served Communities (PUC). The PUC team will be building a new kitchen with the intent of helping the school provide this very important meal to the children as safely and efficiently as possible.

[Read more/Donate Here](#)

