

Thanks to the generosity of Dan and Patty Wotring, Mason Athletics is embarking on an Alumni-Athlete giving challenge in which \$5,000 will be awarded to the team that meet the following criteria; \$3,000 will be awarded to the sport with the highest percentage of alumni-athlete giving \$1,000 will be awarded to the sport with the most improved percentage of alumni-athlete giving from the previous fiscal year

\$1,000 will be awarded to the sport with the highest percentage of young alumni-athlete giving. A young alumnus is a graduate of the past five years (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014).

To make a donation or to learn more about the challenge please [Click Here](#).

The following are reasons to make a donation to the Wrestling program:

- The alumni-athlete giving challenge is a participation goal; all donations are critical. Last year we had 100% participation from the class of 2013. The donation is tax deductible.
- Last year we won \$1,000 for having the biggest improvement in alumni-athlete giving from the previous year. However, we lost the other two categories to Men's Tennis and the Masonettes.
- \$5,000 will make a significant difference in our ability to participate in some of the top matches in the country.
- Due to generous contributions from alumni, we have been able to send our team to out-of-season competitions. For example, we will be able to send 19 wrestlers to the University Freestyle and Greco-Roman Nationals on May 22-25. I am confident we will have one of the largest contingents of wrestlers from any college program.
- We are continuing to grow and build as a program. Winning this challenge will continue to move the program forward.
- We need alumni support. From working with the current team members, attending our competitions, or making a donation.
- We are trying to create a team culture where excellence is part of everything we do. I believe if guys are making excellent choices in life, school, training we will see it translate in to excellence in competition. We could use a win in the Alumni Challenge to help the guys believe in the program plan.
- The first five alums who show up at the wrestling office with a donation check can grab a Mason Alumni hat from my office. They are currently sitting on top of the refrigerator that was handed down from Coach Shaffer to Coach Weader and now down to me.
- When this challenge ends we will be under new leadership. Our new Athletic Director is scheduled to start on July 1. It would be great, if one of the first duties as Athletic Director, our new boss was able to congratulate the wrestling team on winning the Alumni Challenge.

Please encourage your fellow alumni to give to the program, tell others about the alumni-athlete giving challenge by forwarding this email, posting a link on your Facebook page, send a tweet, a letter, or make a phone call. Help us grow because once a Mason Wrestler you are forever connected to the program.

Go Patriots,

Joe Russell
Head Wrestling Coach
George Mason University