



2014 Riders

Texas 4000 Tribute

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CATHIE PARSSINEN

2014 MARKS A milestone for Texas 4000, as the organization passes the decade mark since its founding by UT engineering students Chris and Mandy Condit in 2004. Diagnosed at age 11, Chris is a Hodgkin's lymphoma survivor. Chris felt that creating the longest charity bicycle ride in the world, from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, Alaska, would be a symbolic way to fight the nation's greatest disease threat. 43 students participated in the inaugural ride in 2004 and presented a check to the American Cancer Society for \$112,000. In ten short years, Texas 4000 has raised over \$4 million and has donated \$1 million to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center to fund cancer research.

Texas 4000 Executive Director Jen Garza



Texas 4000 Founder, Chris Condit



2014 Sierra team riders Doha Hussien and Jocelyn Matyas



Tim Costello, Eleanor Bowman, Debbie Smith, Melissa Mormon, Todd Janszoh, Greg Miller (all from sponsor BHI)



The 2014 Texas 4000 Riders at the Alaskan border



Jimmy Schatte, Texas 4000 Chairman of the Board



Emcee Tyler Sieswerda from KVUE



Riders celebrate



Each team spends 19 months training and preparing before ever leaving Austin. Each rider must meet a fundraising goal of \$1,500 per person. The 2014 riders who are pictured here include 79 University of Texas college students who were selected on November 1, 2012 and represent many different majors, fitness levels and backgrounds. One thing that unites them all, however, is a unique and personal tie to cancer. Many of them have experienced the powerlessness of watching loved ones suffer and struggle and often succumb to the destructive power of this relentless disease. More than anything else, this is a ride of empowerment, a way to make a difference. In their mission statement, members consider the Texas 4000 a journey that takes "grit, determination, and support." And that is why they consider it a metaphor for the battle against cancer.

On August 23, an exuberant crowd of 400 gathered at the Austin Music Hall to hail the return of the 2014 LIVESTRONG Texas 4000 Team from Alaska and to celebrate their 70-day ride at the Tribute Gala.

Among achievements to celebrate was the service of Board Chairman Jimmy Schatte. He was the inaugural Board Chairman when the Board was formally established in 2006, and he has served the organization through nine rides. Chris Condit spoke movingly of Jimmy, "He has been an incredible partner on my journey, a friend, a mentor, a true servant-leader. His strategic vision and his passion for this cause is shown in spades."

Julie Tan, Marisa Parker, Rebecca Teng



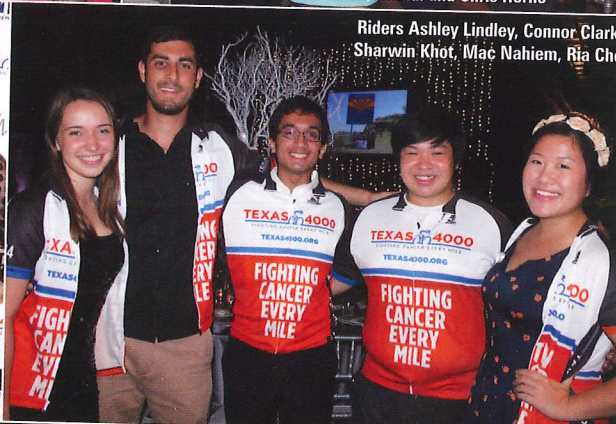
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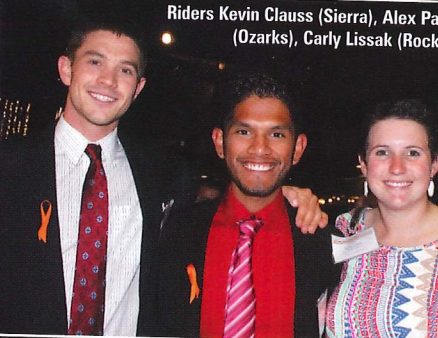
Cuatro Sammons, Lauren Yurko, Brandi and Chris Horne



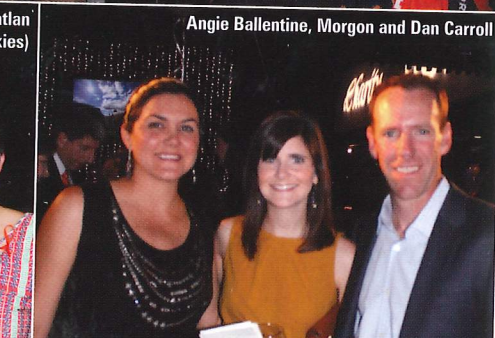
Texas 4000 Executive Director Jen Garza, Event Chair Jennifer Sarver



Riders Ashley Lindley, Connor Clark, Sharwin Khot, Mac Nahiem, Ria Cho



Riders Kevin Clauss (Sierra), Alex Patlan (Ozarks), Carly Lissak (Rockies)



Angie Ballentine, Morgon and Dan Carroll

Greg and Christine Miller, Jason and Mary Elise Maurice



Patrick Linton, Anthony McCoy, Austin Shaver, Seth Snyder, Jordan Robles (Rockies team)



Henry and Julie Eby



Patrick Linton, Anthony McCoy



Matt Welch, Blair Newberry, Kelley and Joe Newberry



Jimmy Schatte, Mandy and Chris Condit, Bridget Schatte

