



Texas Blazers Alumni Network Newsletter – Fall 2018

Chair's Message

Summer is over, college football is back, and with any luck, it will start to cool down in Texas over the next few weeks. The Alumni Board and Texas Blazers have been hard at work since the last newsletter planning events such as our Summer Happy Hours and the Away Game weekend in D.C. for the UT-Maryland game. We are also only one month away from our annual Fall Alumni Weekend and Tailgate in Austin. We are excited to see many of you there. Here are our key upcoming events, so please mark your calendars (additional details below):

Texas vs OU Alumni Gathering – Dallas, TX – 10/6 from 7-9pm CT

Texas Blazers New Guy Welcome Dinner – Austin, TX – 10/9 from 6:30-8:30pm CT

Fall Alumni Weekend and Tailgate – Texas vs West Virginia in Austin, TX – 11/2-4

Our Alumni Network is picking up steam with 400+ members, several events around the country, and growing engagement with the current Texas Blazers and UT Austin. Also, in case you missed it, Texas Blazers turned 24 years old last month...and that means next year is our 25th Anniversary! Stay tuned as we will have more details for you in the coming months.

These events would not be possible without support from our alumni. We have a core group of “active members” who have paid lifetime or annual dues to be contributing members to our organization. If you are not an active member yet, what are you waiting for? We strongly encourage you to sign up! The membership dues are minimal (\$500 for life, \$50 for annual), and include a ticket to both alumni weekends, among other privileges. These dues help support all our programming.

Please take a moment and think through the benefits of joining the alumni network. Your membership dues will go a long way. [Here is the link to the dues page on our website.](#)

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and please reach out with any feedback or ideas for the Alumni Network!

YBB,

Neal Makkar

Network Chair

TEXAS VS OU ALUMNI GATHERING IN DALLAS -- OCTOBER 6, 2018 (7-9PM)

We are hosting an Alumni Gathering after the TX-OU Game in Dallas on October 6, 2018 - please come hangout with your fellow alumni and current Texas Blazers who are coming up for the game - beer and appetizers included! #OUSucks

TX-OU Alumni Gathering at The Foundry

- Address: 2303 Pittman St., Dallas, TX 75208
- Time: 7-9pm
- Beer and appetizers included

[Here is the Facebook event for more details.](#)

NEW GUY WELCOME DINNER IN AUSTIN -- OCTOBER 9, 2018 (6:30-8:30PM)

Every semester we host a Welcome Dinner for the Texas Blazers to celebrate the most recent class of New Guys. This year's event will be on Tuesday, October 9, from 6:30-8:30pm at Austin's Pizza on Guadalupe, across from campus. All alumni are invited to attend if they are in the area. Please plan to come out and get to know the current Texas Blazers. Pizza and beer included!

[Here is the Facebook event for more details.](#)

FALL ALUMNI WEEKEND TAILGATE 2018 -- NOVEMBER 2-4, 2018

Fall Alumni Weekend and Tailgate 2018

We have several events planned for our Fall Alumni Weekend, which is November 2-4, 2018, in Austin.

[RSVP for the Fall Alumni Weekend here.](#)

[Pay for the Alumni Tailgate here \(only inactive members must pay\).](#)

You may now also pay for Alumni Tailgate using Venmo! Search for "Texas Blazers Alumni Network," "512-943-7858," or "@TexasBlazers-AlumniNetwork" to find our account. Please leave a clear description of what you are paying for in the note section.

Happy Hour at 8 Track (Friday, November 2, from 7-9pm)

- Address: 2805 Manor Rd., Austin, TX 78722
- Appetizers and drinks will be provided
- [Link to Facebook Event](#)

Texas Blazers and Texas OJs Alumni Tailgate before UT vs WVU on LBJ Lawn (Saturday, November 3, 3 hours before kickoff)

- Address: 2300 Robert Dedman Dr., Austin, Texas 78705
- Cost: Free for active members and significant others; \$25/person for inactive members
- Catered lunch, beer, and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided
- Opportunity to mingle with current Blazers, OJs, and alumni from both groups
- [Link to Facebook Event](#)

Annual Alumni Meeting on UT Campus (Sunday, November 4, 10am-12pm)

This is our opportunity to update alumni on the initiatives the Board of Directors has been working on and your opportunity to provide input to help steer our organization to greater heights. We will also hear from current Blazers about the work on campus and around the Austin community. Hope you can attend!

- Address: TBD, will be on campus
- Breakfast included

UT – MARYLAND ALUMNI EVENT RECAP

Alumni Happy Hour and Tailgate in D.C. for the UT vs Maryland Game

Over Labor Day weekend a strong contingent of Blazers Alumni met in D.C. for the UT – Maryland game. We had an unofficial dinner hosted by Cody Cheek at his house on Friday night to welcome people into town. On Saturday, we had a seating block at FedEx Field for a large group of Blazers from all over the country. Saturday evening, we hosted a dinner at CIRCA in D.C. for an even larger group of Alumni. The weekend brought together Blazers from all years in our organization’s history and proved to be a fantastic opportunity to connect with local D.C. alums. The success of this event and last year’s USC event in LA means that you will likely see an Away Game event next year as well! Hook ‘em!



(Blazers Alumni after Saturday night dinner in D.C.)

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Sign up now for an Annual or Lifetime Membership

Only active members can run for a Board of Directors position, vote in the Board of Director elections, and vote on any other matter during our upcoming elections.

Annual Dues (\$50): All members who pay their annual dues will also receive a free ticket to this year's Alumni Tailgate.

Lifetime Dues (\$500): All members who pay lifetime dues will receive a free ticket to all Fall Alumni

Tailgates, all Spring Frisbee Fling Alumni Dinners, and a free ticket to other future events as designated by the Board of Directors. Members may also elect to make ten monthly \$50 payments to establish Life Membership. Please reach out to us if you are interested in the payment plan option.

Dues can be paid through our PayPal account linked above and on our [website](#).

You may now also pay for dues using Venmo! Search for "Texas Blazers Alumni Network," "512-943-7858," or "@TexasBlazers-AlumniNetwork" to find our account. Please leave a clear description of what you are paying for in the note section.

ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Alumni Mentorship Program

We are continuing our mentorship program of partnering Blazers Alumni with current members of Texas Blazers. This program has been a remarkable success for the last two years, and we are hoping to build it even further. Interested alumni should fill out [this short Google Form](#) or contact Justin Atkinson at justinatkinson94@gmail.com.

Alumni Spotlights

Our latest alumni spotlight is of Stephen Gilstrap, a New Guy in 2006 who graduated UT with a B.A. in Plan II/Government and a B.B.A. in Business Honors and Finance. He then went to law school at Yale, graduating in 2011. Stephen now works as a senior litigation associate at Vinson & Elkins, LLP where he specializes in appellate law and complex commercial litigation. Fun Fact – his wife Meggie is an Orange Jacket Alumnus and they have two daughters, Abbie and Zoe. [Learn more about Stephen here!](#)

If you wish to be in one of our spotlights, please contact Justin Atkinson at justinatkinson94@gmail.com

TEXAS BLAZERS ALUMNI DINNERS

Texas Blazers Alumni Dinners in Austin, Texas

The Texas Blazers are continuing last year's Alumni Dinners initiative. Alumni Dinners will be an opportunity for Texas Blazers Alumni who live in or are visiting Austin to have dinner with active Texas Blazers. The best part: the dinners are free for everyone attending.

As alumni of the organization, we strongly encourage you to meet the current Texas Blazers if you find yourself in Austin. There's no better way to meet new people than over a nice meal! If you are interested, please email the Alumni Chair, Steve Sereno at steve.sereno@utexas.edu and he can help coordinate.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

We had another website update and redesign. The website has links to our previous alumni newsletters, alumni spotlights, and further updates and information over our current programs and initiatives. Check it out [here](#).

NETWORK CONTACT INFORMATION

Please reach out if you have any feedback for us or ideas on future events and initiatives. As a growing organization we are eager for more input from our members. We would love to hear from you!

Network Contact Information

- Network Email – texasblazersalumninetwork@texasexes.org
- Network Website – <https://www.texasexes.org/chapter/texas-blazers>

Board of Directors (2017-2019)

- Network Chair – Neal Makkar (neal.makkar@gmail.com)
- Chair-Elect – Chris Fox (chrisfx7@gmail.com)
- Secretary – Tommy Pigeon (tbpigeon@gmail.com)
- Treasurer – Logan Gearheart (logan.gearheart@ey.com)
- At-Large – Justin Atkinson (justinatkinson94@gmail.com)