



Texas Blazers Alumni Network Newsletter – Spring 2017

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

What a difference a year makes.

A year ago, the Texas Blazers Alumni Network had new bylaws, a new Board of Directors, a lot of enthusiasm, and...did I mention the bylaws?

Plain and simple, there was a lot of work to do.

Now, a year later, that work is mostly done. We have a new name, logo, website, dues structure, mentorship program, satellite happy hour program, permanent advisory council, and recently held an outstanding Fall Alumni Weekend. We also formalized our network relationship with Texas Exes and sent our first-ever representatives to the annual Texas Exes Council Meeting and Network Chapter Leadership Conference. And we're just getting started.

I want to personally thank everyone who worked on these initiatives. I have thoroughly enjoyed re-connecting with so many of you, and it has truly been my privilege to help implement your ideas and visions for how this network can grow. To that extent, I would like to personally invite everyone to attend our Spring Alumni Weekend – as always, your first drink is on me.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas and feedback for future events and initiatives.

YBB,
Cody Cheek
Network Chair

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Alumni Weekend (April 8-9, 2017)

We are pleased to announce the 2017 Spring Alumni Weekend will be on April 8-9, 2017. Full details and pricing to follow, but the current plan involves an afternoon service event and evening dinner on 4/8 and Frisbee Fling on 4/9. We will also be hosting an Alumni Network Meeting informally on Saturday during dinner.

All lifetime members will be entitled to a free ticket for them and their significant other for Saturday's events. All annual members will be entitled to a discounted fee for them and their significant other for the weekend's events. If you have not paid your dues you may still buy a ticket for the Saturday dinner at regular price. Details to follow in our next alumni update.

FRISBEE FLING

2017 Frisbee Fling (April 9th, 2017)

Frisbee fling will be held on April 9, 2017 on the Sunday of Alumni Weekend. The current Texas Blazers are organizing an 18-hole disc golf tournament to raise money for the Texas Blazers Endowed Scholarship which goes directly to providing UT Austin scholarships to students from East Austin. The organization has been working hard to put this together and would love to have alumni come out to support the cause. The course generally takes 2 hours to play and costs \$60 for a team of 4. More details to come, but please mark this day on your calendar. You can also donate directly to the endowment below:

Donation link: <http://tinyurl.com/texasblazersdonate> (if you cannot attend, consider sponsoring a team for \$60 or make a large contribution of \$100, \$250, \$500 by donating through this link).

2016 FALL ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP



In November we held our Fall 2016 Alumni Weekend, building upon our successful 2015 alumni event. Despite the early kickoff, our tailgate was very well attended and everyone enjoyed breakfast, beverages and good company. The location, just near the stadium, was a convenient meeting place both before and after the game. On Sunday morning we held our annual meeting on campus including both alumni and Blazers leadership. The Board of Directors recapped alumni activities from the past year and Blazers Chairman Sam Karnes provided an update on the Blazers' success on campus. Breakout groups identified

several areas of focus for the Alumni Network to pursue this year. Look for updates throughout the year as these initiatives continue to progress.

NETWORK PROGRAMS

Mentorship Program, Upcoming Social Events, and Merchandise

Mentorship Program: We are continuing our mentorship program of partnering Blazers Alumni with current members of Texas Blazers. This program was a great success last semester and we are hoping to build it even further. Any interested alumni should contact Daniel Zarazua at zarazua.daniel@gmail.com.

Upcoming New Member and Alumni Event: The Texas Blazers Alumni Network and the current Texas Blazers organization are teaming up every semester in creating a “Welcome Dinner” for the respective New Guy Class of the given semester. We are inviting all New Guys, Current Members, and Alumni throughout the Austin area to a Welcome Dinner at Austin’s Pizza on Guadalupe Street (across campus) from 6-8pm on Thursday, February 23rd. Food will be provided all night so please join other alumni as we welcome and meet the New Guy Class of Spring 2017! Please RSVP here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1844531489168319/>

Merchandise: We are in the process of developing t-shirts, polos, and other merchandise for our network. Please let us know if you have any thoughts or ideas!

HAPPY HOURS

Upcoming Spring Happy Hours – Dallas, Houston, Austin on March 2nd from 6:30-8:30pm



There will be an Alumni Network Happy Hour in Dallas, Houston, and Austin on March 2nd (also Texas Independence Day)! Each Happy Hour will be from 6:30-8:30pm in the following locations:

Houston: Wooster's Garden – 3315 Milam St, Houston, TX 77006

Dallas – Happiest Hour – 2616 Olive St, Dallas, TX 75201

Austin – Parlor and Yard – 601 W 6th St, Austin, TX 78701

Light appetizers and potentially your first drink will be sponsored by the Alumni Network if you get there early! We will have a space reserved at each of these bars. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to Neal Makkar (neal.makkar@gmail.com; [832-866-8384](tel:832-866-8384)).

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual and Lifetime Dues

Pursuant to Article II, Section 3 of our amended bylaws, the Board of Directors recently approved the following amounts for membership dues. Prior to voting, the Board of Directors held a conference call to specifically discuss this issue with the members of our Advisory Council.

Annual Dues (\$50): All members who pay their annual dues will receive a free ticket to this year's Alumni Tailgate and will also receive all rights outlined in Article II, Section 2 of our amended bylaws through December 31, 2017.

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. All members who pay lifetime dues will also permanently receive the rights outlined in Article II, Section 2 of our amended bylaws.

Lifetime Dues Payment Plan (\$50/month for 10 months): Members may also elect to make ten monthly \$50 payments to establish Life Membership, as described above.

These dues will help support potential events and initiatives, to include our Mentorship Program, Networking Events, Satellite Happy Hours, Fall Alumni Weekend, Spring Alumni Dinner, Graduation Gifts for Seniors, Dinner Events for Austin Alumni and New Members of Texas Blazers, and a variety of service events and other charitable causes.

While these numbers could be adjusted by future Board of Director voting, these amounts will not change prior to our Annual Meeting. Any member who would like to establish a payment plan can contact the Board of Directors to facilitate.

Dues can be paid through our PayPal account linked **on the website** or by mailing a check to the following address:

Texas Exes Texas Blazers Alumni Network
1020 E 27th St
Houston, TX 77009

LONG-TERM PLANNING AND FEEDBACK REQUESTED

We are starting to plan for several long-range initiatives and platforms for our network. Please let us know if you have any ideas regarding future goals or campaigns. We would love to hear from you!

Make Our Network Stronger!

We're always looking for enthusiastic, motivated volunteers to support our organization or serve on a committee. We're also open to new ideas for establishing appointed leadership positions in our network. Please let us know how you want to serve, and we'll try to make it happen.

Network Contact Information

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

Board of Directors

- Network Chair – Cody Cheek (cody.cheek@gmail.com)
- Chair-Elect – Neal Makkar (neal.makkar@gmail.com)
- Secretary – Andrew Limmer (andrew.w.limmer@gmail.com)
- Treasurer – Ryan Kistenmacher (ryan@kistenet.com)
- At-Large – Daniel Zarazua (zarazua.daniel@gmail.com)