



Texas Blazers Alumni Network Newsletter – Summer 2017

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

"We want to hear from you."

In every single newsletter, I've asked our members to share their feedback and ideas for our network. To that extent, I'm happy to report this newsletter contains several updates over some of these ideas.

For example, one of our members proposed purchasing custom stoles for graduating seniors. Everyone loved the idea, and we worked together with Texas Blazers to make it happen. As shown in the pictures below, the 2017 Senior Class recently wore these stoles, which will be passed along to future graduates of the organization.

Ultimately, while this was a relatively simple project, it represents why I'm so excited about the future of this network. Someone had a good idea, we discussed the idea with Texas Blazers, and it was quickly put into action through the Alumni Chair. And now every future member of Texas Blazers is a beneficiary. That's exactly how the process should work.

As this network continues to grow – to include adding our 25 newest members from the 2017 Senior Class – I encourage everyone to continue sharing their ideas. This network contains so many incredible people, and I remain astounded at how many alumni are doing amazing things in a variety of industries. We have so much to offer Texas Blazers, the University of Texas, and the Austin Community. All it takes is the right idea and the right execution.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and look forward to hearing more of your feedback and ideas for the network.

YBB,
Cody Cheek
Network Chair

GRADUATION STOLES

Graduation Stoles for the 2017 Senior Class

This year, our network partnered with Texas Blazers to purchase custom stoles for graduating seniors. A round of knocks to everyone involved, and congratulations to our newest members!



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Sign up now for an Annual or Lifetime Membership

Please remember that 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.

Dues can be paid through our PayPal account linked above and on our [website](#) or by mailing a check to the following address:

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

SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP

2017 Spring Alumni Weekend and Frisbee Fling Recap

On April 7-8, we held our Spring 2017 Alumni Weekend. On Saturday afternoon, we completed the first-ever Blazers and Blazers Alumni joint service project at Graffiti Park. That night, we had a great turnout at Scholz Garten for our Alumni Dinner, where we were joined by Joe Wilcox, the Assistant Director of External Relations for the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. During the dinner, Mr. Wilcox provided a historical snapshot of the Texas Blazers Endowment. Finally, on Sunday, several of our alumni participated in Frisbee Fling.

Remarkably, Frisbee Fling raised a record \$15,500 profit. Based on this record profit, it looks like the Endowment will reach \$100,000 during next year's Frisbee Fling!

SUMMER HAPPY HOURS

Upcoming Summer Happy Hours – Dallas, Houston, Austin on July 13th from 6:30-8:30pm

We will be hosting Network Happy Hours in Dallas, Houston, and Austin on Thursday, July 13th. Each Happy Hour will be from 6:30-8:30pm in the following locations:

- 1) Houston - Mongoose Vs. Cobra – [**Facebook Event Link**](#)
- 2) Dallas - Sundown at Granada – [**Facebook Event Link**](#)
- 3) Austin – Haymaker – [**Facebook Event Link**](#)

Light appetizers and your first drink will be sponsored by the Alumni Network. We will have a space reserved at each of these bars. If you have any questions, please contact Neal Makkar (neal.makkar@gmail.com; 832-866-8384).

SAVE THE DATES

Save the Dates – USC Event, OU Event, and Fall Alumni Weekend and Elections

Please mark your calendars for the following events!

Alumni Event in Los Angeles for Texas-USC game (September 15-16, 2017):

We will be hosting an alumni event in Los Angeles during the weekend of the UT-USC football game on September 15-16, 2017. Full details to follow, but we look forward to seeing our West Coast alums! To help us better organize events for the weekend, please fill out this 1 minute survey if you plan to attend: [USC Game Survey](#)

Alumni Event in Dallas for Texas-OU weekend (October 15, 2017):

We will be hosting an alumni event in Dallas following the Texas-OU football game. Full details to follow, but we are tentatively considering hosting the event at Cold Beer Company in Deep Ellum after the game.

2017 Fall Alumni Weekend and Elections (November 10-12, 2017):

We are pleased to announce the 2017 Fall Alumni Weekend and Board of Director elections will be on November 10-12, 2017. Full details and pricing to follow, but the current plan involves a Friday evening event, a Saturday tailgate before the UT-KU football game, and a Sunday morning alumni meeting and Board of Director elections.

Please remember that only active members can run for a Board of Directors position, vote in the Board of Director elections, and vote on any other matter in the elections!

ALUMNI NETWORK INITIATIVES

Mentorship Program and Alumni Spotlights

Mentorship Program: We are continuing our mentorship program of partnering Blazers Alumni with current members of Texas Blazers. Any interested alumni should contact Daniel Zarazua at zarazua.daniel@gmail.com.

Alumni Spotlights: There is a new alumni snapshot initiative in which we highlight Blazers alumni. These snapshots will be shared across all alumni social media and with current Blazers. If you wish to create a snapshot of your own, please contact Daniel Zarazua at zarazua.daniel@gmail.com.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Texas Blazers News and Notes

Within our newsletters, we are going to start providing relevant news, notes, and updates from Texas Blazers. Here are a few items from the past semester:

2017 Swing Out Awards: This spring, Texas Blazers was again recognized as the Best Spirit Organization. Congratulations to the organization for this achievement!



Spring 2017 New Guy Project: The Spring 2017 New Guy Class is proud to present Solidarity Against Slavery, a project addressing human trafficking. This project has three components: 1) educating students and fostering a campus-wide conversation on the issue; 2) fundraising for local organizations dedicated to combating modern-day slavery; 3) and demonstrating solidarity with victims and survivors of human trafficking. If you would like to support this initiative, go to: <https://www.texasblazers.com/sas>.

Voices Against Violence: Texas Blazers is a part of Texas Roundtable, which is a representative organization of all spirit groups. This year, Texas Roundtable partnered with Voices Against Violence to raise \$8,210 to launch a new Interpersonal Violence Peer Support program. This program will consist of a volunteer group of confidential student peers trained to assist student survivors of interpersonal violence who request support, options, resources, or information on University policies, procedures, and reporting. For more information, visit: <https://hornraiser.utexas.edu/project/6475>

NETWORK CONTACT INFORMATION

Network Email and Website

- 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)