

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

To be quite honest, I'm not even sure where to begin...

I could begin by talking about the benefits of our formalized network relationship with Texas Exes. Or by talking about our new name and website. Or perhaps I could begin by outlining our upcoming Alumni Weekend on November 11-13, 2016. But it's hard not to start off this note by welcoming our 24 newest members from the Class of 2016 and introducing the 14 members of our newly established Advisory Council. However, while each of these things (and more) are detailed below, they each individually miss the larger point.

Therefore, I want to start off this letter by thanking everyone who made each of these updates possible. Over the last few months, countless members have stepped forward to provide their advice, guidance, and assistance to help move our organization forward. We are better because of your efforts, and we are truly grateful for your service.

As we enter this new year, we are excited to continue expanding our platforms and arranging new ways to give back to the University of Texas, Texas Blazers, and the greater Austin community. I encourage each of you to get involved with the Network and provide your ideas and feedback for future events and initiatives. As always, we want to hear from you.

YBB,
Cody Cheek
Network Chair

NETWORK NAME AND WEBSITE

This summer brings not only a new year for the Network, but a new name as well. Based on our new formalized network relationship with Texas Exes, we have changed our name from the Texas Blazers Alumni Association to the Texas Blazers Alumni Network.

Establishing the network relationship with Texas Exes was part of the voting process during our Spring Alumni Meeting, but the concept is fairly straightforward. Plain and simple, our network is an affiliate of Texas Exes. We are thrilled by this relationship, as Texas Exes provides **provides a variety of resources** to help each of its networks grow and develop. As just one example, Texas Exes helped develop **our new website** .

We also strongly encourage each of you to consider the benefits of membership in Texas Exes, which are **outlined here** .

SAVE THE DATE

2016 Alumni Weekend (November 11-13, 2016)

We are pleased to announce the 2016 Alumni Weekend will be on November 11-13, 2016. Full details and pricing to follow, but the current plan will involve an evening dinner event on November 11th, a tailgate before the UT-West Virginia football game on November 12th, and our annual meeting will be held on November 13th.

As outlined below, all members who pay their annual or lifetime dues will receive a free ticket to the tailgate. Similar to last year, we will also be attempting to get a group of block seats for alumni during the football game.

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.

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

HAPPY HOURS

Summer Happy Hour Recaps – Dallas, Houston, Austin



Alumni from Dallas, Austin, and Houston participated in our Summer Happy Hours. There was a good turnout at all three locations and we look forward to the next set of events. Please let us know if you would like to help organize the next Happy Hour in each of these locations.

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.

Fall Social Event for Austin Alumni and Texas Blazers (September 28th): This semester, we will be co-sponsoring an event for local Austin Alumni and the new members of Texas Blazers. This event will follow the Selection Dates for Texas Blazers and will be one of the first events for the new members. This is tentatively scheduled to take place at Austin's Pizza on Wednesday, September 28th from 6:30-8:00 PM, and any Austin alumni can contact **Daniel Zarazua** for further details.

Save the Date -- Social Event During TX/OU Weekend: We are currently planning for an evening dinner or happy hour event with Texas Blazers following the Red River Rivalry game on October 8th. We are hopeful this can become included as an annual event on our calendar. Further details to follow.

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!

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Establishment of Advisory Council

Pursuant to the amended bylaws, the Board of Directors recently established the Texas Blazers Alumni Network Advisory Council. This council currently includes 14 appointed alumni from throughout the organization's history.

The purpose of the council is to serve as a standing committee to provide advice, guidance, and assistance to the Board of Directors. Among other things, it is our goal the Advisory Council will help steer and shape key organizational decisions, serve as a primary source of continuity and institutional knowledge, and provide baseline assistance for developing new ideas, initiatives, platforms, and sub-committees.

Without further ado, here are the current Advisory Council members: **Paul Massingill, Richard Reddick, Eric Stratton, Logan Gerheart, Chaitanya Indukuri, Abram Orlansky, Stephen Gilstrap, Chris Fox, Tommy Pigeon, James Limmer, Armin Salek, Aaras Shah, Sameer Desai, and Will Glazener.**

NEW MEMBER BOOK

Share Your Advice With the Newest Texas Blazers

We just received word the Texas Blazers are looking to prepare a "New Member" book for their 2016-2017 selectees. As part of this book, they would like to include letters from alumni regarding the organization or their experiences. The Board of Directors is planning to participate, and we thought some of you also might want to contribute. If you'd like to participate, please send your thoughts to the current Texas Blazers Alumni Relations Chair at **(Eamon Dowd)** .

FEEDBACK REQUESTED

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)