



Texas Blazers Alumni Network Newsletter – Spring 2018

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

We are so close to the 2018 Spring Alumni Weekend (April 13-15th in Austin, TX)! Our new Board of Directors, which was elected this past November, has been hard at work partnering with the undergrad organization to host city-wide happy hours, organize events to welcome the most recent class of New Guys, support current Texas Blazers through our alumni mentorship program, serve the Austin community and Eastside Memorial High School, raise money for The Texas Blazers Endowed Scholarship for underprivileged students in East Austin, and plan this upcoming alumni weekend among other events you will see throughout the year.

These events would not be possible without support from our alumni. While every alumnus to graduate from Texas Blazers is automatically in our alumni network, we also have a core group of “active members” who have paid either lifetime or annual dues to be contributing members to our organization. **We are currently at 24 Life Members and 17 Annual Members.** These numbers are consistently growing and, if you are not an active member yet, we strongly encourage you to sign up! Our biggest hurdle to cross as a new organization is to gain traction with our alumni and build a strong financial base to support our mission. The membership dues are minimal (\$500 for life, \$50 for annual) and include a ticket to both alumni weekends, among other privileges. More importantly, these dues help support our events, current Texas Blazers, and our efforts to impact the Austin community. (More details below)

Please take a moment and think through the benefits of joining the alumni network. Your membership dues will go a long way to helping our organization grow and to ensuring we provide the current Texas Blazers membership with the support it needs. [Here is the link to the dues page on our website.](#)

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,
Neal Makkar
Network Chair

RSVP NOW FOR THE 2018 SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND

2018 Spring Alumni Weekend (April 13-15, 2018)

We are pleased to announce that the 2018 Spring Alumni Weekend will be on April 13-15, 2018. [Please RSVP now at this link.](#) (Full details below)

- 1) **Alumni Happy Hour – Friday 4/13 ([Facebook Event Link](#))**
 - **Time:** 7-9pm, Friday April 13th
 - **Location:** Haymaker; 2310 Manor Rd, Austin, TX 78722
 - **Description:** Casual happy hour with alumni and undergrads, light appetizers provided

- 2) **Service Event at Eastside Memorial High School – Saturday 4/14 ([Facebook Event Link](#))**
 - **Time:** 11:30am-1:30pm, Saturday, April 14th
 - **Location:** Eastside Memorial High School; 1012 Arthur Stiles Rd, Austin, TX 78721
 - **Description:** Partnering with Texas Blazers and students at EMHS to lead a beautification project across the school to make the campus a more welcoming environment for students. Lunch will be provided.

- 3) **Alumni Dinner – Saturday 4/14 ([Facebook Event Link](#))**
 - **Time:** 6:30-8:30pm, Saturday April 14th
 - **Location:** Scholz Garten; 1607 San Jacinto Blvd, Austin, TX 78701
 - **Description:** We are hosting our annual spring dinner to connect alumni and current students. We will also have a short presentation about the Texas Blazers Endowed Scholarship from UT's Development Office. Dinner is included.

- 4) **Frisbee Fling – Sunday 4/15 ([Website Link](#) - additional details below)**

All lifetime and annual members will be entitled to a free ticket for the weekend. If you have not paid your dues, you may still buy a ticket for the weekend for \$30.

[Click here to pay membership dues](#)

[Click here to buy a ticket for the weekend](#)

FRISBEE FLING

2018 Frisbee Fling (April 15th, 2018)

Frisbee Fling will be held on the Sunday of Alumni Weekend (April 15). The current Texas Blazers are organizing both a 9-hole and 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 of all ages come out to support the cause. The link to register is <https://www.texasblazers.com/frisbee-fling/>. Registration comes with a meal, t-shirt, and entry into the tournament!

You can also donate directly to the endowment at: <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 the above link).

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR AND NEW GUY PIZZA PARTY RECAPS



(Picture from the Austin Alumni Happy Hour)

Network Happy Hours

This past month, the Alumni Network hosted Happy Hours in three cities – Austin, Dallas, and Houston – for area alumni to come out and catch up. We had a great turnout at each location, and some recently inducted New Guys of the Spring 2018 class were even able to meet a Blazers founding member, Eric Stratton, at the Austin event. We're looking forward to the next chance to get together so plan to come out to Spring Alumni Weekend!

New Guy Pizza Party

One week after the New Guy induction, the Alumni Network was also able to host a dinner for the current membership at Austin Pizza on the Drag. Local alumni Justin Atkinson and Danny Zarazua gave a short presentation on the Alumni Network and its benefits for Blazers both in college and after graduation. Almost the entire undergrad made it out – it was quite the event!

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 2 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 DINNERS WITH TEXAS BLAZERS



(Current Texas Blazers at an Alumni Dinner with Logan Gearheart)

Alumni Dinners with Texas Blazers in Austin, Texas

The Texas Blazers are starting a new initiative called Alumni Dinners. Alumni Dinners will be an informal opportunity for Texas Blazer Alumni who are in Austin, either living or visiting, to have dinner with active Texas Blazers in a small group setting (1-2 alumni and 10-15 current Texas Blazers). The best part: the dinners are free for everyone attending. [Sign up to host a dinner here!](#)

If you have a spontaneous opening in your Austin schedule, please feel free to email the Alumni Chair, Chris Whitehair, (christopherwhitehair7@gmail.com), and he can help set something up.

UPCOMING ALUMNI NETWORK EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE

1) Away Game Alumni Tailgate: UT vs Maryland – September 1, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

Full details to come once the game time has been finalized. Our former President of the Alumni Network, Cody Cheek, has offered to host an event in D.C. for those of us planning to travel up for the season opener versus Maryland. As we did for the USC Tailgate this past year in LA, we will plan to have a few events for our alumni and current Texas Blazers to attend. The game is only a short ride away from Washington, D.C.

2) 2018 Fall Alumni Weekend – November 2-4th, 2018 in Austin, Texas for the UT vs. WV game

Full details and pricing to follow, but the current plans are an alumni happy hour on Friday the 2nd, tailgate for the West Virginia game on Saturday the 3rd, and an alumni meeting on Sunday the 4th.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual and Lifetime Dues

The Alumni Network is funded solely through dues collected from alumni. For a simple cost of \$50 a year or \$500 for a life time membership, you can help support all the events the alumni network puts on for the current Texas Blazers. We strongly encourage you to pay dues to join the alumni network.

Annual Dues (\$50): All members who pay their annual dues will receive a free ticket to this year's Alumni Tailgate and will be an active member through December 31, 2018.

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 be designated as active members of the Alumni Network and can run for a Director position and vote in elections.

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.

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
11625 Georgian Oaks Dr
Austin, TX 78739

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!

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)