



## Texas Blazers Alumni Network Newsletter – Summer 2018

### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

First and foremost, please join me in welcoming 26 new members to our Alumni Network from the Class of 2018! Every year we see another class of Texas Blazers graduate from UT and join our organization. This network contains many incredible people who continue to achieve amazing things and change the world. Our alumni network has 400+ members who are in every industry imaginable, and can be found, not only across the U.S., but around the world. Part of our mission as an Alumni Network is to bring each of you closer together, so please take the time to read this newsletter, learn about the network, and plan to attend some of our events – you never know who you may meet. Here are our key upcoming events, so mark your calendars: (additional details below)

**Alumni Happy Hours in Houston, Austin, and Dallas – 7/27 from 6-8pm CT**

**Alumni Away Game Dinner – UT vs Maryland in Washington, DC – 9/1 from 7-9pm ET**

**Texas OU Happy Hour – Dallas, TX – 10/6 after the game**

**Fall Alumni Tailgate – UT vs West Virginia in Austin, TX – 11/2-4**

As a reminder, these events would not be possible without support from our alumni. While every Texas Blazers alumni is automatically in our alumni network, we have a core group of “active members” who have paid either lifetime or annual dues to be contributing members to our organization. If you are not an active member yet, we strongly encourage you to sign up! Our biggest challenge as a network is to gain traction 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.

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*

## **UPCOMING ALUMNI NETWORK EVENTS – SAVE THE DATE**

### **1) Alumni Summer Happy Hours – Houston, Austin, Dallas – July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 6-8pm CT**

Join other Texas Blazers Alumni and current students for a networking happy hour in your area. We are hosting them across Houston, Austin, and Dallas on 7/27 from 6-8pm – first round of drinks on us!

**Houston:** Holman Draft Hall – 820 Holman St., Houston, TX 77002 ([FB Event](#))

**Austin:** Haymaker – 2310 Manor Rd., Austin, TX 78722 ([FB Event](#))

**Dallas:** Backyard – 505 N Good Latimer Expy, Dallas, TX 75204 ([FB Event](#))

### **2) Away Game Alumni Dinner: UT vs Maryland – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 in Washington, D.C. 7-9pm ET**

**Please RSVP for the event here.** For those planning to travel to D.C. for the football season opener versus Maryland on 9/1 at 12pm ET, the Alumni Network is trying to organize a ticket block for the game, and will also be hosting a dinner from 7-9pm ET on 9/1 after the game. You and a guest are welcome to join. The current Texas Blazers have also been invited to attend. The dinner location is still being determined but it will be after the game. (FYI - the stadium is a short ride from Washington, D.C.)

### **3) TX – OU Happy Hour, Dallas, TX– Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Details are still being ironed out but, like last year, the Alumni Network and current Texas Blazers will be hosting a post-game happy hour for alumni and current students to hang out. The exact location and time are still TBD but please save the date!

### **4) 2018 Fall Alumni Weekend – November 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in Austin for the UT vs. WVU 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.

## **SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND RECAP**

### **2018 Spring Alumni Weekend (April 13-15, 2018) Recap**

On April 13-15, we held our Spring 2018 Alumni Weekend. We held a happy hour for alumni and undergrads on that Friday which was a huge success and followed it up Saturday morning doing service at Eastside Memorial High School to help beautify the school. We were fortunate have current Texas Blazers, members of the Eastside community, and Eastside students join us for the service event. On Saturday evening we had a great turnout at Scholz Garten for our Alumni Dinner. Alumni and current Texas Blazers got to mix and mingle over some delicious BBQ. We also learned more about our Texas Blazers Endowed Scholarship, which is nearing its \$100K mark and is providing several thousands in scholarships to students from East Austin to attend UT. Finally, on Sunday, we played in Frisbee Fling which was an enormous success with a newly designed course – always a good time!

## **SENIOR SENDOFF FOR THE CLASS OF 2018**

## Senior Sendoff

Just before finals started this year, the Alumni Network was also able to host a senior sendoff dinner for the graduating Class of 2018 at Salvation Pizza in Austin, TX. A few local alumni joined the festivities to help celebrate the seniors' accomplishments with Texas Blazers while enjoying top-quality pizza and beer. At the dinner, the seniors received the graduation stoles which were made last year at the suggestion of alum, Armin Salek. This was also a fantastic opportunity to welcome the soon-to-be graduates into the Alumni Network and share more about our mission, our activities, and our extremely accomplished and committed alumni base. Almost the entire graduating class made it out, and quite a few of them pledged to join the Alumni Network this fall as dues-paying, active members – it was quite the event!



(Class of 2018 at Salvation Pizza)

## 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](mailto:justinatkinson94@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:neal.makkar@gmail.com))
- Chair-Elect – Chris Fox ([chrisfx7@gmail.com](mailto:chrisfx7@gmail.com))
- Secretary – Tommy Pigeon ([tbpigeon@gmail.com](mailto:tbpigeon@gmail.com))
- Treasurer – Logan Gearheart ([logan.gearheart@ey.com](mailto:logan.gearheart@ey.com))
- At-Large – Justin Atkinson ([justinatkinson94@gmail.com](mailto:justinatkinson94@gmail.com))