



TEXAS BLAZERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

GARRETT OLIVEIRA



I was a New Guy in Fall 2011. Lucky enough to join during my sophomore year at Texas, I enjoyed applying Blazer leadership principles across campus and back into the brotherhood. In addition to Blazers, I dedicated quite a bit of time to Delta Sigma Pi, Consult Your Community, and Residence Life.

When I think about Texas Blazers, I am most encouraged by its culture of improvement. Many organizations are afraid to change- its members, policies, or processes. I've always felt that *our* goal was to pass the torch with a little bit more fire to the next class. Simply put, "iron sharpens iron" (note the present tense). I should also give a shoutout to a few big bros that inspired me to join (Vikas Brahmhatt & Sean Joseph). My most cherished moment(s) from being a Texas Blazer were initiation nights under the tower, my mentee out at EastSide, Shots For Tots, C&W's, Feed My People, and, of course, James Limmer in a Chicken Suit.

I graduated in May 2014 with degrees in Business and Government. I am in my third year at Accenture, where I am a strategy consultant with a focus in mergers and acquisitions. My apartment is in Houston, but I spend more time wherever the client is. Some fun spots so far – San Francisco, CA, Chicago, IL, Atlanta, GA, Minneapolis, MN, & Dublin, IRL

What advice would you give a current Blazer?

Interview all your brothers. The “great group of guys” you sit around with every Tuesday...they go on to do even greater things!

What was your New Guy Project?

Referenced Shots for Tots above (it was really called Toys for Tots), but that was only a piece of our semester. We spent Fall 2011 campaigning for Salvation Army Angel sponsorships- to provide Christmas gifts for children and families otherwise unable to afford them. We were expecting to get 18 sponsorships (one for each New Guy), but we vastly underestimated our ability to generate support from UT and Austin-area organizations. We ended up with 83 total sponsorships (another shoutout to Armin & APO), and a downtown bar that provided a tab + allowed us to charge a “toy cover” to get funds and extra gifts at the door.

How does your time in Blazers (lessons/experiences) intertwine w/ the work you do now?

*At our 20th anniversary, I had a chance to speak with Paul Massingill, so I’ll paraphrase him. He said something along the lines of- **“it doesn’t matter where you go or what line of work you are in after graduation; Blazers should lead with integrity and serve others.”** It’s advice that has stuck with me over the past few years while working with colleagues or recruiting on campus. I hope to see you all soon*