



Texas Blazers Alumni Network Newsletter – Fall 2017

Chair's Message

"What can I do to help?"

This question is synonymous with Texas Blazers. Unsurprisingly, this question is equally synonymous with our Alumni Network. Over the past two years, our Board of Directors has received countless inquiries over this very topic. These inquiries have led to the establishment of numerous committees, programs, and activities.

However, the most straightforward way to help support our network is also the easiest: become a member. It really is that simple. Our membership dues support our flagship network initiatives, which currently include:

- The Alumni Mentorship Program, which matches Blazers students with Blazers Alumni
- Social and Networking Events (such as the fantastic USC event profiled below)
- Fall Alumni Weekend and Spring Alumni Dinner
- Graduation gifts and events (such as the new Texas Blazers graduation stoles)
- Community Service events co-hosted with Texas Blazers
- Planning for Future Initiatives (e.g., Eastside Memorial High School renovations, etc.)

Furthermore, only our active members can participate in our upcoming elections. It is truly an exciting period for our network, and I encourage each of you to consider running for one of the open positions. This is especially due to my unwavering confidence in our President-Elect (Neal Makkar), who will be an outstanding leader for our network.

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,

Cody Cheek

Network Chair

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. Please reach out to us if you are interested in the payment plan option.

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

****NEW** You may now also pay for dues using Venmo!** Search for "Texas Blazers Alumni Network", "512-943-7858", or "@TexasBlazers-AlumniNetwork" to find our account. Please leave a description for what you are paying for in the note section.

Fall Alumni Weekend 2017 - November 10th-12th

Fall Alumni Weekend 2017

Building on the success of the past two years, we have several events planned for this year's Alumni Weekend, which is Friday, November 10th to Sunday, November 12th.

[RSVP for the Fall Alumni Weekend here.](#)

[Pay for the Alumni Tailgate here \(only inactive members must pay\).](#)

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Happy Hour at J Black's (Friday, November 10th, from 7-10pm)

- Address: 710 W 6th Street, Austin, Texas 78701
- Appetizers and drinks will be provided

Alumni Tailgate before UT vs. Kansas on LBJ Lawn (Saturday, November 11th, from 1-5pm)

- Address: 2300 Robert Dedman Dr, Austin, Texas 78705
- Cost: Free for active members and their significant others, \$25/person for inactive members
- Catered lunch, beer, and alcoholic drinks will be provided
- Opportunity to mingle with current Blazers, OJs, and alumni from both groups

Annual Alumni Meeting on UT Campus (Sunday, 10am-12pm)

This is a great opportunity to be a part of the continued success of the organization by running for office or joining a specific initiative. We will also hear from current Blazers on their activities on the UT campus and the Austin community. Hope you can attend!

- Address: TBD
- Breakfast included
- Please see below for more information over our elections

Texas Blazers and Texas Blazers Alumni Assist with Hurricane Harvey Relief



Following the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey, Texas Blazers Alumni partnered with Texas Blazers to work on relief efforts to help those in need. A special thanks to Andrew Limmer for coordinating these efforts, as well as all the alumni who donated to the cause. The Daily Texan actually wrote an article about this joint service project, which you can read [here](#).

USC Alumni Event Recap

Alumni Happy Hour and Tailgate in LA for the UT vs. USC Game

In September, a strong contingent of Blazers Alumni were on hand to watch the Longhorns take on the USC Trojans in Los Angeles. Our Network hosted a Friday night event in Studio City followed by a Saturday pre-game party near USC. Two members of the inaugural Blazers class of 1994, Robert Bleker and Richard Reddick, were in attendance and reconnected after many years. It was also a great opportunity to connect with local L.A. alums such as A.J. Mayers ('09), a Production Manager at Lionsgate, and Sreetham Das, Mobile Product Manager at Evite. Look out for similar events at future road games such as Maryland in 2018. Hook 'em!



Alumni Bar Tab After TX/OU in Dallas -- October 14, 2017 (7-10pm)

We are hosting an Alumni Bar Tab after the TX/OU Game in Dallas on October 14, 2017 - please come hangout with your fellow alumni and a group of current Texas Blazers who are coming up for the game - beer and appetizers included!

TX/OU Alumni Bar Tab at [Cold Beer Company](#)

- Address: 3600 Main. St, Deep Ellum Area
- Time: 7-10pm
- Beer and appetizers included

[RSVP Here!](#)

2017 Board of Director Elections (Sunday, November 12, 2017)

This year, we will have our bi-annual Board of Director elections. Please remember that only active members can run for a Board of Directors position or vote in these elections. To become an active member, visit our [website](#).

There are four open positions in this year's election: Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member At-Large. Here is a brief snapshot of each position, and active members can nominate themselves [here](#) for any of these four positions.

1) **President-Elect.** The President-Elect shall serve as the Vice-President of the organization and perform all duties as may be assigned by the President and/or Board of Directors.

2) **Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of the Membership and the Board of Directors; give, or cause to be given, all notices in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws or as required by law; and be custodian of the Association records and the seal of the Association. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, written records of the Members of the Association and their contact information, and in general shall perform all duties as may be assigned by the President and/or Board of Directors.

3) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate funds and shall keep, or cause to be kept, correct and complete books and records of account, including full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements, in books belonging to the Association, and in general shall perform all duties as may be assigned by the President and/or Board of Directors.

4) **At-Large.** The At-Large shall perform all duties as may be assigned by the President and/or Board of Directors.

We will be publishing full election procedures in the next few weeks.

Alumni Network Initiatives

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.

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 Alumni Dinners in Austin, Texas (Sign up [here](#))

The Texas Blazers are starting a new initiative called Alumni Dinners. Alumni Dinners will be an opportunity for Texas Blazer Alumni who are in Austin, either living or visiting, to have dinner with active Texas Blazers. The best part: the dinners are free for everyone attending.

As alumni of the organization, we strongly encourage you to sign up to meet the current Texas Blazers, and what better way to do that than over a nice meal! Please fill out the form above and include as many dates as you expect to be in Austin and that work for you. The dinners will be organized for days that align best with Alumni availability and Texas Blazers programming.

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.

The Robert McCurdy Memorial Golf Tournament:

The Robert McCurdy Memorial Golf Tournament is hosted each fall to honor and celebrate the remarkable life of a fellow Texas Blazer, Bobby McCurdy. This year the tournament will be on Sunday, October 22nd. The registration for the tournament, including 9 holes of golf, lunch, t-shirt, and musical entertainment, is \$40 and all proceeds will go towards the UT Austin's suicide prevention program. You may register beginning in October at the following link mccurdygolf.weebly.com. This is a great opportunity to meet the current Blazers over a round of golf, as well as help raise awareness for a good cause. We hope to see y'all there!

Check Out Our New Website

We have significantly redesigned and updated our network website. The website now includes links to all of our previous alumni newsletters, alumni spotlights, and further updates and information over our current programs and initiatives. Check it out [here](#).

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)