The UT Knoxville Alumni Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Chancellor on issues related to our journey to become a Top 25 public research university. In addition, it provides advice and support to the Office of Alumni Affairs. Since its creation in 2009, the Alumni Board has been a major vehicle for involving prominent alumni in the advancement of the university through a number of initiatives.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Strategic Advice and Counsel

- The Alumni Board provided counsel to the Chancellor and senior level administrators on a number of key issues, including graduation and retention rates, sponsored research, sexual assault prevention, role of the UT Knoxville Alumni program in the campaign, and the Quality Enhancement Program.

- Played a leadership role in the creation of an ambitious alumni strategic plan aligned with UT’s Journey to the Top 25.

- Promoted the need to share UT major accomplishments through enhanced communications, resulting in
  - Establishment of the Champions Program
  - Increased distribution of the InVOLved newsletter to better inform volunteer leaders
  - Creation of the Volunteer Voice

- Endorsed the creation of several affinity alumni councils, including the Latino Council, LGBTQA+ Council, ROTC Council, and Retirees Council.

Board members have contributed investments of $39.7 million to the university.

Three board members have been recognized with alumni awards at the annual Alumni Awards Dinner: Alan Wilson, Clay Jones, and Mintha Roach.
Philanthropic Endeavors

- The Alumni Board embraced the importance of philanthropy by achieving 100% board participation annually.
- Increased investment by board members in the university, with several major gifts and naming recognitions.
- Supported and hosted Senior Toast for leaders of the graduating class. This event recognizes and toasts the accomplishments of the senior class while launching the class gift campaign. The alumni board
  - Created donor matches for the campaign
  - Increased student donor participation
- Supported the Big Orange Give online fundraising campaign. In 2015 more than 4,000 donors raised $1.4 million. The alumni board
  - Created donor matches for the campaign
  - Increased donor participation
- Supported VOLstarter, UT’s crowdfunding platform. Since November 2014 UT has received $117,158.81 through the platform to help fund 119 UT projects.

Collaboration with the Office of Alumni Affairs

- The board created the Alumni Awards Program and the Awards Gala, providing a forum to recognize outstanding alumni, including Jim and Natalie Haslam, Senator Bob Corker, Randy Boyd, and Howard Baker Jr.
- Developed Investing in the Journey to the Top 25 campaign goals for the alumni office.
- Promoted the need for alumni to play a more active role in student recruitment, leading to the creation of the Director of Alumni Student Recruitment and Scholarship.
- Served as the alumni advisory taskforce for UT’s experience learning initiatives.
- Supported the creation of Volunteer Leadership Weekend—involving approximately 150 volunteers in one combined leadership event.
- Actively participated in creation of “Vol to Vol” career networking events, where alumni board members provide real-world advice to students in a host of majors.
- Provided critical feedback for the structure of alumni board meetings, resulting in more enhanced support of the university.
- Created the Alumni Board Ambassadors—keeping past board members involved in current events and news.

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