A New RSU CAMPUS
MidAmerica Industrial Park and RSU Establish Partnership
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STORY TIME FOR HILLCUBS

RSU First Lady Peggy Rice reads to second graders at Claremont Elementary School. RSU faculty, staff, and students visit Claremont on the first and third Thursdays of every month for Hillcub Reading Days, part of the Hillcub Partners in Education program.
RSU faculty and staff will work closely with MidAmerica staff and architects to design a new campus building that includes high-technology classrooms, laboratories, and conference and training facilities for industries at the park.

The new RSU campus will be located just west of MidAmerica’s administrative offices on Highway 69A.

“This partnership fits perfectly into the university’s mission to develop a more highly educated workforce, enhance the economic development of the region, and increase the quality of life for the residents of Mayes County and all of north-east Oklahoma,” said Dr. Larry Rice, RSU president.

The new campus will be much larger than the university’s present Pryor campus and will allow RSU to expand the number of degree programs and student services.

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“The campus will not only allow us to significantly expand higher educational opportunities for Mayes County residents,” Rice said. “It also will provide us the capability to design courses tailored to the needs of existing and prospective employers at MidAmerica.”

MidAmerica Industrial Park and Rogers State University have initiated a partnership to relocate the RSU Pryor campus to the industrial park in an effort to develop a more highly educated workforce and enhance economic development of the region.

MidAmerica will provide 74 acres, fund the construction of a new building, and enter into a long-term lease with RSU to establish the university campus at MidAmerica Industrial Park.

“Our new partnership between MidAmerica and RSU is innovative and unique in Oklahoma and the nation,” said Sanders Mitchell, MidAmerica administrator. “The presence of a university campus on the grounds of the park will enable us to retain existing employers and recruit more high-tech firms to the region.”

Presently, Northeast Technology Centers and Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology operate branch campuses at the park. A university campus “will complete a potent combination of educational services,” Mitchell said.

This spring, MidAmerica will select an architectural firm, consult with engineers, and begin site and drainage surveys in preparation for the development of the new campus.

Construction on the new RSU facility is projected to begin later this year.

“Most of us understand that educational attainment and economic well-being are closely intertwined,” Rice said. “It’s all about developing a better educated populace, increasing the number of available jobs, and enhancing the quality of life for all of us.”

Founded in 1961, MidAmerica is Oklahoma’s largest industrial park with 9,000 acres. The park has a 365-acre airport with a 5,000-foot runway, and its own water and wastewater treatment plants.

The nation’s largest rural industrial park, MidAmerica is owned and operated by a self-sustaining public trust established to enhance economic development efforts in Northeast Oklahoma. MidAmerica does not rely on the support of state or federal tax dollars. More than 80 firms are located at the park, including many divisions of Global and Fortune 500 companies. This year, the park is celebrating its 50th anniversary.
Music will be provided by Kosins, the RSU Jazz Combo, RSU Choir, and bands from area high schools.

The public also is invited to visit the new campus art gallery, located in the recently expanded and renovated Baird Hall, home of the university’s fine arts programs. The annual exhibition of art by RSU students will be on display in the gallery.

Art on the Hill Planning Committee members include Rice and Moeller, co-chairs, Virgil Lampton, David Wolfe, Deshane Atkins, Leonard Szopinski, Sharon Kern, Claudia Story, Brent Ortolani, Randy Riggs, Clarice Doyle, Heather Isaacs, Bryce Brimer, Denny Schmickle, Sherry Alexander, Jordan Wong, and Dr. Kirk Weller.

**PEGGY RICE**

Peggy Rice is an enthusiast of the arts, and serves as President and CEO of the Small Business Capital Corporation. In 1996, she was named the national Small Business Administration’s Financial Advocate of the Year by President Bill Clinton. Previously, she served as Director of Existing Business Development for the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce and Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending and Marketing Officer for First National Bank and Trust Company in Stillwater, Okla. She is active in numerous civic and non-profit organizations in northeastern Oklahoma.

**FEATURING ARTISTS**

**KATHY KOSINS**

Kosins has won the hearts of critics and fans around the globe with her eclectic musical palette that expands the rich history of jazz. She has released several CDs and has performed and recorded with many well-known jazz and R&B artists including Cyrus Chestnut, Kevin Mahogany, Mitch Ryder, and others. Stints with the J.C. Heard and Nelson Riddle Orchestras led to the 1996 release of the CD “All in a Dreams Work,” an impressive debut featuring a collection of nine originals and a cover of the Miles Davis composition “Four.” Her 2002 release of “Mood Swings” continued to bring her recognition at the national level. On her 2006 release of “Vintage,” she rediscovered little-known songbook gems which she placed alongside a few widely known, yet unexpected tunes from outside the jazz tradition, bringing her glowing reviews.

**JERRY EMMANUEL**

Emanuel spent the last 30 years in the development industry, designing residential subdivisions and large retail centers. A Native Oklahoma artist, his most common medium is wood, creating a variety of turned wood art, including sculptures and furniture. He commonly uses wood from the Southwest U.S., retaining its bark and rough edges. He recently developed a new ceremonial mace for the RSU commencement exercises.
NEW MONUMENT TO RISE ON THE HILL

History abounds on the RSU campus in Claremore. Historical buildings, sculptures of three U.S. presidents, and a military museum share the Hill alongside new state-of-the-art facilities.

“The Hill is truly a place where the past and present converge, where history meets the future,” said RSU President Larry Rice.

This spring, a new piece of history will rise on the Hill. The Oklahoma Military Academy Killed in Action Memorial, a permanent tribute to OMA cadets who lost their lives during military service, will take its place on the Hill near the front entrance of the main campus.

“The memorial promises to be an elegant, dignified, and somber reminder of our brothers who paid the ultimate price,” said Randy Vierling, President of the OMA Alumni Association. “It is destined to become a tourist attraction.”

The OMA KIA Memorial will be dedicated at a ceremony at 9 a.m. Saturday, June 4, during the annual OMA reunion. The public is invited to attend.

More than 2,500 OMA cadets served in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. In addition, a greater percentage of OMA cadets served in the U.S. Armed Forces than any other high school, junior college, or university in Oklahoma.

The memorial will be a black granite pyramid etched with the names of more than 100 OMA cadets who are known to have died.

The architect for project is OMA alumnus Bob Wright ('53), and LWPB Architects and Planners, LLC, of Oklahoma City.

The total cost of the memorial was raised through private contributions from OMA alumni and their families.

“I’ve never seen such an outpouring of generosity,” said Dr. Danette Boyle, RSU vice president for development. “In fact, we have met and exceeded our goal. The amount raised above the cost of the memorial will be placed in an endowment to preserve it for posterity, to provide scholarships for RSU military history students, and to maintain the OMA Museum.

“The dedication of the memorial will make this year’s OMA reunion a very special event,” Boyle said. “The OMA alumni are preparing for the dedication, and we would like to invite the entire community to join us.”

The memorial will be located between Preparatory Hall, the institution’s first building, and Meyer Hall, its second facility, which originally served as OMA barracks. Both buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“This memorial represents more than just a stone monument to the past – the etched names and the words of dedication are testimonials to the code of conduct OMA cadets learned as young ROTC officers in training. ‘Courage, Loyalty, Honor’ are values that have served us well throughout our lifetimes,” Vierling said.

“We believe this memorial is a way to share those values with today’s students and the next generation. The sacrifice of those who gave it all on our behalf is an example of those values in action. Perhaps the young men and women who now traverse the Hill will gain a better understanding and appreciation of those values, and put them into practice in their own lives.”

For more information, contact Boyle at (918) 343-7780 or dboyle@rsu.edu.
A new partnership between RSU and Northeastern A&M College will allow NEO students to seamlessly pursue a bachelor’s degree at RSU either online or at its campus an hour away in Claremore.

The UConnect program was announced this spring by NEO President Jeff Hale and RSU President Larry Rice at a joint ceremony on the NEO campus in Miami. The two presidents signed an articulation agreement, smoothing the transition from an NEO associate degree to an RSU bachelor’s degree.

“In terms of proximity to NEO, RSU is the closest four-year university in Oklahoma. It only makes sense for these two institutions to form a close partnership,” said President Hale.

Beginning this fall, NEO students in designated associate degree programs will be able to seamlessly transfer into several RSU bachelor’s degree programs.

“Now, NEO students will be able to complete all requirements for their associate and bachelor’s degrees in four years,” Rice said. The presidents also announced the availability of new scholarships worth up to $2,000 per year, designed for NEO students who transfer to RSU.

The program is a natural formalization and extension of the close relationship the two institutions have enjoyed for many years, Rice said.

“The proximity and collegiality of our two institutions, the close compatibility of our degree programs, and the availability of an RSU degree online will allow students in the Miami area to earn a bachelor’s degree without leaving home,” he said.

Students can receive academic advising at RSU before they graduate from NEO by contacting the RSU admissions office at (918) 343-7546 or 1-800-256-7511, or by visiting www.rsu.edu.

The George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) helped to establish the OU School of Community Medicine in Tulsa. The GKFF is a charitable organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by investing in early childhood education, community health, social services, and civic engagement.
His name comes from the common keyboard layout in which q, w, e, r, t and y are the first six letters from the top left corner of the keyboard.

QR (quick response) codes are square image codes—much like traditional barcodes—that can be scanned to access preselected data.

The use of these codes, often referred to as mobile tagging, has recently gained popularity as the technology to scan them has become standard in nearly all smart phone models. For smart phones that do not have a QR code scanner preloaded, several free apps are available such as: Barcode Scanner, MobileTag©, QuickMark, or ScanLife.

The codes have already proven useful in a number of publications, directing users to online content and the RSU Hillcats iPhone app, and engaging students in the National Survey of Student Engagement. Future uses could range from special event promotion, to virtual business cards, or even placing a QR code on event tickets that, when scanned, uploads the event information directly into the smart phone’s calendar.

"We can do a number of very useful things with QR codes and they continue to become more versatile," said Jimmy Hart, RSU public relations coordinator. "As more students begin living on campus, there are a number of ways we can utilize mobile tagging to make the campus experience more social and interactive."

RSU students also will begin seeing QR codes on some class materials, turning smart phones into academic tools rather than high tech distractions.

"QR codes are great. Most of my students already have smart phones and know how to use them," said RSU assistant professor Denny Schmickle. "By finding new ways to integrate QR codes into the classroom, we are adding real value for our students."

For more information on Qwerty Rogers and the expanding use of QR codes at RSU, visit www.rsu.edu/hiqwertyrogers.

Carrying the mace has long been a commencement tradition at Rogers State University.

Each year, a veteran faculty member bears the mace and leads the commencement processional. In recent years, that veteran has been Professor Gary Moeller, Head of the Department of Fine Arts, who has been with RSU for 32 years.

This year, Moeller will carry a new mace, which he designed.

The mace is a six-foot walnut staff featuring the gold dome of Preparatory Hall at the top and the university seal on four sides. Five stripes at its base signify the institution’s various incarnations over the years, including the Oklahoma Military Academy.

“My intent was to develop a mace that was elegant, simple, and yet complex at the same time,” Moeller said. “But most importantly, I tried to capture the spirit and mission of RSU.”

The mace was crafted by Jerry Emanuel of Claremore, who will be a featured artist at the Art on the Hill Festival in April.

WHAT IS A MACE?
The mace, made of wood, symbolizes the authority of the faculty in academic matters and the practice of shared governance within the university. During the Middle Ages, the mace was an effective weapon in battle. As newer and more powerful arms were developed, its military significance diminished. The earliest ceremonial maces were borne by bodyguards of the 12th-century English and French kings. By the end of the 16th century, they were used widely by officials of English cities and towns. Today, the mace is primarily found in the British Houses of Parliament and in university ceremonies.
STUDENT APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION REMAINS ON TRACK

Considering the impact of the blizzard of 2011, it may be surprising to hear Oklahoma’s weather credited with helping keep construction on schedule.

However, that seems to be the case regarding RSU’s $11.5 million Student Apartments project. Leonard Szopinski, RSU’s physical plant director, said the warm and dry conditions that preceded the deluge of ice and snow allowed construction to remain on schedule.

“Despite the winter storms, the project remains on schedule,” Szopinski said. “In addition to the exterior framing, sheathing, windows and roof being complete, good progress is being made on the installation of electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, and fire protection work. Drywall installation, brick work, and underground utility work are right around the corner.”

Ground was broken in August for the 92,991-square-foot complex located just west of Soldier Field on Colonel Horne Drive. Szopinski said the project is slated to be completed and ready for occupancy by the end of July.

The three-story facility will boast a clubhouse and each floor will have a commons area, recreation area and meeting rooms, linked by interior corridors.

Energy-efficient options abound in the complex. The exterior windows include a thermal break in the frames and e-glass. The heating and air conditioning system is based on the geothermal system found in other campus buildings that conserves energy while providing a comfortable environment and eliminating the need for outside condensers.

The complex will double the number of students living on the Claremore campus and will feature one, two, and four bedroom apartments. Each apartment will include a living area, kitchenette, and bathroom facilities.

The single-story, 5,971-square-foot clubhouse will feature a large conference room, which can be divided into three smaller conference rooms, and a theater room with a large-screen television. The clubhouse also will contain a coffee bar, commons areas, and staff offices.

The exterior of the buildings will be covered with red brick, similar to the existing student apartments and other buildings on the main campus.

The design and construction team that developed the project is Key Construction of Tulsa.

A second phase of apartments, with capacity for another 250 students, could begin in the next few years, depending upon demand and available financing, according to Tom Volturo, RSU executive vice president for administration and finance. Those apartments would be built just west of the new facility.

Funding for the new student apartments is provided by the issuance of bonds through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Master Lease for Real Property Program, and institutional funds. The bonds will be retired with revenue generated by the apartments, including rental income.

RSU FIGHT SONG UNVEILED AT HILLCATS SENIOR NIGHT

On a night when RSU recognized the most accomplished athletes in its basketball program’s young history, a new tradition was unveiled.

The RSU Fight Song, with new lyrics written by RSU employee Yvonne Pace, debuted at Senior Night on Feb. 17. An announced crowd of 1,044 joined the RSU cheerleaders and pep band to sing the fight song for the first time ever, during intermission at the Claremore Expo Center.

In January, RSU held a contest asking members of the campus community to write lyrics for a new fight song. Out of almost 20 submissions, Pace’s lyrics were selected by a panel of RSU faculty, staff, administrators and students.

“The submissions we received displayed a great deal of school spirit and enthusiasm,” said Dr. Kirk Weller, RSU associate professor and director of bands. “It was a lot of fun to review each of the submissions. I look forward to the new RSU Fight Song becoming another beloved campus tradition.”

Pace won a $250 gift card to Barnes and Noble and will be credited on all future printings of the RSU Fight Song.

To read the new lyrics and hear an audio clip of the fight song, visit http://www.rsu.edu/traditions/fightsong.asp.
Story of the Swans

Swans have long enjoyed a ubiquitous presence at Rogers State University, floating majestically on the campus lakes and guarding their territory, even the most fearless student-athlete from entering a building.

Last year, only one swan called the RSU campus home after he lost his family to predators. But that changed recently when Nash and Dana Lamb, two longtime RSU supporters, arranged for three more swans to be acquired by the university.

"Knowing that swans mate for life, it broke my heart to see that swan all alone," said Dana Lamb, who recently completed her second year as Chairman of the RSU Foundation Board of Directors.

In December, a pair of royal mute swans was released on Douglas Lake, near the main entrance of the campus, and a female royal mute was released on Hart Lake as a companion to 10-year-old "Sarge," formerly the lone campus swan.

Dana and Nash Lamb
Pryor, Okla.

Interesting Facts

- Dana Lamb located the swans at Groen’s Wildlife Services in Cedar Lake, Ind. The swans were transported in the cargo hold of a commercial flight from Chicago to Tulsa.
- The RSU physical plant staff constructed floating platforms on both ponds to provide the swans a place to nest and protect them from predators.
- The university acquired special feed for the swans, and encourages the public not to feed them.
- The swans’ wings were pinned, a common practice to discourage them from flying away from their protected habitat on the lakes.
- If protected, swans can live for more than 30 years.
- Sarge received his name last spring as the result of an online poll conducted by the Hillpost, the RSU student newspaper. The name pays homage to RSU’s past as Oklahoma Military Academy.
- Swans have been part of the RSU tradition for many years. Cooweescoowee means “great white bird” in the Cherokee language and RSU is located in the Cooweescoowee District of the Cherokee Nation. Cooweescoowee also was the Indian name given to former Cherokee Chief John Ross. In addition, Cooweescoowee is the name of the annual RSU student and faculty literary journal.

About the Lambs

- The Lambs have a long history of supporting RSU and are a permanent and instrumental part of the fabric of the university.
- Dana served as Chairman of the RSU Foundation Board of Directors and Nash serves on the Board of Directors of the O.D. Mayor Foundation, which has provided more than $1 million for the Pryor campus.
- Dana’s father, Tony Jack Lyons of Pryor, was an attorney, original trustee of the O.D. Mayor Foundation, and helped to establish the trust for Jock Mayor.
- Dana’s mother, Jerry Lyons, served on the Board of Regents for Rogers State College for many years. Both were strong proponents of education, and passed that advocacy along to the Lambs.

A Hillcat Hero is a member of the RSU community (students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends) who embodies what it means to be a Hillcat. A Hillcat Hero is a person with an enthusiastic, determined, and bold spirit who inspires pride in RSU.

Do you know a Hillcat Hero? If so, please email bortolani@rsu.edu and explain why your nominee should be considered a Hillcat Hero.
ORZA PROVIDES HERRINGTON LECTURE

Dr. Vincent Orza - author, small businessman, television news anchor, university professor, candidate for Governor of Oklahoma, and Dean of the Meinders School of Business at Oklahoma City University – provided this year’s Carl G. and Gladys L. Herrington Distinguished Endowed Lecture at RSU.

The title of Dr. Orza’s presentation was “The Guy on Top of the Mountain Didn’t Fall There.”

“The university is pleased and honored to host Dr. Orza on our campus for our annual Herrington Lecture,” said RSU President Larry Rice.

Last year, Orza was appointed President and CEO of KSBI Television in Oklahoma City. Previously, he spent more than five years as Dean of the Meinders School of Business at Oklahoma City University.

His business career included 22 years as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Eateries Inc., a company he founded and developed into a national restaurant chain, operating coast to coast under the names of Garfield’s Restaurant and Pub, Garcia’s Mexican Restaurants and Pepperoni Grill Italian Bistros. During his tenure at Eateries, Orza grew the company from an idea to more than $100 million in annual sales.

Orza began his television career as a guest on a local talk show which led to a full-time position as business and economics editor and news anchor for KOAC-TV in Oklahoma City.

He is author of the book “When I Want Your Opinion I’ll Tell It to You,” a light-hearted, nostalgic look at growing up as a second generation Italian-American.

The late Carl G. and Gladys L. Herrington established the Herrington Distinguished Lectureship Endowment in 1989 through the RSU Foundation. The Herrington family initiated the lectureship endowment as a way to provide educational opportunities to RSU students and the community.

RSU TO ACQUIRE BANK BUILDING FOR PARKING

RSU plans to acquire a former bank building to increase the amount of parking available at its campus in downtown Bartlesville.

RSU will acquire the former Bank of Oklahoma building, located at 422 S. Dewey Ave. Long-term plans call for demolition of the 4,944-square-foot building, clearing the way for additional parking on the 14,000 square feet of property.

“The acquisition of this property will allow us to add approximately 50 more parking spaces for our campus,” said RSU President Larry Rice. “This expanded parking will provide easy access and convenience for our students and faculty and ease parking for businesses in the area.

“We appreciate the Bank of Oklahoma working with the university to ensure that this property is available to us for campus improvement,” he said.

The purchase price of the property is $263,000. Funding for the purchase will consist of private donations, an existing student parking fee, and other auxiliary funds, Rice said.

This will be the third parcel of property acquired by the university to increase parking for its Bartlesville campus, he added.

“We appreciate the cooperation and patience of neighboring businesses and their customers while we’ve worked to expand parking for our campus,” he said.
LONGTIME RSU ADMINISTRATOR RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS

A veritable pillar of the university has retired after a quarter century of service. Professor Linda Andrews, best known as the face of RSU’s nursing program, most recently served as Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment. She retired in January.

“I cannot think of anyone who has contributed to the growth and success of this institution more than Linda Andrews,” said RSU President Larry Rice. “She has touched the lives of countless students, and has provided vision and leadership for our highly respected nursing program. She performed a vital role in the RSU nursing program gaining status as one of the best in Oklahoma.”

As Assistant Vice President, Andrews provided strategic and academic planning, supported university-wide assessment and program review activities, and coordinated accreditation processes and major academic projects.

She played a key role in RSU gaining accreditation as a four-year university in 2000 and re-accreditation in 2004. She also led the university’s efforts to gain accreditation of its nursing program.

In addition, she was instrumental in developing the university’s bachelor’s degrees in nursing and sport management, first offered in 2008.

Andrews joined the faculty of Rogers State College in 1986, first serving as a nursing instructor and rising to assistant director then director of its health sciences division. She was named Head of the RSU Department of Health Sciences in 1999, a role she held until she was named Assistant Vice President in 2006.

RSU SOPHOMORE BLOGS FROM ACROSS THE POND

Jacob Daniel, a sophomore at Rogers State University, said the cultural differences between his home town of Claremore, Okla., and Wales are “amazing.”

His cultural adjustments provide a good share of content for the blog Daniel pens while studying abroad as a Brad Henry International Scholar at Swansea University in Wales. The 2009 Claremore High School graduate also writes about his classes and the many travel opportunities that have arisen.

“I’ve received some really positive feedback about the blog so far,” Daniel said via e-mail. “It’s a great way to communicate my journeys over here.”

He has already visited Cardiff and Bath, and traveled to mainland Europe to Amsterdam. He hopes to also visit London and Paris.

“The entire trip is a life-changing experience but I am particularly thankful for the chance to travel while I’m here,” he said. “These places have so much history and there are so many amazing things to see. It takes your education where no classroom instruction can.”

Friends and family back home aren’t the only ones interested in Daniel’s blog. Other students at Swansea also have taken an interest.

“They find the concept interesting here,” he said. “A lot of the local students would like to study abroad in the United States and they wonder what about Wales is so interesting that it would make a good blog.”

A political science major and honors student at RSU, Daniel is taking courses at Swansea in War and Peace in the Nuclear Age and British Atlantic World. While giving the classes high marks, he said it has been equally educational to witness recent world events in an entirely new environment.

“IT’s very interesting to see world events from here,” he said. “The protests in Egypt were recently in the news here. They have different newspapers and news stations and they view things differently because they’re so much closer to the action. It is interesting how I can view an event on the news and interpret it differently than a British citizen would.”

Daniel’s blog continues a tradition of blogs written for the RSU website by students studying abroad. Several Brad Henry Scholars who preceded Daniel at Swansea have contributed to blogs, as have students studying in London, Korea and Italy.

A collection of student blogs with topics ranging from study abroad to student life and athletics can be found at www.rsu.edu/blogs.

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7

May 7, 2011
Nursing Pinning, 8:00 am
Associate Degree Ceremony, 10:00 am
Baccalaureate Ceremony, 1:00 pm
Claremore Expo Center

Ken Miller, Oklahoma State Treasurer, will address candidates for bachelor’s degrees at this year’s commencement.
A $10,000 grant from the AT&T Foundation was presented to the RSU Foundation, establishing a President's Leadership Class endowment. Craig Cromley, AT&T Oklahoma representative (left) presented the check to Dr. Danette Boyle, RSU vice president for development, and RSU President Larry Rice.

The winning team for the morning flight of the inaugural Hillcat Hacker Invitational on the RSU Claremore campus: Frosty Turpen, Gordon Ewing, Brent Turpen, Randa Fay and Regent Mike Turpen. The event attracted 78 golfers including community members, alumni, faculty, staff and students.

Kaye and Ed Meachum of the Route 66 Cruisers Car Club of Claremore visited scholarship recipient, RSU student Joseph Pastore.

2011 RSU Homecoming King and Queen Brandon Sutton and Kelsey Romig are joined by Dylan Wylmoth and Rachel Yewell, who were selected as the 2010 Hillcub Prince and Princess as part of the Hillcub adoption program at Claremont Elementary School.

RSU Foundation officers for 2011 are (from left) Richard Lundy, treasurer; Carlene Webber, vice-chairperson; and Eddie Reynolds, chairman.

Marisa Littlefield (left), RSU director of alumni, special events, and development programs, and Stratton Taylor, former Oklahoma State Senate Pro Tem and a 1976 graduate of RSU, unveil the 2011 “Pride on the Prowl” homecoming t-shirt.
Belle S. Harris (left) and daughter, Dr. Jane Johansson, a member of the Pryor campus faculty, with RSU Vice President for Development Danette Boyle at the Pryor Scholarship Breakfast.

RSU President Larry Rice; Kelly Diven, president and CEO of 66 Federal Credit Union; and Marty Schoenthaler, general manager, corporate information technology, ConocoPhillips, at the RSU Bartlesville Scholarship Fundraising Breakfast.

Wren Baker visits with Jo Albert at the Claremore Scholarship Breakfast. Jo and her husband Phil Albert, president and CEO of PELCO Structural, LLC, along with Community Home Health, were Premier Sponsors for the event, which raised funds for RSU student scholarships.

Linda Andrews, RSU assistant vice president for institutional research, planning, and assessment, recently retired after 25 years of service to the university and was honored at a reception. Pictured, from left, are other long-serving RSU administrators and faculty members including Dr. Larry Rice, president, Dr. Tobie Titsworth, vice president for student affairs, Andrews, Dr. Danette Boyle, vice president for development, Professor Gary Moeller, head of the Department of Fine Arts, and Phil Sample, history instructor.

Art on the Hill co-chairs, RSU First Lady Peggy Rice (left) and Professor Gary Moeller (right) joined by festival committee members David Wolf and Virgil Lampton, Showcase the 2011 art festival t-shirts. The AOTH Invitational Art Festival is April 29-30 on the Claremore campus.

Sue Hines, of Claremore, visits with Dr. Vince Orza, who presented the 2011 Carl G. and Gladys L. Herrington Distinguished Lecture.

Belle S. Harris (left) and daughter, Dr. Jane Johansson, a member of the Pryor campus faculty, with RSU Vice President for Development Danette Boyle at the Pryor Scholarship Breakfast.

Sue Hines, of Claremore, visits with Dr. Vince Orza, who presented the 2011 Carl G. and Gladys L. Herrington Distinguished Lecture.
Human patient simulators, or teaching mannequins, are important learning tools for RSU health sciences students.

Now more than ever, the simulators, often referred to as "hospital dummies," play a key role in helping RSU nursing and emergency medical services (EMS) students learn basic care and life support skills, without the fear of injuring a live patient.

"Gaining access to hospitals and clinics to provide our students with practical experience is becoming more challenging," said Dr. Nancy Diede, Head of the RSU Department of Health Sciences. "Hospital personnel are busier, patient acuity has increased, the length of time patients are hospitalized has decreased.

"Additionally, some facilities have closed units due to the recent economic crises, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of elective procedures and surgeries being performed.

"This has led many EMS and nursing education programs to incorporate patient simulation as one approach to provide students with 'near realistic' learning situations," she said.

Recently, the Founders of Doctors’ Hospital, Inc. provided funding for two human patient simulators, or "dummies" - one for nursing students and one for EMS students.

“They have proven extremely successful in bridging the gap between the classroom and clinical rotations," Diede said.

The mannequins will help RSU provide realistic clinical experiences to nursing and EMS students in campus labs.

Several types of mannequins are available, and these mannequins are “the best,” according to Diede.

“A basic mannequin used for practicing cardiopulmonary resuscitation is considered a ‘low-fidelity’ simulator. A mannequin that has breath and heart sounds, but no other movement, is classified in the ‘moderate-fidelity’ range.

"However, mannequins that have both breath and heart sounds, eyelids that open and close, eyes with pupils that constrict and dilate, bowel sounds, extremities with a full range of motion, and the capability of speech, are referred to as ‘high-fidelity’ mannequins. These are the type of mannequins that the Founders of Doctors’ Hospital has provided for our students," she said. “We are so grateful to them for providing our students with this opportunity.”

Both new models are realistic in size, at approximately six feet and two inches tall and 100 pounds. Each comes with extensive features, including interchangeable male and female genitalia and capabilities designed specifically for nurses and paramedics.

Since 1990, the Founders of Doctors’ Hospital, Inc. has provided a significant amount of funding for RSU to purchase computers and laboratory equipment for its health sciences programs, as well as enhancing faculty development and research.

As a result, RSU has contributed 548 registered nurses and 120 paramedics to the workforce in the last 10 years, significantly contributing to the health and quality of life of Oklahomans, Diede said.
The Lyon Foundation has provided a gift to replace the windows in the historic RSU building in Bartlesville.

“This generous gift from the Lyon Foundation will allow us to replace all the windows on the west side of the building,” said RSU President Larry Rice. “Furthermore, with matching funds made possible by other private contributions and university funds, we will be able to complete all required window replacements on the building.”

The Lyon Foundation is the largest foundation in the Bartlesville area, and supports education and other important community initiatives.

RSU’s Bartlesville campus is located in the historic Reda Building, which has served as an elegant, nine-story centerpiece of downtown Bartlesville since 1919.

“Installation of new windows is a significant step in preserving this historic building for the next century and enhancing its aesthetics,” Rice said. “The new thermal windows also will provide more energy efficiency and cost savings.”

The building originally served as headquarters for the Cities Service Oil Co. and later was the home of the Reda Pump Co. RSU acquired the building from the Schlumberger Co., a worldwide oilfield services company, in 2005.

The downtown RSU Bartlesville campus opened in the fall of 2005. Since then, several floors of the building have been renovated, adding classrooms, laboratories, and student services.

Presently, the ninth floor is under consideration to provide a recreation area for students, in addition to conference and meeting rooms and a full-service kitchen for the community, as funding becomes available.

OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO HOLD REUNION JUNE 3-4

Alumni of the Oklahoma Military Academy – the predecessor institution of RSU which served as the state’s premier military institution during most of the 20th Century – will gather for their annual reunion June 3-4 on the RSU campus in Claremore.

The OMA Alumni Association will host the annual weekend of events for more than 250 alumni and their families.

A highlight of this year’s reunion will be the public dedication of the new OMA Killed in Action Memorial.

More than 10,000 men and women attended the OMA junior college and high school from 1919 to 1971, when the academy became Claremore Junior College.

“We are honored to have these distinguished alumni and their families return to celebrate our shared institutional history,” said RSU President Larry Rice.

The adjutant for this year’s reunion is David Raper of Marietta, Ga., an OMA graduate of 1965. The role of the adjutant, which is a military term for a staff officer who assists a commanding officer with administrative affairs, is to serve as master of the various ceremonies at the reunion.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3
The reunion will kick off with the 18-hole OMA Alumni Golf Classic on Friday, June 4, at Heritage Hills Golf Course in Claremore. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and shotgun start is at 9 a.m. A Ladies Luncheon will be hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice at the RSU President’s Residence at 11:30 a.m. Pool and ping pong tournaments will be held from 3-5 p.m. in the Centennial Center.

On Friday evening, an opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Centennial Center Ballroom.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4
Events scheduled for the morning of Saturday, June 4, include the morning formation and cadet memorial service and OMA KIA Memorial dedication ceremony at 9:15 a.m. at the flagpole in front of Preparatory Hall; the OMA Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni Ceremony at 11 a.m. in Will Rogers Auditorium; and the annual alumni luncheon at noon in the Ballroom of the Centennial Center. An OMA Trivia Contest will be held during the alumni luncheon. On Saturday, an ice cream social will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the OMA Museum.

The reunion will culminate with a Saturday evening dinner and dance for OMA alumni and their families at 6 p.m. in the Centennial Center Ballroom on the RSU campus.

For cost, registration, or lodging information, call the OMA Alumni Office, at (918) 343-7773, or visit www.rsu.edu.
OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES
2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association has announced the recipients of its Distinguished Alumni Awards for 2011.

The recipients will be honored during the annual Oklahoma Military Academy Reunion on June 3-4 at RSU in Claremore.

This year’s OMA Distinguished Alumni are Warren M. Rodgers of Sherwood, Ark., and Robert “Blaine” Jones of Pryor, Okla.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards represent the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an alumnus of the Oklahoma Military Academy.

“We are pleased to present the Distinguished Alumni Awards to these men who have brought honor to the OMA through their years of dedicated service to their communities and country,” said RSU President Larry Rice.

This year, nearly 250 OMA alumni, spouses and guests are expected to return to RSU’s “College Hill.”

A highlight of this year’s reunion will be the public dedication of the new OMA Killed in Action Memorial on the RSU Claremore campus.

OMA reunion events include a golf tournament, dedication ceremony for the OMA Killed in Action Memorial, morning formation and cadet memorial service and Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

ROBERT “BLAINE” JONES


Jones earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Tulsa, an M.B.A. from Georgia State University and a J.D. from the Oklahoma City University School of Law.

His legal practice is now limited to providing pro bono assistance to active duty military, veterans, their spouses and children. He is on the Board of Directors of the RSU Foundation and other organizations assisting those less fortunate.

WARREN M. RODGERS

Warren M. Rodgers has enjoyed a distinguished career in business, operating his own men’s clothing store for seven years and providing leadership for several real estate companies for 33 years. He retired in 2004.

For the past 40 years, Rodgers has provided assistance for needy families (some homeless) including housing, utilities and food, until they get back on their feet.

Rodgers attended one year of high school and two years of junior college at the Oklahoma Military Academy, from 1959 to 1962. He went on to attend Arkansas Technical College.

He served in the Army National Guard from 1966 to 1972, promoted to the rank of platoon sergeant. During his service, he was activated twice to help quell race riots in central Arkansas.

He has served on the OMA Board of Directors since 2009.

For more information about the OMA reunion, call (918) 343-7773 or visit www.rsu.edu.

OXLEY FOUNDATION PROVIDES GIFT TO BIT BY BIT

The Oxley Foundation of Tulsa has provided a gift of $100,000 to help support the RSU Bit by Bit Therapeutic Horse Riding Program.

“The foundation is pleased to support the important work this program is providing to help disabled children gain mobility on horseback,” said Konnie Boulter, program director at the Oxley Foundation.

The gift will be provided to the program over a period of five years, said Dr. Danette Boyle, RSU vice president for development.

The Bit by Bit Therapeutic Horse Riding Program is a cooperative endeavor between RSU and Oologah-Talala Public Schools to promote physical and mental health for children and adults with disabilities through horseback riding.

The highly-regarded program operates at the RSU Equestrian Center, located between Oologah and Collinsville on Highway 169.

The program provides riding sessions and other therapeutic interaction with the horses, which improves balance and enhances strength, coordination, language, and cognitive and behavioral skills for participating clients. The program currently serves 74 students.

The program has received support from several other foundations, individual and corporate supporters, and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

For more information on supporting the program, contact the RSU Office of Development at (918) 343-7773.

Brutus is a Bit by Bit Therapeutic riding horse.
“I have always been intrigued by the idea of competing in a 26.2 mile race,” Clark said. “The marathon is the true test of a man and I am very excited for the training and race. It is quite different from cross country training in that the intensity is less. I no longer have to sprint as hard in workouts but the workouts are much longer. In cross country training I was running roughly 90-95 miles a week. But for marathon training I will be running anywhere from 100-125 miles a week.”

With one year of competition under his belt in the Hillcats blue and red, Clark has high expectations for not only himself, but also the team as they prepare for their second season.

“I am very excited for next fall for a few reasons,” Clark said. “We are bringing in a good group of guys who should really add some depth to our program. We have already been working very hard during this spring semester and I know that will carry over through the summer, so we should all be very fit for next fall. My personal goal for next season is to be named All-American at the national meet. The team’s goal is to qualify for nationals. It would be amazing if the whole team qualifies for National Championships next season.”

RSU has more perks than just giving Clark an opportunity to participate in the sport he loves; the business management major is also paving the way for his future during his time on the Hill.

“I really enjoy the fact that the staff here is so helpful,” Clark said. “It is different from bigger colleges where there might be more than 200 kids in a class. At RSU, I am able to have more one-on-one time with my professors if needed. I feel like the faculty and staff really care about the students and their academic success.”

Although junior Caleb Clark specializes in long distance running, he sprinted onto the Rogers State University cross country scene this fall and set the bar high for the first-year program. Clark turned heads last fall as he finished 10th overall at the Sooner Athletic Conference Meet and earned a bid at the NAIA Championships.

When Clark transferred to RSU Bartlesville last spring, he was looking for an opportunity to get back into cross country after taking a hiatus from the sport. As luck would have it, the Hillcats announced they would be adding cross country in the fall of 2010 and Clark jumped on the opportunity to be a part of the inaugural team.

“To me, this is the beginning of a long tradition of excellence,” Clark said. “I feel honored to be able to come in and help lay the foundation for this program. I really like Coach McCormick and I feel that he will build this program and consistently exceed expectations.”

The Bartlesville, Okla., native wasn’t always a runner. He stumbled upon the sport in high school as he prepared for basketball season.

“I started running cross country my sophomore year of high school because I wanted to stay in shape for basketball,” Clark said. “At that time I wanted to be the next Michael Jordan but I soon found out that with my gaunt form, running was much more suitable for me. After I started running I just couldn’t stop, I began to love everything about it and it didn’t take long before I was completely hooked for life.”

Clark isn’t just a member of the Hillcats cross country program, he is a leader on the team during meets and practices throughout the year. He led the way for the men’s team at the SAC Meet, placing 10th overall. Clark ran the 8K race in 25:04 and was named to the All-Conference team for his efforts. With the 10th place finish, Clark became the first RSU runner to earn an at-large bid to the NAIA Cross Country Championships.

“I felt very honored to be able to represent RSU at the National Championships,” Clark explained. “Throughout the season we all had successes and failures and no matter what the outcome I knew that my team and coach would be there for me. Our whole team worked very hard all season and it was awesome to have their support, as well as the support of the community and faculty while at the Championship.”

There is no off season for Clark as he is training for the marathon event at the Outdoor Track and Field Championships in April. He is the only Hillcat cross country runner to attempt to qualify for the 26.2 mile event.

For Clark, running is more than just fast times and big races. It’s a time to find clarity and an opportunity to lay the foundation for the program at RSU.

“What I love most about cross country is its liberty,” Clark said. “Running is something that I can do and not be stressed. It gives me time to think. I’m grateful I have the opportunity to be a part of the RSU cross country team during the foundation. There are few people who get these types of opportunities and I plan to make the most of it.”
WOMEN’S SOCCER

The Hillcats reached the postseason for the fourth consecutive year. The women’s soccer team finished tied for fourth place in the Sooner Athletic Conference with a 6-4-1 record in conference play, giving them a 10-7-1 overall record.

Three Rogers State women’s soccer players earned Second Team All-Sooner Athletic Conference honors. Junior Abby Rickner started in all 18 games for the Hillcats, anchoring the defense. Shereen Clarke, a junior midfielder from Kingston, Jamaica, led RSU in scoring with nine goals. Freshman goalkeeper Chelsea McMullin played in 17 games, earning nine wins in the net. The Plano, Texas, native broke the single-season saves record with 120 on the season.

Forward Lauren Hager was named a 2010 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. The Hillcat women garnered several honors from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. Rickner was named to the 2010 Performance Subaru NAIA All-Southwest Region team while the Hillcat women’s soccer team earned the Academic Team Award. As a team, the Hillcats hold a 3.0 grade point average.

MEN’S SOCCER

The Rogers State men’s soccer team made history last season as they defeated NCAA Division I opponent Oral Roberts University, 1-0, at the ORU Soccer Complex. The win marked the first victory over a NCAA Division I opponent in any sport at RSU.

The Hillcats reached the post season for the fourth consecutive season. RSU finished the season 11-6-2 overall with a 5-4-1 SAC record.

Rogers State men’s soccer player Sean Surridge was named Sooner Athletic Conference Goalkeeper of the Year. Surridge has served as the Hillcats primary goalkeeper since the inaugural season in 2007. Along with being named Goalkeeper of the Year, Surridge was named First Team All-Conference and to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America 2010 Performance Subaru NAIA All-Southwest Region.

Bryan Jones was named Second Team All-Conference. He appeared in all 18 games this season, making 17 starts. The sophomore defender scored two goals while dishing out two assists on the year.

Senior Carlos Zuta, along with junior Henrique Sousa and sophomore Victor Brown, were named 2010 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

CROSS COUNTRY

The first year men’s and women’s cross country programs continued to improve throughout the season under head coach Chris McCormick.

The men’s program had its first NAIA National Championship competitor in junior Caleb Clark. The Bartlesville, Okla., native had four top 15 finishes during the season. Teammate Brandon Payne had three top 40 finishes on the season including a 30th place finish in the final race of the regular season at the ECU Tiger Chase. In the Tiger Chase the men finished sixth but matched the team mark with a sixth place finish at the Sooner Athletic Conference Championships.

It was the ECU Tiger Chase that saw the women accomplish their best team finish of the season coming in at sixth. Jessica Zingo had her season best finish of 25th while teammate Breana Harrison finished 32nd for her best placing on the year. At the SAC Championship the ladies finished seventh as a squad led by Kendall Clement, placing 27th.

GOLF

Rogers State women’s golf had two top ten finishes during the fall season. Katie Seeger finished fifth at the Southwestern Christian University Invitational at Hefner Golf Course in Oklahoma City. Teammate Jennifer Almy carded an 82 for a ninth-place finish.

The women began the spring season in Brownsville, Texas, at the Eddie Lucio Jr., Collegiate Golf Invitational at South Padre Golf Club. Coach Lynn Blevins’s squad will round out the season by hosting the Sooner Athletic Conference tournament in Claremore.

On the men’s side sophomore Tanner Owens and junior Bo Sarratt finished in the top 40 of three fall tournaments. Owens best finish came at the NSU Classic at Muskogee Country Club. The Sallisaw, Okla., native fired a one-under 70 in the first round and finished the tournament one-over par, tied for 12th.

The Hillcat men finished in eighth place at the Northwood Fall Shootout at Tierra Verde Golf Club in Arlington, Texas. Sarratt led the Cats as he finished 25th, shooting a four-over par 76 in the first round.

The spring schedule kicked off with the Eddie Lucio Jr., Collegiate Golf Invitational at South Padre Golf Club. The Cats will host the SAC Tournament at Cherokee Hills Golf Club in Catoosa, Okla. on April 26-27.

BASEBALL

In its sixth year of existence with a strong nucleus of returners and an impressive group of newcomers, the Rogers State baseball team is prepared to meet high expectations in 2011.

“For the most part, we are going to have our entire lineup coming
back,” RSU Head Coach Ron Bradley said. “We are coming off a successful season and I feel like the experienced returners know what to expect in our conference which will be an asset for this group.”

The Hillcats return 21 players from the 2010 squad, 15 who saw significant action. RSU notched its second 30-win season in program history last spring.

Senior Grant Cosby will anchor the Hillcats on the mound. He led the team in strikeouts with 59 and tied for the most wins with eight in 2010. He represented the Diamond Cats on the all-conference first team after posting an 8-3 record.

Brandt Barnes returns to centerfield for his senior season. The speedy outfielder from Bentonville, Ark, was error free on 71 chances throughout his 44 starts and led the team in stolen bases with 20 on the season.

The Diamond Cats opened their 30-game Sooner Athletic Conference slate at Oklahoma Christian.

**SOFTBALL**

Rogers State softball enters the 2011 season with high expectations and a belief that the foundation has been set in the first two years of the Mark Dicus era.

With a strong nucleus returning for the 2011 campaign and a shot of energy from key newcomers, the Softball Cats have their eyes on the prize, a NAIA National Tournament berth and a trip to Gulf Shores, Ala.

“We expect big things and we start every year with one goal and that’s to get to the National Championship, and not just get there, but get there and win it,” Dicus said. “If we hold together and continue to improve, we’re more than capable of achieving that.”

Defensively it starts with Katie Bointy, a four-year member of the Hillcat softball team. The Anadarko, Okla., native is considered to be one of the best defensive players on the team and will play a number of positions in 2011.

Second-team all-conference selection Linsey Curtis will once again highlight the line-up offensively as the Hillcats’ primary designated player. Last season she registered 26 home runs, ranking second in the NAIA, and knocked in 80 RBI. The 2011 schedule has 13 home dates spread over the season including RSU hosting the Border War Tournament for the second consecutive season.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

The Hillcats, under first-year head coach Justin Barkley, started the season 5-6 going 1-3 in Sooner Athletic Conference play. But since the start of the 2011 calendar year the Hillcats have gone 11-3 in SAC play.

Barkley’s squad knocked off the likes of then No. 21 Oklahoma City University, 73-66. The biggest win of the season may have come on Senior Night, as six seniors were honored and responded by defeating then No. 12 Southern Nazarene, 73-60.

RSU has seen two players etch their names in the individual record book this season. Matt Kellogg tied Sylvester Spicer’s single game point record, as Kellogg lit up Huston-Tillotson for 32 points at the Claremore Expo.

Senior guard Deveric Taylor became the second member of the 1,000 point club as RSU claimed a 74-71 victory over the OCU Stars inside the Reynolds Center on the campus of The University of Tulsa.

By mid-February the Hillcats were claiming votes in the NAIA national polls.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Fourth-year head coach Amy Williams had the Hillcat women off to a fast start with a record of 4-0 including a victory over then No. 15 Langston University on Homecoming Day. The squad went 3-4 over the next seven games but turned things around going 10-4 to start 2011.

Senior guard Hunter Peterson, a Jenks, Okla. native, became the charter member of the Hillcat women’s 1,000 point club. Peterson, a member of the inaugural Hillcat team in 2007, put her name in the Hillcat record books vs. Oklahoma Christian on Jan. 27 with a three-point bucket to surpass the 1,000 point threshold. She is the career point leader ahead of second place by more than 400 points.

Coach Williams and the Hillcats claimed the biggest win in program history on Feb. 12, knocking off then No. 2 Oklahoma City, 73-70, inside the Reynolds Center on the campus of The University of Tulsa. Junior Angie Criner led the Hillcats in scoring with 24 points against the Stars and was named Sooner Athletic Conference Player of the Week for her performance.

Williams’ team began garnering national recognition by mid-February within the NAIA polls.

By mid-February the Hillcats were claiming votes in the NAIA national polls.

All athletic stories were provided by Sara Williams, Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations.
ON THE HORIZON

April
- April 26
  RSU Choir Concert
  7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Studio, Baird Hall, Claremore Campus
- April 29-30
  Art on the Hill Festival, Claremore Campus

May
- May 7
  Commencement events, Claremore Campus

June
- June 3-4
  Oklahoma Military Academy Reunion, Claremore Campus
- June 4
  Dedication Ceremony, Oklahoma Military Academy Killed-in-Action Memorial, 9 a.m. Claremore Campus
- June 11
  Boots, Barbeque and Boogie dinner and auction benefitting Bit-By-Bit program, 6:30 p.m. Cain's Ballroom, Tulsa

For more information, including times and locations, visit www.rsu.edu.