

SUMMER 2016

COURAGE ★ LOYALTY ★ HONOR

GUARDON



A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mr. Phil Goldfarb

The 2016 Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association Reunion is now a memory, but what a memory it was for those who attended! Our 2016 theme of "We Were All Once Rabbits" resonated with every single individual. The military memorabilia display at the Ice Cream Social, the "Rabbit Tales" on Friday night, as well as the first Grand March since 1971 led and orchestrated by Officer in Charge B.G. Jones '64 were all great hits. Everyone who participated in the Grand March left with not only a fantastic memory, but a huge smile on their face!

It has been 97 years since OMA opened its doors as the premier military school in the southwest and we were in existence for 52 years. Over the years, one particular legacy has emerged. OMA produced leaders! One only has to talk to our alumni and ask them what they did during their lives to see the important roles that OMA alumni have filled. Whether it is in the military (approximately 80 percent of alumni served our country in times of war or peace, a percentage only eclipsed by the Service Academies), industry, business, philanthropy, medicine, health care, banking, oil, construction, non-profit, teaching, farming, law enforcement or countless other endeavors, you will find OMA alumni leading the way.

Our ranks continue to thin each year. If attending OMA had ANY influence, impact, and effect, changed, or shaped your life in ANY way, I urge you to come back to the Hill next year to our 2017 OMA Alumni Reunion, which will be held on June 9 and 10, 2017. (We are giving you PLENTY of notice, write it down on your calendars NOW!) One day we will not have the alumni numbers to conduct a reunion any longer and you do not want to regret not having attended when you could and had the chance. It doesn't matter if you attended OMA for one semester or six years. It doesn't matter if you were a PFC or the Corps Commander. Once a Cadet, Always a Cadet!

With Courage, Loyalty and Honor,

Phil Goldfarb
Phil Goldfarb HS '67, JC '69
OMA Alumni Association President

GUIDON

August 2016

Guidon is a newsletter published for alumni of Oklahoma Military Academy by the OMA Alumni Office at Rogers State University. Send correspondence and address corrections to: OMA Alumni Office, Rogers State University, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017-3252.

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Order your DVD of the
**2016 OMA Alumni
Association Reunion**

only
\$10 each

Order now by contacting Dr. Danette Boyle at
dboyle@rsu.edu, 918-343-6888 or 918-343-6889

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**OMA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
REUNION
JUNE 9-10 2017**

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

"Beyond Fabulous" are the only two words I can think of to describe the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion. I have never seen anything like it. We had nearly 200 OMA Alumni and more than 200 family members and friends. There was something for everyone!

"Rabbit Tales" were extraordinary, the food was delicious and words cannot describe the GRAND MARCH! It was out of this world! The best part may have been that so many of you were able to connect with some of your best friends and roommates that you had during your years "On the Hill." We had so much fun and made so many memories. And we captured a lot on DVD. You can get a copy now.

This campus just gets more beautiful each year. It is truly a magical place and now that we have **BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL**, it is just great to see the military students posting the colors at the reunion, participating in "Rabbit Tales and the Grand March" and just walking around on campus.

Even I am amazed at how the OMA Alumni Association just gets better each year, and some of your fellow alumni are already letting me know they will be here for the 2017 Reunion, scheduled for June 9 and 10. It is never too early to register, so call me now or email me to let me know you will be here.

With Courage, Loyalty and Honor!

Danette Boyle
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Rob Frank '69 speaking on the GOLD Program at 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion Luncheon.

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SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

MINI-REUNION

OCTOBER 9-11, 2016

Hilton Garden Inn
Rate: \$85/night
956-761-8700 Ext. 0 | www.hiltonsouthpadre.com

To ensure you get the discounted rate, please mention you are with **OMA Alumni Reunion Group**. Please request the special rate (available until September 9) if you plan on arriving early or staying later.

For more information, contact Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888.



Dr. Larry Rice, RSU President and First Lady Peggy Rice participating in the Grand March at the OMA Alumni Reunion.

2016 OMA ALUMNI REUNION WAS “EXTRAORDINARY”

WOW is what comes to mind when you reflect on the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion. The attendance was the largest number in many years. Alumni were calling the day before the reunion still trying to register and we had others just show up. It was the most exciting and fun filled reunion ever!

More than 400 OMA Alumni, OMA Honorary Alumni, family members and friends made their way to “The Hill” on June 10 and 11 for what was mentioned over and over as an EXTRAORDINARY REUNION.

OMA Alumni traveled from more than 20 states. It was the most incredible event in Claremore in years. The hotels were jam-packed full of OMA Alumni and family members.

Most importantly, many of the OMA Alumni commented often what a great time they had. It was a special time for the alumni to share some of their incredible “Rabbit Tales” on Friday evening while enjoying a very delicious Mexican buffet. One of our alumni, Steve Smith, Class of 1965, had the most beautiful Rabbit Tale. It was such an emotional story about the kindness Randy Vierling, Class of 1963, showed Steve’s mother when she came to visit that he asked Phil Goldfarb to read the story. Please see page 6 for a reprint of this wonderful story.

The weather was perfect and the campus was more beautiful than it had ever been. It was a most fitting place for more than 400 alumni, family and friends to spend the weekend. All the events seemed to be so great this year, but as the saying goes, “We saved the best for last” and that was certainly true at this reunion.

The dinner and dance Saturday evening began with the most incredible prime rib and all the trimmings. Shortly after dinner, B.G. Jones, Class of 1964, began to put into motion all the moving parts to have the first GRAND MARCH ON “THE HILL” since 1971. B.G. was the OIC of the Grand March and he and his wife Julie had worked on the details for months. It was the most awesome event of the reunion. A huge number of alumni, spouses, and many others participated. It was such a beautiful sight in the Centennial Ballroom and as you looked around, some alumni had great big smiles and others had tears streaming down their faces.

The GRAND MARCH was definitely the highlight of the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion. A DVD of the Grand March and major reunion activities is available to order.

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1st Place Winning Team in the 2016 OMA Alumni Golf Classic. Left to right: Steve Schooley, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer – Central Bank of Oklahoma, Doug Terry, Executive Vice President and Chief Loan Officer, Central Bank of Oklahoma, Tim Tolan, Senior Loan Officer, Central Bank of Oklahoma and John Allen, President and CEO, Central Bank of Oklahoma.



First time reunion attendees, Burrey Belletini '70 and Steve Hudson '68.

OMA ALUMNI HELP KEEP GOLD AT RSU



Dr. Richard Beck, RSU Vice President of Academic Affairs; Keaton Holland; Logan Gear; Major General Robbie Asher, Oklahoma Adjutant General; RSU President Dr. Larry Rice; Rowdy Sellmeyer; Dometo N. Dometo; and Phil Goldfarb, President of the OMA Alumni Association.

Thanks in large measure to the efforts of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, the Oklahoma Army National Guard's Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program will be retained on the Rogers State University campus despite budget cuts that have forced closure of similar programs in Oklahoma. In early May, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice and Major General Robbie Asher, Oklahoma's Adjutant General, signed a re-affirmation of their commitment to keep boots on the ground on College Hill.

OMA alumni have played a critical role in establishing scholarships and endowments that help fund the educations of these citizen-soldiers. This support includes the GOLD program endowment established by

the family of one of OMA's most decorated alumni, Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey and his widow, Dr. Raquel "Raqui" Ramsey.

The GOLD Program includes classes, leadership labs, physical training and field training exercises that train Oklahoma Army National Guard's citizen-soldiers to lead and conduct missions as Army officers. Upon completion of the GOLD Program, students attend Officer Candidate School to earn the rank of Second Lieutenant and become a commissioned officer in the Army National Guard. The RSU program started in fall 2014, and interest in the program has remained strong.

RSU GOLD PROGRAM STUDENTS COMMITTED FOR FALL 2016

Rhett Ables
Pryor, OK

Cody Blalock
Claremore, OK

Dometo N. Dometo
Enid, OK

Joshua Eldridge
Tulsa, OK

Logan Gear
Drumright, OK

Jacalyn Honeywell
Sapulpa, OK

Joshua Marsh
Bixby, OK

Brian Moran II
Blackwell, OK

Katelynd Nave
Coweta, OK

Jarimy Pisciotta
Chelsea, OK

Michael SanPedro
Tecumseh, OK

Marissa Reisen
Owasso, OK

Rowdy Sellmeyer
Oologah, OK

Aaron Waldrup
Claremore, OK

Trey Weiesnbach
Claremore, OK

OMA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR THE RSU GOLD PROGRAM



GOLD Students performing the Drill and Ceremony Exhibition at the 2016 OMA Alumni Association Reunion. Pictured: SSG Jesse Honick, Oklahoma National Guard, Joshua Marsh, 2nd row, Left to right: Joshua Eldridge, Rowdy Sellmeyer, Back row, left to right: Michael San Pedro and Aaron Waldrup. MAJ Michael Deneen, Oklahoma National Guard, in background.

We need your help with **Boots Back on the Hill** by supporting scholarship endeavors for the RSU students in the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program. The GOLD Program provides an opportunity for soldiers to attend college fulltime, attend Military Science classes, and prepare themselves for an exciting and challenging career as an Army National Guard Officer. Your generous contribution today will not only have a positive impact on a young military student, but it will also help perpetuate the OMA legacy.

If you would like to continue the OMA legacy and help with a scholarship for our RSU students in the GOLD Program, call or email Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or dboyle@rsu.edu to make a contribution.

FIRST RSU GOLD PROGRAM STUDENT COMPLETES OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL



Lt. Logan Gear

The Rogers State University GOLD program achieved another milestone this summer when Logan Gear became its first student to successfully complete the U.S. Army National Guard's Accelerated Officer Candidate School (OCS). Gear will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Oklahoma Army National Guard during a Sept. 11 ceremony in Oklahoma City.

Gear, a senior majoring in public administration from Olive, Oklahoma endured the rigorous and highly demanding eight-week accelerated Officer Candidate School during June and July at Fort Meade, South Dakota.

Accelerated OCS includes three phases. The first phase is two weeks in length

and consists of physical conditioning, land navigation training, and various other military exercises. The second phase consists of four weeks of training consisting of multiple classroom sessions, ruck marches of varying lengths, an Army Physical Fitness Test, and tactical exercises. The third and final phase is two weeks of squad, platoon, and company level tactics and exercises during which candidates are tested on their ability to lead soldiers through various training missions/scenarios. Gear said his fellow Oklahoma candidates' OCS group had a roughly 40 percent failure rate due to the program's structure, which is designed to test candidates' physical and mental preparedness with an uncertain and stressful environment.

He said the training he received from RSU's GOLD program helped give him a leg up throughout the eight-week program. "I couldn't have done this without the GOLD program, the mentorship and advice from the officers and NCOs leading the program past and present as well as the support

from the other candidates along with my friends and family, and the support from OMA Alumni. I really appreciate everything everyone has done for me and the other candidates," he said.

Gear is completing his final year at RSU and will then go through the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in order to become an engineer officer. He hopes to continue his education either in law school or by earning a graduate degree in public administration. He hopes to one day to run for public office in order to effect greater change in his community.

"I would strongly encourage students to take advantage of the GOLD program, which has excellent benefits for students who want to serve our nation and also get the benefit of a college education," he said. "It helps that the OMA Alumni are generously supporting each one of us in the program. I am thankful for all the support they've given me during my time in the RSU GOLD program."

JIM MORRISON '52 RECEIVES THE 2016 LT. GEN. WILLIAM E. POTTS AWARD



Norma Morrison, OMA Honorary Cadet, Jim Morrison '52, recipient of the 2016 Lt. Gen. William E. Potts Award, and Karen Morrison

In the early 1990s, the Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence was established to honor his status as OMA's highest ranking alumnus. The Potts Award has been presented to those whose extraordinary service has advanced the OMA Alumni Association.

Jim Morrison '52 has been instrumental in defining the OMA legacy for future generations by selflessly giving back his time and talents. From hardscrabble roots, Morrison was able to attend OMA and then flourish at the rigorously demanding school, eventually graduating from junior college in

1952. He went on to attend the University of Oklahoma on an athletic scholarship and participated in ROTC, where he was a Cadet colonel. After graduation, he served two years of active duty in the Army and served three decades with the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring as a colonel.

In his business career, he began working as an industrial engineer with Colgate Palmolive Co., and later as a sales engineer with the Universal Atlas Cement Division of United States Steel Corp., which was the first step in his long and distinguished career of owning concrete companies in Oklahoma and Kansas.

He has been passionate about continuing the OMA legacy through the work of its alumni association, serving for many years on its board of directors and faithfully participating in OMA events over the years. He was selected as an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 1990 and OMA Hall of Fame in 1996. A passionate believer in the power of education, he also has given back to OMA's legacy institutions, with service to the schools' governing boards and foundations. Morrison and his wife have established the Jim and Norma Morrison Scholarship Endowment at RSU, as well as supporting initiatives both small and large on campus, including the establishment of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's GOLD program at RSU.

Whenever there has been a need, Jim has stood on the front line, ready and willing to carry on the OMA legacy while strengthening educational opportunities for all Oklahomans.

Past recipients of the Lt. Gen. William E. Potts Award includes: Col. John E. Horne, 2007; Dr. Danette Boyle, 2007; Gene Little, 2011; Dr. Richard Mosier, 2012; and Dr. Larry Rice, 2013

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY

IMPACT OF THE OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S SUPPORT TO ME AS A STUDENT IN THE GOLD PROGRAM



Major General Michael A. Kuehr '68, US Army (Retired) presents a check to Brian Moran for his winning paper for the GOLD Program writing contest.

I consider the opportunity afforded me by the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association to be "golden" in that it launches me on a path for future success and national service. The benefits of the GOLD program are invaluable: a solid curriculum, structured activities, financial help, time conservation, emotional support, and character building experiences.

The financial help provides significant relief. The GOLD Program, my family, and the faculty of Rogers State University have assisted in paying my college expenses. Because of the generosity of the alumni, those payments have substantially decreased the amount I personally pay each semester, allowing me to focus on my studies rather than stressing about collegiate finances. I have always known the statistical fact that the majority of college students graduate in debt, but now I see it on more of a personal level. I never knew how early debt started for many students until I started researching and talking with students from multiple schools. It astonishes me to know that, without the generous funding of the GOLD Program, I would have been a part of the statistic.

Additionally, the Alumni Association and Rogers State pay for my housing, which allows me to stay on campus. For many GOLD students, including me, housing provision is a huge relief. If housing were not provided, our living situations would be much different. The housing opportunity allows for all the Soldiers in the GOLD Program to live door by door, which enables

us to build a type of family atmosphere. To be able to attend such a school as RSU and not be burdened and worried about how I will pay for classes, or stressing about where I am to live, is an undeniable relief—one for which I am eternally grateful to the OMA Alumni Association.

Along with the financial side of the program, other numerous attributes make the GOLD Program absolutely ideal. The structure of the program is ideal to fitting the college lifestyle. It allows drills to be made during a class period instead of taking away from time we have on the weekends for studying. Being a person who prefers things to be a particular way, I find the structure of the program to be extremely gratifying. This structure is also quite helpful in the sense that if I am unsure of anything, I am always able to obtain answers in an easy and timely manner. Though the program is primarily designed to help cadets obtain officer status if they so choose, it also provides a support system like no other, for we students develop a bond with one another as well as other National Guard members all across the nation. The GOLD Program has not only given me the opportunity to work toward gaining a degree in Nursing, it has provided me with connections and friendships I will cherish for years to come.

As to my needs as a student in the GOLD Program, all I would ask is continuation of the GOLD Program. The continued generosity and helpfulness from the OMA Alumni Association will enable me to reach my goal of becoming an officer in the

National Guard or going on active duty in the Army Nurse Corps. All other basic needs from the program are encompassed within the continuation of the program. I couldn't ask for more from the GOLD faculty with the opportunity to meet new people, and have continued opportunities to expand my education.

The golden opportunity I was given allows me to further my education in hopes of becoming a more helpful and admirable citizen of this great nation. I am majoring in Nursing so that I may help others and give back to society. I will persevere in this journey toward fulfillment.

On behalf of the students in the entire RSU GOLD Program, and with the utmost respect and gratitude, I sincerely thank the OMA Alumni Association for giving us opportunities which would not be available to us otherwise. It is truly an honor to be a part of a tremendous and giving program with the incredible history and legacy of providing outstanding citizens and officers. I hope to one day leave my mark on this program, as so many officers have before me. I thank you all.

— Brian Moran



OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI

Wednesday November 2, 2016
11:30 a.m.

For a special luncheon at
El Fenix

For more details, call Danette Boyle
at 918-343-6888

2016 OMA ALUMNI REUNION WAS “EXTRAORDINARY” – CONTINUED



Platform guests at the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony.



OMA Alumni Distinguished Alumni Recipients: Allen Lewis '61, Tom Murray III '57, Clark Dean Webb '61, Rob Frank '69, and Gary Easley '59.



2016 OMA Alumni Hall of Fame Recipients: Gene Little '56 and John Price accepting award for his father, Walter Edwin Price '44 (Posthumous)

RABBIT TALE

My name is Steve Smith and I attended OMA from August 1961 through May 1965 when I graduated from High School. We lived in Venezuela at the time, as my dad worked for a subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey. I had never been away from home for any length of time before I came to OMA. I was probably the most homesick kid on the Hill, to the point that it interfered with school work, eating and sleeping, and my wellbeing in general. I was struggling so much that my mom asked Col. Tanner if she could take me off the Hill for a few hours some Saturday, as she would soon be heading back to Venezuela soon, and it would be several months before they would be back for vacation. Rabbits weren't allowed off the Hill nor were they allowed to have any visitors for the first 18 weeks of school, otherwise known as "The Rabbit Period." Col. Tanner agreed that it might be a good idea for mother and son, as she

was struggling with it too. When she came to pick me up at the Guard House, and while she was waiting for me to appear, she engaged in a conversation with the OD (Officer of the Day.) Somewhere in the conversation, she asked him if all the boys got as homesick as I did. His reply was "Mrs. Smith, some boys come from better or closer homes than others, and it's natural for them to miss home." My mother was so comforted by that statement that she never forgot it. Mom died two years ago, and for 50 years, if she knew I had been back to OMA for a Reunion, she would always ask me "Did you see Randy?" She was referring to the OD that was on guard that day... Randy Vierling, Class of 1963. Mom never forgot his kindness and it proves that an act of kindness can be remembered for a lifetime.

– Steve Smith, OMA '65



Steve Smith '65

Randy Vierling '63

Announced at the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion, Steve Smith, '65 and his wife Kathy are establishing a Scholarship Endowment for the RSU GOLD Program in honor of Steve's parents, Carl and Nelda Smith.



RSU GOLD students performing as OMA Rabbits at Friday night opening reception.



First time reunion attendees, Susan Albertson and Jim Albertson '66.



OMA Alumni line up to share their favorite Rabbit Tale.



The oldest, Larry Lantow '38 (99 years old), and youngest, Larry Kelley '71, to attend the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion.



Recipients of 2016 President's Awards: David L. Morgan (receiving awards on behalf of Hap Sharp and Glenn Wright); Judy Wright, widow of Glenn Wright '53 (Posthumous); Phil Goldfarb, OMA Allumni Association President; and Jim Sharp, son of Hap Sharp'46 (Posthumous) accepting award for his father. Not pictured: Charles Emerson '56



Phil Goldfarb, OMA Alumni Association President, presents Charles Emerson '56 with the 2016 President's Award.



2016 OMA Honorary Cadets: Sue Harris, Norma Morrison, Margaret Inhofe, Charlotte Little, Frank Podpechan, First Lady Peggy Rice, Jennifer Williams, John Wooley, Ron Boyle and Michael Henry.



OMA Alumni and guests enjoying a moment on the dance floor.



Seated: Carlene Webber, Dan Duggan '53, Ann Armbruster Standing left to right: Sue Burke, Glen Burke '53, Ann Arrington, and Harry Poarch '53



Seated: Steve Smith '65, Kathy Smith, Pat Elder, Jim Elder '67, Standing: Julie Jones, B.G. Jones '64, Ida Ramsey, John Ramsey '65



First time reunion attendees, Paul Manning '58 and wife Sheila.



Phil Goldfarb, President OMA Alumni Association, receiving Gold NFL Football donated to the OMA Museum by Stewart "Smokey" Stover '56, who received this honor from the National Football League for having played in a Super Bowl in celebration of the 50th year Anniversary.



Phil Goldfarb, President OMA Alumni Association, with the Eisenhower Statue, donated to the OMA Museum by Robert L. Dean Jr. '48.



Left to right: David Oldaker '70, Kathryn Oldaker, Sam Anthony '70, Virginia Anthony, Gus Gustafson '67, Shelly Gustafson, Marlene West and LeRon West '69.



Phil Goldfarb, OMA Alumni President promoting Honorary Cadet Danette Boyle to the rank of Honorary Cadet Lt. Colonel.



Members of the Rendezvous Band play at the 2016 OMA Alumni Association Reunion dinner and dance.



John Harris, Bill Harris '54, Stephanie Harris Stevens, Kyndal Stevens, and Garvin Stevens

OMA ALUMNI, FRIENDS SHARE REUNION MEMORIES

Following the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion, we heard from many of the alumni, honorary cadets and other friends who attended the event. Below are some of the stories and memories they shared.



Members of OMA's 1960-61 First Squad, Company C: Pictured are, front row from left: Mike Koda '62, Bill Knox '61, Malcolm Branch '61; back row, Ron Sadler '62 and Bill Casey '62.

BILL CASEY '62 SHARES:

Yes, history was certainly made at this year's OMA Alumni Reunion. The first Rabbit Tales, appointment of OMA Honorary Cadets, the Grand March, the NFL Super Bowl football and such a large attendance. Wow, what a success!

For the first time ever, and after 55 years, all members of the OMA 1960/61 First Squad, Company C were re-assembled. Our Squad Sergeant, Malcolm Branch, once again led all four of us "Rabbits" through the drills and brought back good memories of many events we experienced when "We Were All Once Rabbits." We once again fit together smoothly and effectively as a team, clearly showing that our individual personalities were the same as back when "We Were All Once Rabbits."

We sure laughed a lot and having our wives join us added beauty as well as a very special dimension to our squad. They patiently endured way tooooooo.... many war stories.

This was the first time Mike Koda and Bill Knox had ever been back to Oklahoma and OMA. They were impressed with the OMA Museum and the beautiful RSU campus, emotionally moved by the KIA memorial. They were glad to see several

former classmates and very pleased that they had returned to the Hill where "We Were All Once Rabbits." This reunion was a once-in-a-lifetime memory maker in itself for our wives and all of us who "Were All Once Rabbits."

Mike came the farthest from Pennsylvania and he showed us again that he was still the best of us all at shining his brass and spit shining his shoes.

Bill and Sherri Knox drove from North Carolina. Each of them expressed several times how worthwhile and enjoyable it was for them to have come back to OMA for this year's reunion. Sherri was Knox's sweetheart when he was "Once a Rabbit" and she had previously been to OMA only once in the spring of 1961.

The OMA Alumni officers and staff made this year's reunion very successful and enjoyable for everyone and especially for our squad. Thanks for a great reunion for all of us who "Were All Once Rabbits."



Joann Cluck, June Holloway, Jane Burns, and Bonnie Gooch in front.

BONNIE GOOCH (SISTER OF MICHAEL CASEY '66, KIA) SHARES:

I want to thank Danette Boyle and her team for another fantastic "We Were All Once Rabbits" 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion! My friends Jane and June absolutely loved being there and learning about the legacy of OMA and the positive impact it had on the cadets. They were very impressed with the military displays in the museum and could feel the respect and love that had been put into the exhibits! They thought the memory case for my brother Mike Casey (OMA KIA 1966) was stunning.

The Rabbit Tales were most enjoyable and entertaining during the opening reception.

RSU GOLD military students were OUTSTANDING while performing their "Drill Exhibition." Those flags flying with the monument in the foreground were so beautiful and patriotic. The Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame ceremony is always beyond reproach. I consider it a blessing to be able to attend! Thank you! Those "Once a Rabbit" cadets are most deserving of the awards and honors bestowed upon them.

The reserved lunch table for "OMA Honorary Cadet Bonnie Gooch" and her guests was a humbling honor for me. Thank you! Recognizing the honor cadets was so special! The unveiling of the Gold NFL Super Bowl Football was exciting. That will be another treasure for the museum! The food was delicious and obvious the chef had put his special culinary skills to work! Thank you! The two cadets that sat at the table with us grew up in Venezuela. One of them asked me if I ever lived in Venezuela and I told him no, but my sister Bivra had lived there. Well, they had known her as children and had heard of my brother, Mike Casey. That was a most rewarding experience on "The Hill!"

The Saturday dinner was the perfect ending to the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion. The Grand March was very impressive. Those cadets didn't miss a beat or turn! I visualized my brother, Mike, with his sweet smile, marching and standing beside David and loving every minute of it. I so enjoyed the band's music while sitting quietly watching the young and older cadets dance! Their smiles, affection, respect and loyalty for each other were uplifting!

The reunions just get better and better! My friends told me that of all the times spent together, being there with me at the reunion was their best time ever! Thank you for giving me, my family and friends the opportunity to attend the OMA Alumni Reunions! They make my heart sing and bring tears to my eyes! What a Blessing!! Looking forward to the 2017 OMA Reunion!

GUS GUSTAFSON III '67 SHARES:

I just want to thank Danette Boyle and her team for an exciting weekend at OMA during the Cadet Alumni Reunion "On the Hill" this past June. It was so great to see and visit with many of my classmates from 1966 and 1967. We had the opportunity to attend OMA, go to class together, and play sports together, so it was nice to relive those years. The time spent with Coach Easley was really special, and he is still such a great role model! As one of our high school football coaches and history teachers, he made a positive impact on my life. Shelley, my wife, and I truly appreciate all the hard work you and the committee put forth to make our weekend such a pleasure. Things were well organized, and we enjoyed all the events.

BILL SHAFFER '65 SHARES:

I was in awe during the entire Grand March at the OMA Alumni Reunion. Being kind of the new kid on the block, with just recently returning to the Hill, this was only my third reunion. I was frankly shocked and amazed to be included in the Grand March plans. I haven't been that nervous in years. Standing next to men that I admire and respect, and a few that still terrify me a little bit, was definitely a shock to the system. To be included with them was a treat and totally undeserved. Thanks go to B.G. Jones for thinking of me when he put the Grand March together. I so regret not allowing myself to gently grow old together with these gentlemen. I didn't know what I was missing. But now that I'm back, I'm going to hang on for dear life. The Grand March is a new chapter and a new beginning for me. Thanks for making it possible.

CHARLES WILLIAMSON '58 SHARES:

I want to thank all your staff for their time and hard work making the recent OMA Alumni Reunion a success. As always, the program and events were excellent. Also, I can't believe how good the food is every year. This was my third reunion, and I was fortunate to see some of my old classmates this year. Again, thanks to everyone for preserving the traditions and memories of the Hill and OMA.

TAPS: IN MEMORY OF OMA ALUMNI RECENTLY DECEASED

– 1920s –

Edwin Adair '21,
Deceased March 8, 2016
Everett Adair '29,
Deceased March 8, 2016

– 1940s –

Warren Don Arnold '41,
Deceased September 15, 2015
John W. Boulton '42,
Deceased April 15, 2016
Moses L. Courington, Jr. '42,
Deceased January 2013*
Robert M. Dresser '40,
Deceased November 9, 2012*
Joseph R. Forner '42,
Deceased January 13, 2013*
Laddie L. Frazel '41,
Deceased December 13, 2014*
Col. Rolla E. Griffith '42,
December 28, 2015
Mr. John Scales Hardwick '43,
Deceased September 10, 2015
James W. Hubbard '43,
Deceased March 2, 2006*
Douglas R. Laubhan '49,
Deceased October 11, 2015
Granville Clark Lawrence '46,
Deceased February 21, 2016

John L. McDonald '42,
Deceased February 2016
William Barron Moody '43,
Deceased August 15, 2015
Thomas Darwin Murray '46,
Deceased August 20, 2012*

Jack Laverne Musgrove '41,
Deceased March 26, 2016
John Palmer '41,
Deceased December 2014*
Lt. Col. Walter E. Price '44,
Deceased September 11, 2015
John W. Russell '41,
Deceased December 4, 2015
William Donald Schafer '45,
Deceased April 27, 2016
John Marion Slater '45,
Deceased July 17, 2015

– 1950s –

Jim (Jimmie) Dallas Barrack '56,
Deceased July 25, 2015
Matt Braun '53,
Deceased March 21, 2016
Paul W. Chaney '52,
Deceased January 31, 2015
Frederick N. Christman '53,
Deceased August 29, 2013*
William (Bill) Collier '53,
Deceased December 3, 2015

Venson L. Gourd '59,
Deceased September 30, 2014*
Louis Douglas Halley '53,
Deceased July 20, 2015
LTC Donald Ray Hedgepath '59,
Deceased July 11, 2015
Carrol J. Jackson '50,
Deceased October 10, 2015
Donald L. Mayor '55,
Deceased July 4, 2015
James Cyril Meehan '59,
Deceased March 3, 2016
Bob Roy Miller '54,
Deceased March 20, 2016
Richard Morris '50,
Deceased April 15, 2015
Thomas E. Pafford '50,
Deceased September 2, 2015
Lewis Adelbert Rockwood '54,
Deceased August 5, 2015
Herbert N. Standeven '53,
Deceased October 22, 2015
Llewellyn (Lew) Orcutt Ward '50,
Deceased March 20, 2016
Harold E. Wardlow '58,
Deceased November 24, 2015
John M. Williamson '53,
Deceased May 20, 2016
Glenn A. Wright '53,
Deceased April 11, 2016

– 1960s –

Phillip A. Cathey '60,
Deceased May 2013*
Ralph M. Clift '63,
Deceased February 13, 2015
Lee Mark Cohen '69,
Deceased September 17, 2015
John W. Culwell '67,
Deceased March 14, 2013*
Fred L. Friend '65,
Deceased March 20, 2013*
Ralph Huchteman '66,
Deceased December 2, 2002*
Glen D. Humes '62,
Deceased October 14, 2012*
Gerald D. Lynch '67,
Deceased April 12, 2016
Patrick Kelley McNamara '65,
Deceased May 12, 2016
Michael W. Moore '69,
Deceased April 24, 2014*
Raymond Bruce Nance '60,
Deceased December 23, 2015
Sam Duane Nimmo, 1964,
Deceased June 2, 2015
Richard Lloyd Romans '61,
Deceased November 8, 2015
Steve D. Shirley '64,
Deceased May 14, 2015

Thomas Simpson '66,
Deceased June 7, 2015
Thomas Price Skeeters '62,
Deceased September 10, 2015
Dexter Allen Stone '61,
Deceased October 31, 2015
Harry Trevor Williams '66,
Deceased November 11, 2015

– 1970s –

David S. Hearon '71,
Deceased May 21, 2016
Phillip M. Suchan '70,
Deceased October 1, 2011*

– Faculty –

Bobby Gene Cone, Football
Coach,
Deceased September 6, 2015
Mike Schooling, OMA Faculty,
Deceased April 24, 2016

** Recently notified*

THE GRAND MARCH KEEPS MARCHING AFTER A 45-YEAR PAUSE



The year was 1971 when Oklahoma Military Academy closed its doors and lowered the flag to end the only state supported High School/Junior College Military School in the nation. In the legacy of every cadet who attended OMA were many ceremonies, events, and traditions all dripping with nostalgia. One such ceremony was the Grand March, which every cadet knew about and several cadets participated in as long as they were a member of the Saber and Chevron Society. Always held during the formal Military Ball, it became a rite of passage for anyone who attained the rank. Practices were held, orders were barked out to the newcomers (neophytes and cruds) assuring the commanders that no mistakes were made in the elaborate marching scheme that was the Grand March tradition. With the closing of the school in 1971, the last step of the Grand March was taken.

As the years passed and the OMA Alumni Reunion became an organized event, the topic of having a Grand March was raised during Board Meetings, but logistics and procedures always seemed to delay it for the next year. For approximately eight years, it seemed like a cause worth fighting for, but not everyone was on board with the idea. Timing always plays an important part in reviving a tradition at a reunion and the Rogers State University GOLD Program advanced the clock to a consideration of a revival. The normal logistical questions of where, how, when, music, sabers, march order, etc. were raised, but with the introduction of the GOLD Program to RSU there was a keen interest in reviving the Grand March. The idea of former OMA Cadets demonstrating to the GOLD

Program Cadets the Grand March sparked an interest and willingness not seen in those last eight years. All alumni had a story about the Grand March, even remembering the names of their dates, their rank at the time and some exclaiming that their date when they were a Cadet in the Grand March is today their wife.

As the Officer in Charge (OIC), B.G. Jones '64 had planned out and answered every possible logistical question in his mind for those eight years. The Board of Directors invited him to speak at the February 2016 meeting and they all saw the vision; OMA Alumni inviting the GOLD Program Cadets to participate in a march that was a sacred part of the OMA Cadet legacy. Individual Board members contributed, Dr. Danette Boyle offered her full support, and Alumni President Phil Goldfarb and past Alumni Presidents were "all in." Many board members volunteered and participated in an abbreviated practice (with sabers) after the 2016 OMA Alumni Reunion Saturday luncheon in the Centennial Center. No one knew how many OMA Alumni would be interested in staying for the Dinner/Dance later that night to participate in the Grand March. At first, the sign-ups were slow but the Cadre who were selected as Saber Bearers, replacement Saber Bearers, Directors, Guidon Bearer and all with dates added up to a total of 18 couples plus the GOLD Program participants (at that time there were five cadets all being single). Would these be the only marching participants? Only time would tell which Alumni would attend and who they would HONOR by marching in the Grand March (their Legacy, their family who sent them to

OMA legacy, 101 names on the OMA KIA Memorial, 10,000 Cadets who attended OMA or the GOLD Program).

The final numbers can best be stated by the attendance of the Dinner/Dance; 60 more attendees than any past Dinner/Dance. The Grand March 2016 participation numbers were 108 participants; 51 couples and 6 singles. Included in these numbers are the two GOLD Program National Guard Commanders Major Deneen and Major Reed and Dr. and Mrs. Larry Rice, RSU President and First Lady and Honorary Cadets, all whom had never participated in a Grand March. Additionally, the Decade of the 1950s had nine participants, the Decade of the 1960s had thirty-eight, and the Decade of the 1970s had two. Surprisingly, the GOLD Program had nine participants, eight with dates and one single. Seeing the GOLD Program Commanders and Cadets all in Class A uniforms fulfilled and exceeded all expectations, dreams, and visions along with a few tears shed from alumni memory bank. Former Cadets who are now in their 60s, 70s and 80s answered the Bugle Call of Reveille to assemble and take a step to set a historic record of marching in the 45-year revival of the OMA Grand March in 2016.

As an epilogue and quoting OMA Alumni President Phil Goldfarb, "we will always have a Grand March at future OMA Reunions." A CD of this historic event is available through the OMA Alumni office and the proceeds go to the GOLD Program. Also, those very few who came to the Dinner/Dance at the last minute and didn't reserve a place in the March will have an opportunity to wear your Sunday best and march in the Grand March 2017.

HISTORY OF TANKS ON THE HILL



OMA changed from a Horse Cavalry school to an Armor school during the 1946-1947 school year with the receipt of the first M24 Chaffee Tanks. In November, 1952 the M24 tanks were replaced by three M4A3 Sherman tanks. The tanks left the Hill in the fall of 1955.

The M41 Walker Bulldog light tank (also called the T-41) sat at the entrance to OMA from 1963 when it was transported to Claremore from Ft. Sill by Bill Larkin, father of Larry Larkin '66 until the school closed in 1971. Larry stated recently that the Army specifically wanted to keep the

tank on their "books" so that no one would sell it for scrap. Prior to the M41 gracing the entrance, OMA had a M4A3 Sherman Tank at the bottom of the Hill which was moved in 1963 to sit in front of the Military Department.

The M41 tank was given to the JM Davis Gun collection in Claremore in 1972. Dr. Richard Mosier, the first President of Claremore Junior College, recalls the tank being towed down Will Rogers Boulevard. The tank remained on the Ft Sill property books until 1988 (25 years) when the army officially turned over the tank to the Davis Museum.

The OMA's M4A3 Sherman tank which was in front of the military department is now located at the 45th Infantry Museum in Oklahoma City and according to the museum's curator Mike Gonzales it is: "one of the crown jewels of our WWII collection."

THE LEGACY OF SAM HOUSTON III



Sam Houston III

While there were quite a number of cadets who hailed from Texas and many of our alumni still live in Texas, most alumni do not know of the legacy that Sam Houston III had with OMA.

The first Sam Houston (1793-1863) was a General in the Texan Army, President of the Republic of Texas and helped bring the State of Texas into the United States where he was also its first Senator in 1846 and finally a Texas Governor. The city of Houston was established and named after him in 1836 and it was the first capital of Texas until 1839 when Austin became the capital.

His grandson, Sam Houston III (1892-1952) was an OMA instructor from the fall of 1930 until the spring of 1936 teaching Engineering, Mechanical Drawing and Geology. He was also the Academy's Property Custodian. In addition, the Headquarters Battery of the Oklahoma National Guard 160th Field Artillery in downtown Claremore during the early 1930's was made up of cadets from the academy and was under the command of Oklahoma National Guard 1st Lieutenant Houston.

When Houston came to OMA in 1930, he started the Polo Team. One hundred and

five cadets answered the first call of Lt. Sam Houston III for polo players which was more than any other sport at that time! While in the OKNG, Houston was promoted to Captain and built his polo team to become one of the best in the country. Many OMA Alumni recall the story of Will Rogers transporting the team (and their horses) on a train out of Claremore to Palo Alto, California to play against Stanford University where Will Rogers Jr. was attending college and on their polo team. Of course the OMA Flying Cadets won! Dr. Jesse Bushyhead, Will Rogers' cousin who was the OMA cadet physician after whom the fieldhouse is named after accompanied the cadets on the trip.

After his tenure at OMA, Sam Houston III moved to his grandfather's namesake city of Houston, Texas where he became a Civil Engineer. He died on December 12, 1952 at the age of 60 and is buried at the San Jacinto Memorial Park in Houston, Texas.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

RSU RECOMMENDED FOR FULL, ACTIVE NCAA DIVISION II MEMBERSHIP



RSU Athletics Director Ryan Erwin is interviewed by media following announcement of RSU's acceptance into NCAA Division II.

Rogers State University in mid-July received confirmation from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) that it has been recommended for full NCAA Division II membership.

RSU President Dr. Larry Rice said the move to Division II will be good for the university, its students, and the community.

"The NCAA Division II model places significant emphasis on students, including their academic achievement, personal development, and commitment to improving their communities. As a result, we can better prepare our student-athletes to leave RSU as well-rounded graduates ready pursue their next opportunities, whether it's a job within their field of study, attending graduate school, or continuing their athletic endeavors," Rice said.

The membership change will take effect Sept. 1. At that time, the Hillcats will be eligible, for the first time, to compete in NCAA-sanctioned Division II athletics postseason competition after concluding the three-year membership process.

"This is a major milestone for Rogers State University and a crowning moment of several years' worth of work from so many individuals at RSU," Erwin said. "We would not be here without the support of Dr. Larry Rice, Mr. Tom Volturo, Dr. Keith Martin, our entire athletic department, and numerous

individuals from across the RSU campus. We are excited about this new chapter in the life of Hillcat Athletics. Our student-athletes have trusted us throughout this transition and we are looking forward to watching them compete in the postseason and strive for a NCAA Division II national championship."

As a provisional member during 2015-16, RSU was required to follow all NCAA Division II legislation, including violation reporting and filing for waivers and took part in an audit of the university's compliance procedures during an on-campus visit.

RSU currently supports 12 intercollegiate programs and competes in the Heartland Conference for 10 sports, with men's and women's track and field participating in the Great American Conference as affiliate members.

For a schedule of game times, visit www.rsu.edu/athletics.