

GUIDON



OMA MUSEUM DEDICATION

PAGE 4

Photograph of
the 1919 OMA
football team in
front of Meyer
Barracks being
constructed.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ken Colley '69

To my OMA Brothers:

Excitement is building as we get closer to our OMA Alumni Reunion, September 23 and 24. The OMA Museum Renovation will be completed, and we are so excited for A New Beginning for the OMA Museum.

The OMA brotherhood is stronger than ever even with losing more and more cadets each year. Don't be that person that says "I wish I had more time with my best OMA friends". Take advantage of the time that we have to get together now and register for the reunion and even encourage people you were friends with at OMA to attend. Bring your family members to really show them the legacy that we have and are preserving of OMA every single day. The museum will be state of the art, and something that we can use to show our future generations how life was up on "The Hill" for us so many years ago.

This is a very special time to be an alumnus of the Oklahoma Military Academy. Please do not hesitate and register for the 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion. I want to welcome you to "The Hill".

With courage, loyalty, and honor,

Ken Colley
Ken Colley '69
OMA Alumni Association President

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Executive Director:
Dr. Danette Boyle,
dboyle@rsu.edu,
918-343-6888
918-381-8764

Administrative Assistant:
Bailey Thompson
bthompson@rsu.edu
918-343-6889

Editor: Dr. Danette Boyle
Assistant Editor: Bailey Thompson
Designer: Kate Northcutt
Intern: Nicholas Murphy

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

Dear OMA Alumni,

For many years now, I've been encouraging you to Report To The Hill for the annual reunion, to be one of the hundreds of former cadets from across the country – and even the world – who once again, if only for a weekend, gather at the place where so many of their memories will never die. The letters and emails and verbal comments I get each year about the reunions tell me that this time spent with fellow OMA alumni continues to be something valuable, meaningful, and good.

All of our reunions are special, of course. But I think it's safe to say that this year's event will be unlike any other in history. That's because you, as an attendee, will be among the very first to see the results of the major restoration of the OMA Museum, now a state-of-the-art facility that will keep the legacy of the academy alive and vibrant for many generations to come. The museum is full of exciting innovations and exhibits; on Friday evening, you'll be able to experience it all for yourself, even before it opens to the public. It's ours, and we'll be the first to see it.

I truly believe the grand re-opening of the OMA Museum will go a long way toward making the 2022 reunion one of the very best we have ever had. I can't wait to see all the new things inside that great old OMA building, Meyer Hall, and I hope you feel the same way.

So, I invite you to Report To The Hill once again. This time around, some great surprises, as well as some great memories, await you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danette Boyle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Danette Boyle
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

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MAJOR RENOVATION FOR “A NEW BEGINNING OF THE OMA MUSEUM” CONTINUES TO MEET SEPTEMBER DEADLINE.

There is a huge amount of excitement going on at Meyer Hall at RSU with the renovation and restoration of the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum.

Since 1984, we've been sharing OMA Alumni stories and that of thousands of other cadets through fascinating exhibits and extensive materials. In the OMA Museum, housed in Meyer Hall, the museum is a proud part of that historic building, constructed in 1919. Now it is time for: A NEW BEGINNING for the OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM to preserve and share the story of OMA.

The new museum will have two broad themes:

- “Life of a Cadet” will focus on the cadets’ experiences on campus through the decades
- “Lessons Learned for Life” will demonstrate how those daily life routines would forever guide cadets’ lives

The OMA's collections have grown and improved over a number of years, proving that many people, like you, care about OMA, and want to continue to spread those principles of honor, loyalty, discipline and teamwork.

The new museum will also include facilities for events, meetings, remote lectures and formal dinners.

There will also be space for research, staff and protected storage for archival items. We are also proud to include a tribute memorial to honor cadets killed in action defending our country.

Dr. Bob Blackburn, the son of OMA student and instructor Bob Blackburn, Sr., is leading the overall project. Retired Executive Director of the Oklahoma History Center, he is joined by Cameron Eagle, a well-known multi-media artist, and John Wooley, nationally known writer and author of *Voices from the Hill*.

The new OMA Museum is expected to be a top tourist attraction and a destination for learning, as well as conferences for people from throughout the area.

This museum will be extraordinary and is an exceptional opportunity. OMA Alumni across the nation are contributing toward our goal of \$500,000 and a \$50,000 contingency fund.

You are invited to help us complete our goal!

Thank you for your consideration. Join us today and be a part of A NEW BEGINNING of the OMA Museum.

To make a contribution, call Danette Boyle at (918) 343-6888.



Dr. Boyle and Bill Ramsay '61.



Bailey Thompson, Administrative Assistant at OMA Alumni helps inventory OMA Trophies.

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

Oklahoma Military Academy alumni and friends who have made gifts for the restoration and renovation of the OMA Museum. As of July 6, 2022.

We encourage you to join your fellow OMA Alumni by making a tax-deductible contribution to the restoration and renovation of the OMA Museum.

These gifts can also be made in honor and memory of someone. To get more information or if you have changes to be made to your name, contact Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or dboyle@rsu.edu.

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OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY *Museum* DEDICATION

Friday, September 23
Meyer Hall | 5 p.m.

LETTER FROM THE 2022 OMA ALUMNI REUNION ADJUTANT



Welcome OMA Alumni! We are so honored to be able to reunite again, after another difficult year of pandemic concerns. Together, we set an example of Courage to our fellow alumni, as well as our communities. This Loyalty, that we each have toward Oklahoma Military Academy and each other, will be demonstrated through our solemn events, as well as some frivolity, throughout the weekend. We are privileged to recognize and Honor our classmates for their leadership.

This reunion will highlight the legacy of OMA at Rogers State University and beyond, as we celebrate the reopening of our OMA Museum. Telling the stories of OMA Cadets through the decades, this modern, interactive museum is a fitting tribute, and a beacon for the future. The collections and exhibits detail the campus life and lessons learned by all of us, as we shared some of the most important times of our lives.

Your presence at this year's reunion is an important way to rekindle old friendships. It also honors your fellow attendees when you demonstrate your commitment to celebrate with us. We hope you will join us. And we know that your family and friends will also be glad that they will share this important reunion with you, and with all of us.

Welcome home brothers,
Jim Tanner '67

OMA ALUMNI 2022 HALL OF FAME AND DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES

OMA HALL OF FAME



Angel Beltran Jr., '66

By his own admission, Angel Beltran Jr. couldn't speak English when he first showed up on the Hill.

But he learned. "And quickly," he recalls with a laugh. "We did a lot of drilling at OMA, and in the beginning, I was running into everybody else. They'd turn left, and I would go right. So, what I did was memorize the commands."

It was exactly that kind of initiative that helped make Beltran not only an outstanding six-year cadet, but also an internationally known businessman and investor who owned and operated television and radio stations and helped bring one of the United States' first Spanish-language TV outlets to El Paso, Texas.

Beltran was, in fact, born in El Paso, but he grew up across the border in Juarez, Mexico. The summer of his fourteenth year, he was on vacation in Mexico City when he got a telephone call from his dad.

"I was visiting my godfather and his kids," Beltran recalls. "My father called me and said, 'You're going to military school.'" He laughs again.

"I don't know exactly why that happened, but that's how I ended up at OMA.

"My first roommate was a guy from South America – an American who spoke Spanish. He was my translator."

Although the stress of being pulled from civilian to military life was even tougher for young Beltran because of the language and cultural differences, it didn't take him long to begin to excel. By the time he was a sophomore, he'd become a member of the color guard, which led to some of his favorite OMA memories.

"Being chosen for the color guard was a great honor," he says. "We went to the New York World's Fair, opened it up, and on the way back we stopped in St. Louis. Our band played the national anthem for a game, and the color guard was right there in the middle of the football field."

Another fond memory of his OMA years was more personal. It involved a fellow cadet and a family gathering.

"We didn't do Thanksgiving in Mexico, so a guy named Delbert Crouch invited me to Buffalo, Oklahoma, in the panhandle, to spend Thanksgiving with his family," recalls Beltran. "That was one of

the biggest and most beautiful experiences I ever had – the whole family, the big table, the turkey, everybody sharing the food. And we went quail hunting in the morning.

"Today, my favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, and it all goes back to that very first Thanksgiving I had," he adds. "It was just beautiful."

Upon his graduation from junior college in 1966, Beltran returned to the city of his birth, finishing his degree at the University of Texas – El Paso and fulfilling his military obligation as a second lieutenant in the Army. During his two years of active duty, he earned a Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam.

Since then, in addition to his work in the radio and television industry and other ventures, as well as his current position as a real-estate developer, Beltran has devoted much of his time to causes he's found worthy. He has, for instance, been a vice president of the Boy Scouts of America and a board member of the El Paso Symphony. He's also been active in various benevolent organizations in Mexico, including Fundacion Integra, which helps find jobs for marginalized workers, and CONALEP, which trains people for technical jobs. One of his biggest projects was founding a Montessori school in Juarez's poorest neighborhood.

Through it all, Angel Beltran Jr. has been quick to give credit to Oklahoma Military Academy for the hall of fame direction his life has taken.

"OMA, overall, had the biggest impact on my life," he says. "I think it laid the groundwork for everything I have become. I am what I am today because of OMA – the discipline, trying to better myself, to go up in the ranks. I always had that desire to be better."

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Richard Dixon '68

Richard Dixon graduated from OMA in 1968. While there, he received numerous awards for his athletic achievements, including Tulsa World Player of the Week, Tulsa World 1st Team All-District and All-State Running Back, OMA Best All-Around Athlete, and he even qualified for the state tournament in wrestling. He gained a valuable set of skills at OMA, which helped him go on to a successful collegiate and professional career.

"There were a lot of things it prepared me for later on in life," he says. After receiving a scholarship to play Division One football for the University of Tulsa, Dixon would need all the preparation he could get.

He went through four different head coaches while at TU, which created an even greater challenge. "You had to go prove yourself every

single time you had a different coach," he says.

And that's exactly what he did. Dixon wound up starting as a defensive end, and played with future NFL Hall of Famers like Steve Largent and Drew Pearson.

In 1972, Dixon graduated TU with a BSBA in Business Marketing. From 1976 -1981, he served as Director of Alumni Relations at TU and the Tulsa Golden Hurricane Club, and then as Director of Development. Dixon found himself looking for another challenge, though. He served under great leaders during his time at OMA, and it was now his turn to take the role. "I always had a desire to have my own business," he says.

Dixon started working at Morgan Pump, a company that sold pumping units for oil wells. After watching some of the manufacturer representatives, he thought, "Hey, this is something I could do!"

Dixon and one of his business associates decided to open OPECo, which was incorporated in 1984. Despite early challenges, such as the oil crash of 1986, Dixon persevered and grew the company into a multi-million-dollar business with eight strategically located warehouses in five states. He also served several years as Chairman of the Associates Committee on the Oklahoma Gas Association board of directors.

Dixon is retired now, although he and his partner remain 50% co-

owners of the company. "I'm fully, semi-retired," he says with a laugh.

He has plenty keeping him busy, though.

For over fifteen years, Dixon and his wife mentored youth at Eugene Field Elementary and Webster Middle School. He also served as horse foreman at Tulsa Hills Youth Ranch, an organization that offers foster youth the opportunity to interact with horses and engage in other outdoor activities while learning valuable life lessons. He contributes to various missionary efforts, and he is especially interested in clean water projects.

For the past few years, Dixon has been an active member of the OMA Alumni Association. After attending the OMA 50 Year Anniversary in 2018, he decided to get more involved. "That's when I got re-energized," he says.

Dixon now meets with several OMA Alumni members on a regular basis, and he is an important contributor through donations.

"It's kind of a unique deal," he recalls, "getting in touch with those guys after 50 years."

Dixon can be found at the annual reunion golf tournaments held by the OMA Alumni Association. He also enjoys spending time at his 32-acre ranch south of Tulsa; he has three horses, three miniature donkeys, three dogs, and a cat.



J. Jay Hines '58

For J. Jay Hines, finishing his education at the Oklahoma Military Academy was an easy decision to

make. "Been in a military family, around military my whole life," he says. "My dad went in the army in WWII when I was about 3 years old, and stayed in."

In fact, his enthusiasm for service was so great that he joined the military even before attending OMA, having enlisted in the National Guard at age 15. "That's right," he laughs, "you didn't have to have a birth certificate back then!" Hines later transferred to the Army Reserve Unit on "The Hill" and was the Company Guidon.

Hines participated in many organizations while at the Oklahoma Military Academy. He was a talented tenor sax player and enjoyed playing in the various bands. In 1957, the Marching Band was selected as the official band when Oklahoma celebrated its semi-centennial, giving a concert on the south steps of the Capitol to open the 1957 Legislature. In 1959, thanks to a letter Hines wrote, the Drill Team and Marching Band were invited to participate in the Mardi Gras celebration in New Orleans. He was also in the Concert Band, Rock and Roll Band, and the Dance Band— the "Kaydets"— which played countless events on and off-campus.

While in the Glee Club, Hines recalls, he met their accompanist,

a local girl who would become his girlfriend. "I was the only rabbit with a date every Tuesday and Thursday night during CQ!"

By the time he graduated in 1958, Hines had received several awards for his accomplishments. He won the Athletic Ribbon for his involvement on the football and wrestling team, the Merit Ribbon, Band Award, Military Proficiency Ribbon, Outstanding Company, and Expert Marksman Badge and in 1969, won the rifle match between the cadets, instructors and alumni. Hines reached the rank of Corporal on the N.C.D., and his squad won Best Drill Squad of 1958.

After graduating OMA, Hines served in the Air Force as a Crew Chief on the C-124— the largest cargo plane at the time. Hines then attended Southwest Tech and surveyed and drafted for the Oklahoma City Board of Education and the State of Oklahoma Highway Department as well as flying for the highway department as an Aerial Observer and Planning Technician. The Boy Scouts of America offered him the position of District Scout Executive for Western Oklahoma, and later the Director of Community Relations in Amarillo, TX due to his experiences as a longtime volunteer leader with the BSA. Following a transfer to Amarillo, Texas, J. Jay Hines finally found the profession he would stay in for the next fifty years.

After attaining a successful professional and military career, and still in his early thirties, Hines thought he would try the transportation industry. "I wanted to

see more of this beautiful country; I had a wanderlust, so I decided to hang up my suit, put on some boots and gloves and hit the road! I have been an Owner Operator, Safety Director and Union Company Driver" The job has stuck, and over the course of his trucking career, Hines has traveled to all fifty states, several Canadian Provinces, and several Mexican states. He drives a truck to this day.

Hines has also maintained a commitment to civic duty, a commitment that extends all the way back to his childhood. He quickly became an Eagle Scout while in the Boy Scouts of America and was a Page in the 1955 State Legislator for Senator Walt Allen. The two years he spent at OMA instilled an even stronger sense of duty in him, and he has exemplified the values of courage, loyalty, and honor throughout his life.

He continues to give back to the community, he has been a member of Toastmasters International, the Lion's Club, and the Rotary Club. J. Jay is a Master Mason and member of the York Rite, Scottish Rite and Shrine. He also contributes to St. Jude's and Shriner's Hospital, which provides free healthcare services to children with various ailments. "We have twenty-two hospitals," he says, "but it doesn't cost a dime, regardless of how much the people make... there's never any charge; for braces, for surgeries, for anything, not even transportation to the hospitals."

Hines generously contributes to OMA projects and the RSU

endowment fund. In honor of his contribution for the OMA Museum renovation, he and his late wife will be recognized and honored in the conference center. He also established the J. Jay and Marlene Hines scholarship endowment for RSU GOLD students. J. Jay Hines recently lost his wife, and includes her name on everything. "Everything I do is with her by my side," he says, "my job allows me to be home everyday, so I visit her and place a fresh rose on her grave each day, 'COME RAIN OR SHINE' and I carry her photograph in my pocket every day."

Hines sums up his fondness for the OMA Alumni Association simply: "I just enjoy seeing some of the guys I used to go to school with or have known a long time, being back on our beautiful campus and just reminiscing."



Jim Tanner '67

Nestled in one of Claremore's historic neighborhoods sits a modest house where Jim Tanner has operated his law firm for over forty years. Once inside, surrounded by the ranch-style furniture and old maps and photographs of Claremore, one may start to see the significance of Tanner's practice and his involvement in the Claremore community. And if they are lucky, they'll get to meet Tanner's furry business partner, Fluffy, the affable stray cat Tanner took in. It is no

surprise that one of Claremore's most influential citizens spent his formative years at the Oklahoma Military Academy.

"It's immeasurable the things you learn to do at OMA that you don't even realize you know how to do," he says. As it would turn out, Tanner knew how to do a lot.

In 1963, he enrolled at OMA high school as a day student. Once there, he took advantage of the school's stellar music program by playing the trombone, baritone, and guitar in the various bands. He traveled with the Marching Band to countless places across the country, and he especially enjoyed the Dance Band. "It was really a lot of fun," he says.

Tanner received the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and because of his discipline and many talents, he became the Commander of the Day Students. Among his many awards, Tanner received an honorary saber for his leadership abilities.

After graduating from OMA Junior College in 1967, Tanner wanted to enlist in active military service, but he was medically disqualified. Instead, he attended OU, where he received a law degree. "The other thing about going to law school," he says, "that was probably as important as anything to me— I wanted to move back to Claremore."

Tanner's family has lived in Claremore since the early 1900s. "I

can go out to the cemetery; there's four generations of Tanners buried there."

He practiced at a small firm near the Rogers County Courthouse for several years, then, in 1981, he wanted to try starting his own practice. He also wanted to take care of his great aunt's house after she passed away. "Moving out here was a leap of faith," he says.

It paid off. Tanner practiced diverse areas of law, grew his reputation, and eventually narrowed his specialty to real estate and probate. He is a highly respected attorney, and he has even served on the City Council. And the house, the one his great aunt's husband spent so much time working on, remains in its original condition.

Tanner's true success, however, is in the enormous contributions he has made to the community. "My grandmother, who was a schoolteacher, she would drill into your head 'when you die you need to leave the world a little better than you found it.'" And he has worked diligently to do just that.

Starting in 1991, Tanner started an organization called Safenet Services, Inc, which serves victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. "We started out with nothing," he says. Tanner used his business and legal tact to secure a grant and raise funds for the organization, which resulted in the construction of a multi-million-

"I'm excited about the Reunion and the Museum Opening. It'll be the first normal reunion since COVID, and I am looking forward to seeing everything that Dr. Blackburn has in store for the museum. I am patiently waiting to see what is going on at the Museum. I didn't even know that technology like that existed until we went up and toured the Oklahoma History Center. When I saw it, I immediately recognized the value of technology to preserve the legacy of the cadets." – Jim Elder '67

dollar facility called the Donald W. Reynolds Family Safety Center. Safenet Services can now house far more people and provide even more services.

Tanner is also heavily involved with Grand Lake Mental Health, where he has been a board member for over twenty years and has even served as board president. Grand Lake Mental Health provides a variety of mental health services to the community, including counseling, medication management, crisis centers, and support groups— all at no cost to those with low income. During Tanner's time with Grand Lake, it has seen massive growth, with facilities appearing throughout Northeast Oklahoma. "If you don't take care of your mentally ill," he says, "you're not going to have a

country, you're not going to have a society if you can't tend to those people that are in need and can't help themselves."

Tanner has also generously supported the OMA Alumni Association and helped with the upcoming renovation of the OMA museum. Over the past decades, he has attended many reunions. Tanner has fond memories of OMA, like playing bridge in Thunderbird

Hall, as well as participating in the hilarious 'Gridiron' performances.

He has two daughters and three grandchildren. Tanner enjoys spending time at home with his wife, Cindy, working on old cars, and he continues to play his trombone.

As a member and supporter of the Claremore Civic Band, Tanner contributes to the community while doing something he loves. The band meets on Tuesday nights and plays concerts in Claremore throughout the summer. He was also the leader of a 12-piece dance band called J.T. and the Big Band for over 15 years.

Tanner offers a straightforward reason he is so committed to civic engagement and philanthropy. "Helping other people is important," he says. "What else are we here for?"

"Some years ago, my wife was hesitant about these "Reunion trips to 'The Hill'". It only took a couple of trips to sell her on them. She now looks forward to them as much as I do. Renewing old friendships and making new ones. Meaningful programs. Fun activities. And if you love OMA and history, the newly renovated museum is going to be fabulous." – Clark Webb '61

"I think the museum renovation is really positive for the future generations and their families. It's a place where they can go to remember OMA." – Dan Duggan '53



REPORT TO THE HILL

SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2022

CLAREMORE HOTEL INFORMATION

Please make your reservations early to ensure availability. OMA Alumni discounts may apply.

Hampton Inn & Suites

Special OMA rate - \$89.00+tax
1811 S. Scissortail Ave. Claremore,
OK
918-965-1360
www.hamptoninn.com

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Special OMA rate - \$79.00+tax
1400 W. Country Club
Claremore, OK
918-283-4877
www.holidayinnexpress.com

La Quinta Inn & Suites

Special OMA rate - \$85.00+tax
774 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd.
Claremore, OK
918-965-1877
*Rate can only be honored
through phone call.*
www.LQ.com

OMA ALUMNI REUNION SCHEDULE

September 23-24, 2022

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

8:00 a.m.

REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center

9:00 a.m.

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

Heritage Hills Golf Course 18 Hole Tournament

Shotgun Start Begins

11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Golf Lunch

Lunch is also available for alumni and guests not participating in golf.

11:30 a.m.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice

President's Residence, RSU Campus

Reservation required with maximum 40

5:00 p.m.

A New Beginning for the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum

DEDICATION

Meyer Hall

6:00 p.m.

REUNION RECEPTION AND BUFFET

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

Golf carts available to assist Alumni

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 a.m.

REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center

Coffee and pastries

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

10:00 a.m.

ALUMNI CEREMONIES

Will Rogers Auditorium

- Honoring OMA's Recently Deceased Alumni
- Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Awards
- Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence
- Color Guard presented by the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program Military Students

11:30 a.m.

ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

- Comments from Dr. Larry Rice
- OMA Perseverance Awards
- OMA Honorary Cadets and Presidents Awards Remarks & Comments by Ken Colley, Dr. Bob Blackburn and Randy Vierling

TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

Available between the Alumni Luncheon and Dinner

5:30 p.m.

RECEPTION, DINNER, GRAND MARCH AND DANCE

Featuring music by the Sweney Campbell Band

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

To Register, contact Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or dboyle@rsu.edu

RANDY VIERLING TO RECEIVE THE LT. GEN. WILLIAM E. POTTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



As a pilot, flight instructor, and accident-prevention counselor who flew commercially for decades, notably for TWA as well

as for such top-tier clients as the owner of the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder, 1963 OMA graduate Randy Vierling logged more than 27,000 accident- and incident-free hours in the air.

"I made a speech once to a group about that," he recalls with a chuckle. "And then I said, 'I wish I could look back on my life and say the same thing.'"

When he does look back, the winner of the latest Lt. General William E. Potts Award – given for extraordinary service with the OMA Alumni Association – knows that the turning point in his life came when he was sent from Oklahoma City to the Hill, where he had to take his junior year of high school over again.

"My dream was to be an airline pilot, but there was a time in my life when it didn't look likely that I'd have any kind of career at all," he recalls.

All of that changed, he adds, when he found himself on the OMA campus.

"I remember sitting in the auditorium my first night there, scared to death.

PAST RECIPIENTS FOR LT. GEN WILLIAM E. POTTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

2021

Phil Goldfarb '69

2019

Mr. Bruce Dougherty '67
(Posthumous)

Mr. James Elder '67
Col. Barry Grabel '64

2017

Lt. Col. Edwin Price Ramsey '37
(Posthumous)

2016

Jim Morrison '52

2013

Dr. Larry Rice

2012

Dr. Richard H. Mosier
President Emeritus

2011

Mr. Gene Little '56

2007

Dr. Danette Boyle
Col. John Horne '39

I didn't want to be there, but there was no place for me to go back to; my aunt and uncle had moved my mom into their home. I was sitting there in my ill-fitting fatigues, and I just said, 'God, I need your help now. I can't do this without you.'"

A few years later, Vierling was the third highest-ranking cadet on campus.

"Through the opportunities I had at OMA, I went from zero self-esteem, zero confidence, to advancing in rank each year and learning to command people," he says. "I was the assistant drill-team commander, the emcee one year for Cadet Capers – some really good positions – and having those leadership opportunities at a very young age, getting the respect of those around you, finding out they saw you as a capable person, built up my confidence and self-esteem."

From OMA, Vierling went to the University of Oklahoma and began pursuing his dream of becoming a pilot by working at Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City part-time. The money he earned paid for flying lessons. When he was proficient enough as a pilot, he became a flight instructor, and in 1969, having earned an airline transport pilot's certificate, he went to work for TWA. Although his first tenure for the company was relatively brief, while furloughed in 1970 and again in 1980, he kept busy flying for corporations and individuals until 1985, when he returned to TWA. He was eventually selected as a Captain Instructor and Check Airman. In 2002, he retired from American Airlines, which had acquired TWA a year earlier.

A longtime Board member of the OMA Alumni Association, Vierling was president in 2011, when the

group undertook work on the OMA KIA Memorial, and again in 2019, when the project was the OMA Legacy Plaza commemorating the One Hundredth year of the Academy.

"I was lucky enough to be the head of the organization while we accomplished those tasks, but it certainly was a combined effort," he notes. "None of the

projects I've worked on could've been accomplished without the cooperation of a whole lot of people. This award is the culmination of the cooperation from just about every facet of the alumni association and the Rogers State University faculty and staff. They've always been on board with any significant project the alumni association has undertaken.

"My attitude toward being selected for this award is one of great humility," he adds. "Both of those projects were ideas I conceived, and I think that's why people want to give me this honor, but I don't really feel like I deserve this. It represents the efforts of a lot of people, and that's what I want to frame it around."



1Lt. Logan Gear, Philip Alexander '67, Dan Bolt '69, Dr. Danette Boyle, President Larry Rice, Bill Ramsay '61 and SFC Ruben Gonzalez with the spring 2022 RSU GOLD students.



Pictured: Dan Bolt '69 and GOLD Student Tanner Tarent.

GOLD STUDENTS DINING OUT EVENT

On April 19, 2022, the RSU GOLD Military students had their annual Dining Out dinner and program. Dining Out is a formal dinner and program completely organized and planned by the RSU GOLD Military Students. Special guests are welcome and encouraged to attend

The event showcased some of the talents of the students in the GOLD Program. Special guests included RSU President Larry Rice and First Lady, Peggy Rice, Dr. Danette Boyle, Dr. Robert Goltra, Vice President of Student Affairs and his wife Erica, Dan Bolt, OMA class of 1969, as

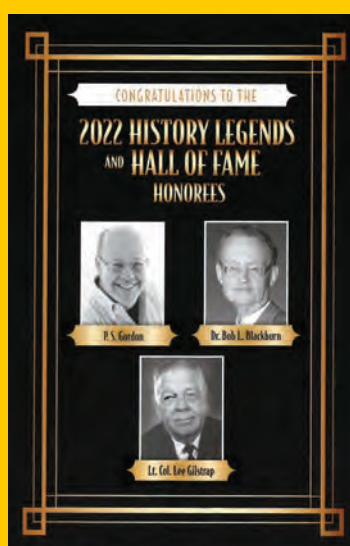
the Guest Speaker of the evening and his guests, Kathleen Cordell and daughter Lindsay Lynch, Bill Ramsay '61 and his wife, Deann, Col. Joe Daniel '69 and his wife, Susan. Philip Alexander '67 and his wife, Debbie, and Bailey Thompson.



THE LEGACY OF OMA TO RSU

Over the past six months, Dewey Wilson, OMA Class of 1966, OMA Museum Curator and Trent Siever, a 2022 Rogers State University (RSU) Graduate, in partnership with Dr. David Bath, RSU History Department, have placed Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) uniforms in various locations around the campus of RSU (Admissions Office; RSU Foundation Center; Dr. Carolyn

Taylor Center; Student Housing Office; Stratton Taylor Library; Baird Hall; Student Veterans Lounge, Health Sciences and Herrington Hall). This has been done to promote awareness to the student population of RSU that Oklahoma Military Academy formerly occupied this campus for a period of 52 years (1919-1971) and is a major part of RSUs legacy.



2022 CLAREMORE HISTORY LEGENDS AND HALL OF FAME CEREMONY INDUCTS THREE MEN WITH CLOSE TIES TO OMA

The 2022 Claremore History Legends and Hall of Fame induction ceremony was held on May 6. P.S. Gordon OMA Class of 1971, Dr. Bob Blackburn, consultant for the restoration of the OMA Museum and whose father taught at OMA, and Lt. Col. Lee Gilstrap, an instructor and coach for the Oklahoma Military Academy, were inducted.

CLAREMORE SALUTES OMA ALUMNI



Michael Casey '66



Michael Casey's Banner on Main Street in Claremore.



C.J. Masters '69



C.J. Masters banner on Main Street in Claremore.

From Memorial Day to July 4th, Claremore Main Street honored two OMA alumni: Michael Casey and C.J. Masters. They were sponsored by BancFirst and OMA Alumni Association. Every year, Main Street honors those who have served by placing banners along downtown Claremore on Will Rogers Boulevard.

Michael Casey spent much of his childhood in Sallisaw, Oklahoma. In 1962, he transferred from Sallisaw High School to Oklahoma Military Academy, where he was involved with the Marching Band, Chapel Counsel, and many other organizations. He graduated OMA in 1966, and in the summer of 1967, he enlisted for active duty in the U.S. Army Reserve. In September 1968, he began his first tour in Vietnam. Captain Casey's troop, the "Ruthless Riders," went deep into the jungle to do reconnaissance

work and launch rescue missions. He spoke passionately about the rescue missions and the deep brotherly love he held for his comrades, and he volunteered for a second assignment in Vietnam after finishing his first tour. On January 23, 1970, Captain Casey was killed while rescuing one of his comrades. During his brief military career of 27 months, he received 16 medals, including two Purple Hearts and the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action. A loyal and courageous soldier, Captain Casey was laid to rest in Sallisaw Cemetery with full military honors.

C.J. Masters, Jr., attended Oklahoma Military Academy from 1965-1969. While at OMA, he was a four-sport letterman in football, basketball, track, and golf, and he was on the Dean's Honor Roll and a member of the State Honors Society. Masters had a distinguished career

in the Army that lasted nearly forty years, where he reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His vast experience with the army included service in the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He received numerous medals including the Bronze Star and the National Defense Medal with Silver Star. On February 1, 2008, he retired from the Army. For twenty years, he also served a dual status role for the Department of the Army as a Supervisory Staff Administrator, retiring from that position on February 1, 2010. C.J. and his wife, Sara, reside in Claremore, OK. He has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Visitors can see banners of both men displayed on Main Street as we honor those that have served our country.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM MOM

BY BILL SHAFFER '65

Remembering my Mom and my Grandmothers on Mother's Day: It wasn't easy for my mom. I was, we should probably say, hard to handle. Raising me without my dad, working full-time to keep a roof over our heads, and me being the oppositional and defiant kid I was, had to be a challenge for her.

My least favorite word as a child growing up was "no". Mom said it a lot. She never, ever, caved in, no matter how much I complained, griped, cried, pouted, no matter my promises to be better, none of that worked.

She was about actions, not empty promises. She made me go to church. I didn't want to. She made me. I didn't want to go to Vacation Bible School, she made me do that too. I didn't want to. She made me go to Lutheran Confirmation Class. I didn't want to. She made me join Boy Scouts. She made me. I didn't want to.

When It reached that point where enough was enough, she made me go to the Oklahoma Military Academy. I really threw a fit about that one. What ninth grader wants to go to Military School. Six years! Now looking back on my childhood, I thank God that she never let me talk her out of the things I knew she was doing in my best interests. Children are blessed when they have a parent that looks down the road and sees where we are going when we can't see it. Moms make a difference. They guide us down the highway and don't let us go for the glitzy exit signs that call to us, distract us, and keep us from being the men and women that we could be.

She was right about everything. Except for one thing. She made me take accordion lessons. I went to see one of my best Scouts perform at a Bishop Kelly Talent Show. He was so good. He sang and played the

violin and it was so entertaining. He was so professional at such a young age, amazing. On my way home, I remembered my first recital playing "Lady of Spain" on my accordion. I think I was seven or eight years old. I was sitting on a stool in shorts. The accordion pinched my legs. I cried all the way through the stupid recital and decided that I hated Spain and everyone that lived there I demanded to quit taking lessons. Mom said no. "You finish what you start. So, go practice and don't wear shorts."

After she passed away, I put that accordion in a garage sale. But!!! For everything else, Thanks mom. To all the moms out there. Stay strong. Continue to love and guide your kids. And don't make them take accordion lessons.



GUESS THE NAMES

The first OMA Alumnus to identify all the names and call Danette Boyle in the OMA Alumni office will receive a \$25 discount on their registration or a gift from the OMA Gift Store.

OMA ALUMNI THAT GRADUATED FROM UNITED STATES SERVICE ACADEMIES

United States Military Academy West Point

Frank Ostenberg '22
David Presnell '27
Roy Mapes '31
Harold Wright '31
Joseph Perry '32
William Castle '40
Marvin Reed '40
Joseph Peddie '41
Johnny Castle '42
Guy Rogers '42
Benjamin Boyd '43
Frank Forrest '43
Harlan Koch '43
Charles Olentine '43
Keith Stidham '43
Phil McMullen '44
Walter Price '44
David Ray '44
Roger Fife '45
Robert McBride '45
Richard Hunt '46
G. E. Van Valkenburg '46
Robert Butler '47
Robert Dean '47
David Hansard '47
Jerry Ingram '47

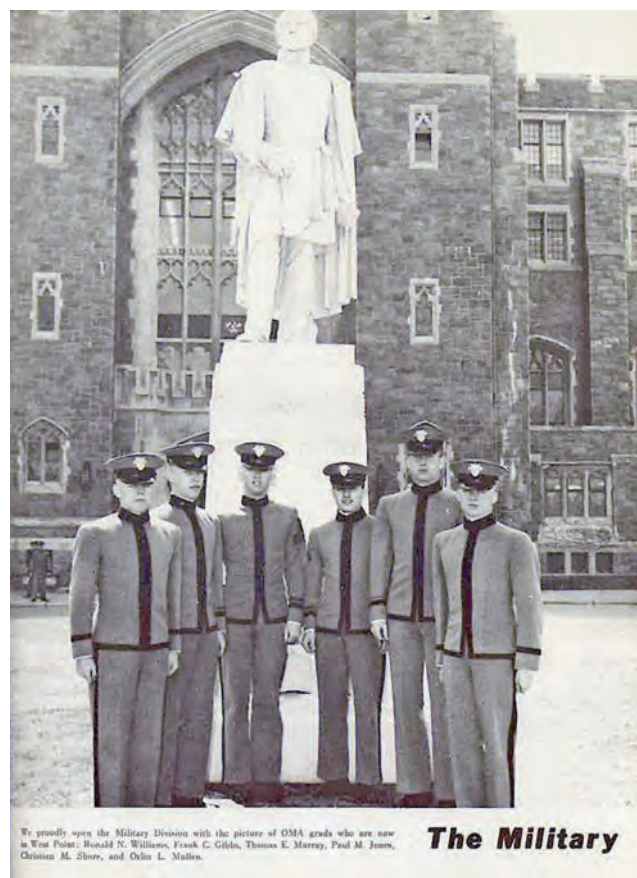
Robert Gomez '50
Austin Veatch '50
Frank Smith '52
John Smith '52
Harry Kramp '53
Paul Jones '58
Thomas Murray '58
Frank Gibbs '59
Christian Shore '60
Orlin Mullen '61
Ronald Williams '61
Jon Stallings '62
Ronnie Madera '69

United States Naval Academy Annapolis

Richard Warren '40
Lee Howard '43
Jerome Flammger '55
Robert Rvskamp '68
James Gatchell '67
George Rodgers '67
Jeffray Steelman '67
Vincent Mocini '69
Bruce Hamlin '70
David Leon '70
Guy Langley '71

United States Air Force Academy Colorado Springs

David Samuel '60
Randy Heatherington '67
James Harris '69
Ray Yagher Jr. '69
Kirk Bell '71



OMA cadets at West Point pictured left to right are Ronald N. Williams, Frank C. Gibbs, Thomas E. Murray, Paul M. Jones, Christian M. Shore, and Orlin L. Mullen.

OMA ALUMNUS RECALLS MEMORIES ABOUT THE RABBIT PERIOD

OMA Alumnus, Richard Sherer recalls memories about his recently deceased OMA friend Hal Pratt, a commander, who attended OMA Jr. College from 1958 to 1960.

Hal shared with Richard that when he was in the Navy, he was on a naval base in Cuba during the missile crisis and was serving on an aircrew. He met two army officers that were graduates of West Point.

The West Point officers became acquainted with Hal and during a conversation shared with him, "We want you to know we have all the respect in the world for you attending Oklahoma Military

Academy, The West Point of the Southwest. We have heard so much about OMA's Rabbit Period and know that it was so much more demanding than the Plebe Period at West Point. We could never have graduated if we had been required to do the same training and received the grueling treatment. We had to memorize a lot and do a lot of physical training, but it could not compare with OMA's Rabbit Period. If we had been awakened in the middle of the night when it was 10 degrees and been issued the M-1 and required to go outside in our jockstraps and boots to drill, we could not have succeeded. We honor and respect OMA so much."



THE OMA GIFT STORE OFFERS SPECIAL ITEMS TO BUY!

Pictured are some items that we offer in the OMA gift shop and that will be available at the 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion. A special item will be available at the Reunion in honor of the new OMA Museum Dedication. Look for more information soon in your email inbox.

Sign up for the Reunion now so you can have an opportunity to buy the items in the OMA Gift Store! Call Danette Boyle at (918) 343-6888 to get registered.

RSU UPDATES



Hillcats Make History, Capture First Ever National Championship

No. 5 seed Rogers State softball (58-10) capped off a storybook season with a 6-1 win over No. 8 seed Cal State Dominguez Hills (45-24) to claim their first ever NCAA Division II Softball National Championship in program history.

"There is nothing that can describe seeing our vision come to reality; it's just mind blowing," said Head Coach Andrea Vaughan. "We have been talking about this since [our team] stepped on campus last Fall. I told them then that we have had a lot of great teams come through RSU, but this team has all the pieces to go out and win a national title. Last Spring when Andrea decided to come back for her fifth year, I

knew that was our ticket to winning a national championship. [Andrea] said in a press conference at some point this postseason that this was the reason she came back. To see her accomplish everything we have been speaking over her; my heart is filled with some much joy for her. This group of seniors are a really special group. Just taking it all in is awesome."

After the Hillcats loaded the bases but couldn't push anything across in the top of the first, the Toros got on the board first in the bottom half as they lased a single off Andrea Morales' knee to get their first runner on. After loading the bases with one out, CSUDH scored the game's first run on a sacrifice fly to center to take an early 1-0 lead.

RSU responded in the fourth inning as Jaylan Gibson earned a full count walk to get things started. Callie

Yellin also reached on a free pass to put two runners on. A walk of Lana Gass loaded the bases with two outs. As she has done all season, Abbey Rogers came through in the clutch dropping a ball in left field to plate both Rebecca Bell, who pinch ran for Gibson, and Yellin to put the Hillcats in front 2-1.

The Hillcats kept the pressure on as Makayla Bowman reached on a leadoff walk. Gibson reached on a error by the third baseman that moved Marissa Smith, who pinch ran for Bowman, to third. Chelsea Spain brought in Smith with a sacrifice fly to right to push the lead to 3-1. Nicole Price scored Gibson with a RBI single through the left side of the infield to go up 4-1.

In the top of the sixth, Bridgett Morales reached on a fielder's choice. Bowman drove her in with a RBI double to right to push out to 5-1. Gibson walked and later got caught in a run down, but not before Bowman could score from third to make it 6-1.

Andrea Morales (38-4) earned the complete game win with three strikeouts and only allowing the one run. Ashley Wies (21-9) took the loss.

Andrea Morales, Abbey Rogers, Nicole Price, Kimberli Presnell and Chelsea Spain were all named to the NCAA Division II Softball Championship All-Tournament Team.



Morales Named Schutt Sports/NFCA National Pitcher of the Year

Rogers State softball's Andrea Morales has been named the Schutt Sports/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II National Pitcher of the Year by a unanimous vote, the organization announced on Thursday. She is the first player in program history to win this award.

A native of El Paso, Texas, Morales holds every major pitching record in RSU softball history. The 2022 MIAA Player of the Year finished her final campaign with a NCAA-best 38-4 record and a 1.20 ERA as well as 348 strikeouts with only 43 walks in 280.1 innings pitched. The NFCA and D2CAA First Team All-American is one of only 17 NCAA Division II pitchers in history to log 110 wins and 1,000 strikeouts and was only of two active pitchers across all levels of the NCAA (I, II, III) to accomplish this feat, joining Division I USF's Georgina Corrick.

Morales played a critical role in helping the Hillcats to their first-ever NCAA Division II Softball National Championship earlier this week. She went 4-0 in the tournament with a 2.60 ERA in 31.2 innings with four complete games in five appearances.

The Player of the Year award was created in 2015 to honor the outstanding athletic achievements among softball student-athletes throughout NCAA Division II. In 2019, the Association expanded the award to include a Player and Pitcher of the Year.

The awards are voted on by the elected members of the NFCA Division II All-American Committee with one head coach representing each of the eight NCAA regions. To be eligible, a student-athlete's head coach must be a member.

RSU Women's Golf Concludes Season With Final Round of National Championship

Rogers State women's golf closed out an excellent season with their final round at the NCAA Division II National Championship on Thursday.

"I am so proud of our ladies," said Head Coach Whitney Hocutt. "They had a successful year and should be very proud of themselves. As a coach, you just want your team to have a chance to keep playing throughout postseason. That is exactly what we had. They played a great tournament. We had some mistakes that cost us some shots yesterday and today, but overall I am so proud of the way they played and did not give up."

After 54 holes at the Par 72, 6,004 yard Chattahoochee Golf Club, the Hillcats finished in a tie for 14th after turning in a card of 925 (+61).

"I am grateful to senior Jess Green and everything she achieved during her time here at RSU," Hocutt continued. "She helped build our program and I know she will be successful with all future endeavors. With that, I am also very excited for the future. We have some great



players coming back next year, and that was demonstrated all season by their play."

Jessica Green led the team as she finished in a four-way tie for 22nd after shooting 226 (+10) for the tournament. Marelda Ayal finished in a group of seven tied at 41st with a card of 230 (+14). Kristin Gudmundsdottir finished in a group of seven tied at 52nd with a 232 (+16). Lydia Sitorus finished in a four-way tie for 78th with a 238 (+22). Jaelynn Unger rounded out the squad in a tie for 95th after shooting 248 (+32).

"This week was fantastic and one our ladies will remember for a lifetime," Hocutt concluded. "Gainesville, the University of North Georgia, the NCAA and Chattahoochee Golf Club did a phenomenal job hosting this event. We cannot say thank you enough to each of them and the volunteers who made this an incredible week. To our RSU administrators, fans, parents, and boosters thank you for your unwavering support this entire year. It means the world to us and you all helped us achieve the success we had. This made back-to-back championship appearances for us, and we are already looking forward to next year!"



RSU Hosts Boys State Delegates

Nearly 300 of the state's best and brightest young men recently gathered at its new home, Rogers State University, for American Legion Boys State. The week-long program featured lessons in patriotism, leadership, and government. Top government officials from across Oklahoma, including Gov. Kevin Stitt, addressed the delegation. Delegates also had

the opportunity to earn three hours of free concurrent college credit through RSU. The RSU Foundation paid for delegate fees incurred through enrollment in the course. Upon graduating from high school, students who complete Boys State will be eligible for tuition and housing scholarships at RSU. American Legion officials who manage Boys State praised RSU for its facilities, preparation, and hospitality, all of which contributed to a successful week.

"I'm certainly looking forward to the reunion this year. I missed it last year so looking forward to being back up there. I'm looking forward to seeing what they are doing up there at the museum." – Jim Bowman '67



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