

SUMMER 2024

COURAGE ★ LOYALTY ★ HONOR



**OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI**

**REUNION WILL BE DEDICATED TO  
LARRY RICE, PRESIDENT OF RSU (2008-2024)  
AND THE LATE FIRST LADY PEGGY RICE**



**A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ken Colley '69

In the last few days, I have found myself thinking how much I look forward to our annual Alumni Reunions. The 2024 Reunion is going to be here before we know it and I want to encourage you to start making plans to attend. I know many of you have returned to see our new OMA Museum and loved it like I do. However, some of you have not made it back yet and you are trying to decide if you can attend this year. Please start making your plans to attend. I promise you will be glad you did.

"As I walk through our OMA museum, my thoughts are of my 3.5 years being on The Hill. You and I may have had different circumstances for being at OMA, however, there is one thing we all experienced, a major change in our lives. The museum highlights our Cadets and the history made after they left The Hill.

Our museum has more than one hundred visitors each month. With Dewey Wilson serving as Curator and Carlos Galvez, Deputy Curator, being there to reflect and answer questions about our history. Our state-of-the-art museum is due to you who have provided inspiration, creation, materials, and fundraising. It is a must-see for all former Cadets.

What were you thinking the first time you drove up The Hill to your new home! Our circumstances may have been different, but our lives were fixing to be changed. At that point, we were met by the new Cadet detail who would help adapt to being a rabbit (HA HA)! As I recall the early days, I looked for Cadets I wanted to emulate. It has been 54 years since I cleaned out my room and drove down The Hill to Claremore. My 3.5 years were some of the best times of my life. I made lifetime friendships along with two close friends being killed in Vietnam.

My life was forever changed by time at Oklahoma Military Academy."

Please come home to the Reunion!!!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Colley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Ken Colley '69**

OMA Alumni Association President

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Mr. Clark Dean Webb '61

Mr. Dewey Wilson '66

Mr. Darrell Wooster '62



*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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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

## ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI:

This is an exciting time of the year as the campus prepares for new and returning students to report to "The Hill." The same thing is happening in the OMA Alumni Office as we prepare for all OMA Alumni to return to "The Hill" for the 2024 OMA Alumni Reunion September 20 and 21.

While we are sad that Dr. Larry Rice, RSU President, has retired, we are excited to dedicate the 2024 Reunion to him and to Peggy Rice, our late First Lady. To express our appreciation to them both, we have included in this Guidon on page x a special thank you letter.

I am pleased that Dr. Rice will be attending our Reunion and that we will have the opportunity to visit with him personally. As a special tribute, we would like to present to Dr. Rice your personal thank you notes along with a copy of the aforementioned letter. You can send your notes to me for presentation to him at the Saturday Alumni luncheon. See page x for specifics on preparing and delivering your notes to me. We will have a photographer ready to take your photo with Dr. Rice at the luncheon as well.

All activities planned for the Reunion are going to be fun. No more long speeches!!! On Friday evening, you will have the opportunity to tell your best story, sad or funny, about when you were at OMA and hopefully win a prize!

On Saturday evening, we are having a Western Extravaganza, one of the highlights of the Reunion. It will include special entertainment and most importantly, you can wear your best Western outfit, including boots, hat, jeans, or western dresses for the ladies. You have another chance to win a prize!!!

The best part of the Reunion may well be the food. Chef Jacob is already planning and trying out food on his new "Smoker" and Susan Hammons are planning great menus for us.

Please call, email, or text me and I will get you registered immediately!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danette Boyle". The script is fluid and cursive.

**Danette Boyle**  
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

## FEATURES

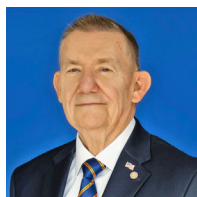
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# 2024 OMA ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



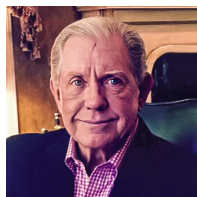
**LT. GENERAL  
WILLIAM E. POTTS  
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**  
Carlos Galvez '60



**LT. GENERAL  
WILLIAM E. POTTS  
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**  
Dewey Wilson '66



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**  
William R. Wilson (posthumous) '65



**HALL OF FAME**  
Bill Poteet '65



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**  
Wayne McCombs (posthumous) '72



**HALL OF FAME**  
Gary Good '68



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**  
Larry Fields '68



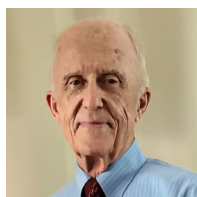
**HALL OF FAME**  
Stratford B. Duke (posthumous) '33



**DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI**  
Randy Heatherington '67



**HONORARY CADET**  
Colleen Lewis



**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**  
Clark Dean Webb '61



**HONORARY CADET**  
SFC Ruben Gonzalez



## LETTER FROM THE ADJUTANT



Bill Ramsay '61

I am honored to have been selected to be your Adjutant for the 2024 Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Reunion. We are planning a super line up of activities for this year---featuring excellent award winners and I promise the speeches will be short. Chef Jacob in RSU Food Services is already planning an extraordinary selection of food for Friday and Saturday.

One of the highlights of the Reunion will be the entertainment on Saturday evening and it will be worth your trip. Top notch country western musicians featuring Tulsa's own Mary Cogan along with her band will get your boots scootin' for sure. Yes, we are having a Western Extravaganza Saturday evening. I will be looking forward to saying a great big "Howdy" to all y'all that saddle up and head for our reunion on September 20th.

So now comes the time to plan your return to our beautiful Hill. You have been a part of the great OMA Legacy during the 52 years of the Academy, and as we age, those memories of the marches and salutes of the past may fade but they are preserved for posterity in our stunning OMA Museum.

I look forward to sharing those memories with you this fall.

See you in September.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Bill Ramsay '61**  
OMA Alumni Reunion Adjutant



### ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI

**Dr. Rice** will be attending the OMA Reunion, and we can have the opportunity to personally visit with him. As a special tribute, we plan to present to Dr. Rice the letter on page (x) and personal thank you notes from as many OMA Alumni as possible. You can email me your notes and letters of appreciation to Dr. Rice, or you can mail them to me. All of them will be placed in a special memory box and presented to Dr. Rice at the Alumni luncheon on Saturday, September 21 at the reunion.

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OMA Alumni, 1701 W. Will Rogers Blvd.  
Claremore, Oklahoma 74017

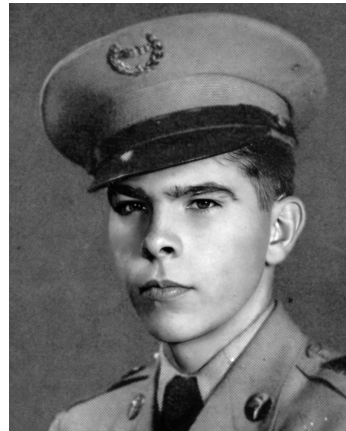
# OMA ALUMNI 90 YEARS OR OLDER



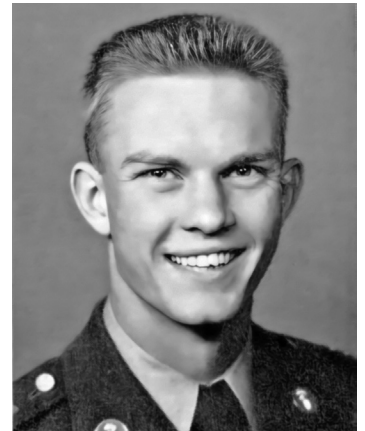
Dale Covington '54



Bud Gehrs '46



Jon G. Reading '50



Homer Hulme '51



Dr. Ted Hine '43



Bill Harris '54



Dan Duggan '53



William L. Powell '52



S.C. Wright '53



Bert Rosson '54

**Please notify the OMA Alumni Office at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu) if you know of any OMA Alumni who are 90 years old or older.**





## IN SEARCH OF MISSING KILLED IN ACTION MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The plaque on this tank, which once sat at the entrance to 'The Hill', was one of the first memorials to the OMA Killed In Action cadets. We want to find it and restore it to the Museum. If you have any information on this plaque, please email [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu) or call 918-343-6888.



## OMA REUNION WESTERN EXTRAVAGANZA SATURDAY EVENING

**FEATURING  
MARY COGAN**

***GRAB YOUR BOOTS, DON YOUR HAT & GET READY TO ROCK YOUR BEST WESTERN WEAR!***

Tulsa's longtime country-pop diva, along with popular Tulsa/Nashville singer songwriter Pat "Trick" Savage, Claremore native son Spencer Sutton, plus renown fiddle/mandolin player Ricky Morton to perform at the 2024 Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Reunion western style dinner/dance set for September 21st at 6 PM.



# HOMER HULME '51 AND THE B-47



Homer trained in the USAF to fly the B-47, a massive Bomber plane with 6 Jet engines. He served in the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War. He was part of the lead crew, L-71, that was one of the top four crews in the squadron.

The B-47 was the most innovative plane ever. It was the first plane to have sweptback wings and jet engines.

For more information, contact Danette Boyle at the OMA Alumni office at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu), 918-343-6888 or 918-381-8764

## ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI

*We are missing yearbooks from the following years:*

**1919 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1926**

*Please notify Danette Boyle in the OMA Alumni Office  
if you know where any of these can be found.*

[dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu) | 918-381-8764 | 918-343-6888



## OMA ALUMNUS, OSAGE MASTER LANGUAGE TEACHER RETURNS TO HIS ROOTS ON THE HILL

Loyalty. Integrity. Honesty.

These were the character traits taught to the young cadets of the Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore.

On June 13, one of the OMA's former cadets – Herman Mongrain Lookout – returned to the Hill to reflect on the lessons learned that shaped him into the man he became. He was a cadet at OMA from 1959 to 1961.

Lookout, one of the last remaining full bloods of the Osage Nation, took those lessons learned and honored his past, and his culture, by being instrumental in preserving the Osage language.

Lookout's father taught him how to pray in Osage, but it was harder for him to learn conversational Osage, in part because there was no existing orthography, or conventional spelling system for the language.

"They would say, 'Just write it down the way you hear it,' which I did, but when I got home, I couldn't read it," he said. Lookout then spent the next 40 years learning and teaching the Osage language, including developing an Osage orthography, which laid the groundwork for the Osage people and other Native nations to strengthen their culture and sovereignty, preserving their identity through their language.

Lookout was the Kansas State University Language Department's first director, leading the team which developed the Osage orthography, and worked with Google to transform the orthography into Unicode, making it possible for Osages everywhere to write the orthography on any digital platform. Even as Lookout has left a legacy with the preservation of his past through the Osage language, he said he's "humbled" to return to Claremore to visit the OMA Museum which has preserved another aspect of his past.

*Hi Danette,*

*I am excited to be attending the OMA Reunion this year! The gathering of the fellow cadets I know and the ones before and after my time on the hill brings back many great memories. The Reunion gives me time to reflect back on how much being an OMA cadet shaped my life. It is also a time to see the great progress RSU is making now and for the future. I look forward to seeing the former cadets, Danette and the RSU staff!*

**Jim Bowman**  
Class of 1967



# LT. GENERAL WILLIAM POTTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

CARLOS GALVEZ, Class of '60



Nearly 65 years after he graduated from OMA, Guatemala native and former cadet Carlos Galvez can still be found on the Hill, helping educate new generations about the lasting legacy of his alma mater.

"Carlos is the deputy curator of the OMA museum, and since its refurbishing and reopening in September 2022, he's been

up there every week, talking to visitors and taking them through the museum," says Dr. Danette Boyle, executive director of the OMA Alumni Association. "As word gets around, traffic continues to increase, and that has a lot to do with Carlos and his devotion to the museum."

Galvez's position as deputy curator is simply the latest chapter in a life that has been devoted not only to spreading the word about OMA, but also to helping others. A veteran of the pipeline-construction industry, Galvez traveled the world overseeing major projects for nearly a half-century, always finding time for such public-service efforts as the creation of a welding school in Nigeria and the support of an orphanage in Bolivia.

"Poverty and substandard conditions are rampant in Third World countries," Galvez notes. "To remedy some of these deficiencies, we were instrumental in constructing water systems to serve small villages. [We] created local trade schools, and on many occasions assisted the local schools in obtaining supplies. Functioning in these types of surroundings is often not easy but can be quite rewarding when others benefit from your efforts."

Galvez ended up at OMA after being sent to the U.S. from

his home country at the age of seven. He came to America at such a young age because of his father, a successful Guatemalan dealer of American cars.

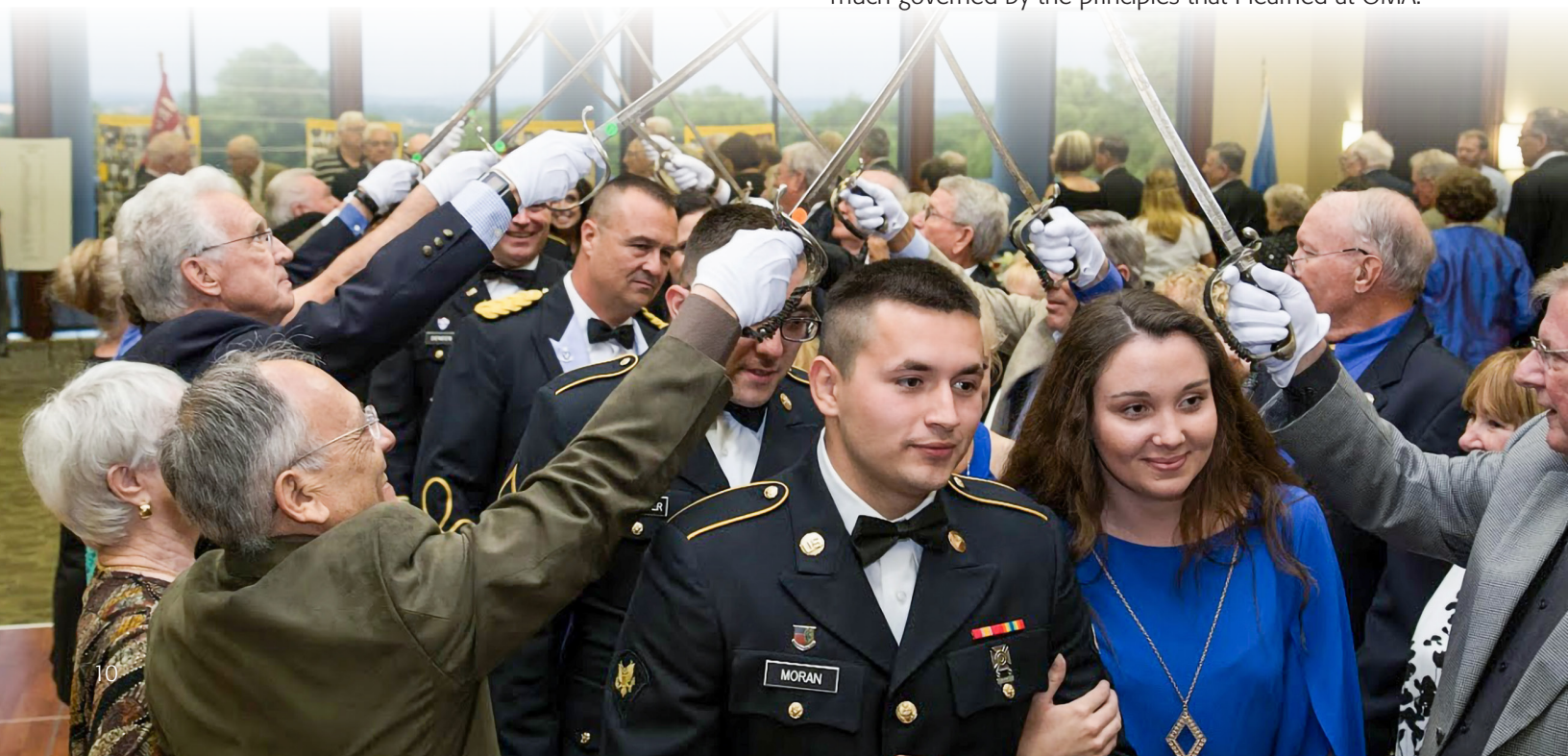
"One of the elite things in a country like Guatemala was the ability to send your children abroad," he explains. "That was a big plus. And because of the automobile connections he had with Detroit and the like, he met a lot of people who recommended schools."

Starting at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Muskogee, young Galvez continued his education at the Ponca Military Academy in Ponca City and Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Mo. When he arrived on the Hill just prior to his senior year of high school, he knew it was where he belonged. "I found," he says, "that OMA was the place I wanted to graduate from."

He did, and a couple of years later, served a six-year stretch in the Marine Corps, prior to receiving a degree in business administration from the University of Tulsa. From there, he launched the career that took him to the corners of the earth. And while he could have certainly been considered a citizen of the world during that time, he chose to become an American citizen, which he calls "an epic moment" in his life.

Once back in the U.S., he continued his public-service work, rising to the rank of commander in the Tulsa Auxiliary Police, coaching and mentoring students, raising funds for his church, serving on the board of the OMA Alumni Association, and, currently, holding his position of museum deputy curator.

For Galvez, the continued association with the school on the Hill seems fitting. "Everything I've done in my lifetime, everything I've tried to do in my lifetime," he says, "is pretty much governed by the principles that I learned at OMA."





# LT. GENERAL WILLIAM POTTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

DEWEY WILSON, Class of '66



It has been nearly a decade since Dewey Wilson was approached by his fellow OMA alumnus Phil Goldfarb about volunteering in the museum. Since then, the museum has undergone a major renovation, becoming one of northeastern Oklahoma's newest tourist attractions – and Wilson, as OMA Museum Curator, has been on board

to make sure that visitors get all of their questions answered and leave both enlightened and educated about his alma mater's historical importance.

"This school, Oklahoma Military Academy, is a big part of Oklahoma history," he says. "A big part. Fifty-two years and 10,000 men. People need to know that. A lot of great people came through there, people greater than me. A lot of guys who came through there did great things."

Wilson's done some pretty impressive things himself. After leaving junior college at OMA, he went into the Air Force, where he served a four-year stint, got out, and decided to re-enlist.

"When I went back in, I had a goal of making master sergeant," he recalls. "I set that goal, and I made it in 14 years."

Although he would long have loved military history, it was just after his retirement from the service that he took the step that would ultimately lead to his association with the OMA museum.

"I was in AWACS at Tinker Air Force Base my last six years in the Air Force, and right after I retired, I got together with some guys who were doing military living history, where you dress up in period uniforms and present yourselves to the

public," he says. "I kind of came up with the idea of forming a World War II color guard, and when the 45th Infantry Division Museum had ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, we'd all wear the World War II combat uniform for Europe, like the 45th wore, and do a color-guard presentation."

The group also displayed military memorabilia in different locations around Oklahoma City, another foreshadowing of Wilson's upcoming involvement with OMA's museum.

After graduating from Oklahoma City University, where he received the school's Distinguished Achievement Award, Wilson came to northeastern Oklahoma and worked in the purchasing department for Tulsa County. Upon his retirement from that job, he continued to pursue his love of military history, which now finds expression in his role of deputy curator for OMA's museum.

"Dewey and Deputy Curator Carlos Galvez have done so much to help raise awareness of the museum," says OMA Alumni Association executive director Dr. Danette Boyle. "I know that Dewey has a real respect for our museum; it shows in all that he does as the curator."

"We've had a lot of tourists come through," adds Wilson. "We have been giving tours to all kinds of groups. There is a program now at RSU called University Experience, and through it we have given tours to freshmen who are just coming in. We tell them about the legacy of OMA, and how it relates to RSU."

It is a job Wilson continues to relish.

"I want this museum to be great," he says. "And it is."





# THANK YOU TO LARRY RICE, PRESIDENT OF RSU (2008-2024) AND THE LATE FIRST LADY PEGGY RICE















Dear Dr. Rice,

On behalf of the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, we want to formally thank you for all you have done to strengthen the bonds between Rogers State University and its predecessor, OMA. From the time you assumed RSU's presidency in 2008, you showed a deep understanding of and unfailing support for this unique relationship between an institution of the past and an institution of the present, both facing the future together as partners.

Three years after you assumed the presidency, you helped ensure that the memorial to OMA cadets who had been killed in action would become a striking, sobering, and important new addition to the RSU campus. A decade ago, you were also instrumental in the launch of "Boots Back on the Hill," joining with the Oklahoma National Guard in bringing GOLD (the Guard Officer Leadership Program) to Rogers State. And more recently, you were an enthusiastic supporter of the refurbished OMA Museum, which has become a first-class tourist attraction on campus as well as a celebration of the lives lived, and lessons learned at the West Point of the Southwest.

Your unwavering support for Oklahoma Military Academy and its former cadets is, we believe, a major reason that OMA alumni have contributed millions of dollars for scholarship endowments and capital projects on campus, including the extensive renovation of the museum.

These words cannot adequately convey our deep appreciation and gratitude for all you have done for us, but we hope they help you understand just what you have meant to us over the preceding 16 years.

Sincerely,

*Ken Colley*

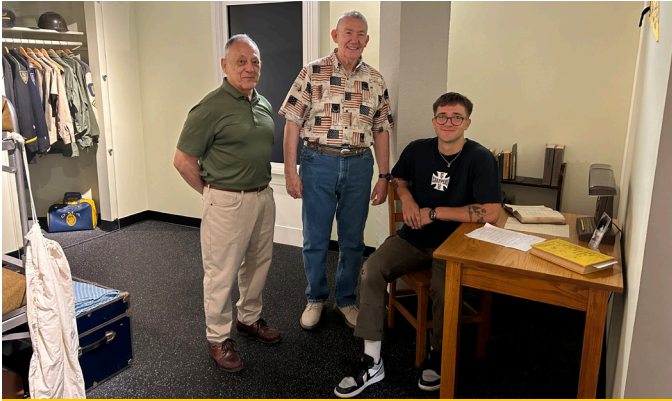
**Ken Colley**  
OMA Alumni Association President

*Danette Boyle*

**Danette Boyle**  
Executive Director, OMA Alumni Association



# OMA MUSEUM VISITORS



Carlos Galvez, Dewey Wilson and Brodie Patrick (GOLD Student)



First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow



NJROTC



RSU University Experience Class



## COMMENTS FROM OMA CONFERENCE ROOM VISITORS

*"Thank you so much for letting the Will Rogers Memorial Foundation use the Board Room. It is excellent!"*

– Tad Jones  
Executive Director at Will Rogers  
Memorial Museum

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*"Very nice. So glad this museum continues to be a part of RSU."*

– Terry Chase

---

*"Excellent! Thank you for having the Will Rogers Memorial Foundation hold our Board Meeting here."*

– Bill Biard  
President of Will Rogers  
Memorial Foundation

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**To reserve the conference room, schedule a tour or for questions please contact:**

Danette Boyle | 918-343-6888 | [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu)  
Regina Terherst | 918-343-6889 | [rterherst@rsu.edu](mailto:rterherst@rsu.edu)



# OMA MUSEUM VISITORS



Dewey Wilson, Melanie Kerr, Dexter Bolin, Sam McPherson, Lang Woods, Tina Kilmer and Carlos Galvez



Larry O'Mealey, Wife and Grandsons



Rogers County Literacy Group Tour



Trandy Birch, Danette Boyle and Bryan Frazier



*Dear Danette,*

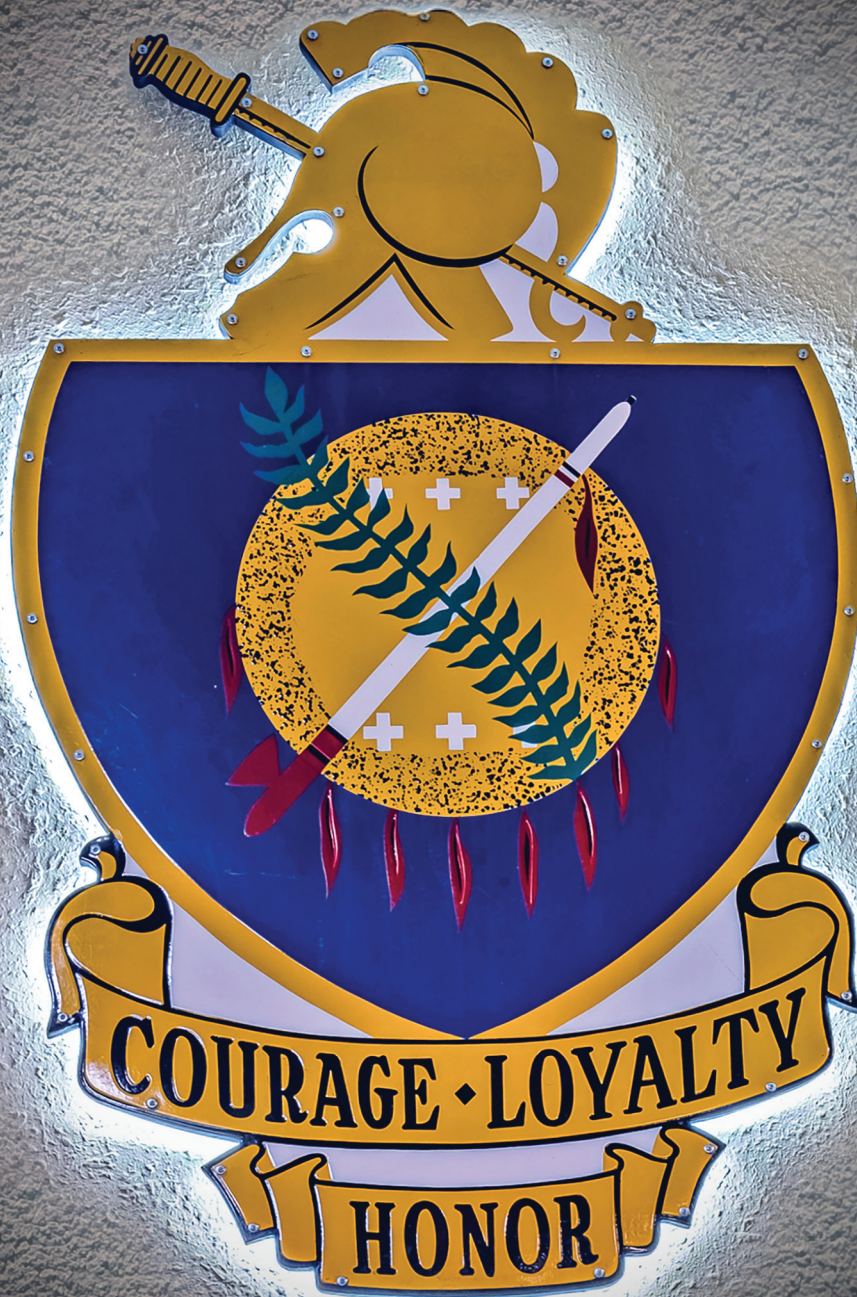
*Redding RW 1444 here in Pleasant Hill, CA. I know you all will have a wonderful reunion and we are all so lucky to have your leadership. I am in a time in my life that requires me to look after my wife Joan. I am grateful for all the trips that we were able to take in the past 42 years! If you talk to anyone from 1966-67-68, tell them "Hi" from me. I am still awaiting the prize for identification of Dean Consparis.*

**Ron Redding**  
Class of 1968



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# OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION



## SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024

ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY | 1701 W. WILL ROGERS BLVD. | CLAREMORE, OK 74017



# 2024 OMA ALUMNI REUNION SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**8:00 a.m.**

### **REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN**

Meyer Hall, OMA Museum

**9:00 a.m.**

### **OMA ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC**

Heritage Hills Golf Course 18 Hole Tournament

**9:00 a.m. Shotgun Start Begins**

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

### **GOLF LUNCH**

Lunch is available at Heritage Hills for golfers and Alumni and guests not participating in golf. Lunch is also available on campus at Chapman Dining Hall.

**11:30 a.m.**

### **LADIES' LUNCHEON**

In Honor and Memory of the Late First Lady Peggy Rice  
OMA Museum Conference Room  
Reservation required with maximum 60

**1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

### **HORSESHOES COMPETITION**

In front of Meyer Hall  
Hosted by GOLD students.  
Prizes will be given.

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

### **RSU PROFESSOR CURTIS SPARLING DRONE AND ROBOTICS PRESENTATION**

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Lobby

**5:30 p.m.**

### **REUNION RECEPTION AND BUFFET**

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom  
Open Mic: "Stories from the Hill"  
Share your memories and win prizes.

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**8:00 a.m.**

### **REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN**

Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum  
Coffee and pastries

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

### **VISITING AND REMINISCING IN THE OMA MUSEUM**

OMA Yearbooks and Guidons will be available to view.

**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 and Comments by the OMA Alumni President, Ken Colley and 2024 Reunion Adjutant Bill Ramsay

### **RELAXING IN THE NEW OMA MUSEUM**

Available between the Alumni Luncheon and Dinner

**5:30 p.m.**

### **RECEPTION, DINNER, GRAND MARCH AND DANCE**

- Country western theme
- Line dancing
- Music provided by the Mary Cogan Band
- Prizes for best dressed

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

## CLAREMORE HOTEL INFORMATION | Please make your reservations early to ensure availability.

### **Hampton Inn & Suites**

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

### **La Quinta Inn & Suites**

Special OMA rate - \$89.00+tax  
774 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd. Claremore, OK  
918-965-1877

# BOYS STATE AT RSU ON MEMORIAL DAY



**Rogers State University hosts 2024 American Boys State May 25 – June 1, 2024, including more than 400 young men! On Memorial Day, OMA Alumnus, Dewey Wilson, Class of 1966, participated in a wreath laying ceremony at the OMA Killed in Action Memorial on the RSU Campus.**

Boys State is a non-partisan weeklong intensive leadership development program. Hundreds of young men from across the state participate each year. Participants are selected by their local American Legion post and include high school students who have completed their junior year or senior year and are judged as representing the best of their community. Through concurrent enrollment, students in the program earn college credit during the program. Upon graduating from high school, students who complete Boys State will be eligible for tuition and housing scholarships at RSU.



# RSU GOLD STUDENTS ANNUAL TRAINING 2024



## RSU GOLD STUDENTS SPRING SEMESTER 2024

### PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Jaret Burney - Miami, OK  
Blake Novar - Owasso, OK

### DEAN'S HONOR ROLL

Taiwo Ayodele - Owasso, OK  
David Defranc-Ponce - Elk City, OK  
Shailey Evans - Sallisaw, OK  
Chelsea Fivekiller - Wylie, TX



# DR. MARK RASOR NAMED INTERIM PRESIDENT OF ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY



The governing board of Rogers State University has stated its intent to appoint Dr. Mark Rasor as the school's interim president, pending final approval at its June meeting.

A native of Miami, Rasor currently serves as vice president for administration and finance at RSU and will begin his new duties July 4.

"The Board of Regents has great trust and confidence in Dr. Rasor's ability to lead Rogers State University through this interim period," said Eric Stevenson, chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. "His leadership as a vice president has significantly contributed to the success of the University. The Regents look forward to working with him in advancing the forward momentum of RSU."

Rasor came to RSU in January 2020 and played an immediate role in the institution's pandemic response. As the chief financial officer, he led efforts to find efficiencies and strengthen the school's financial position. Most recently he has been the driving force in strengthening RSU's enrollment management efforts.

His long-standing relationship with the leadership of Oklahoma's American Legion Boys State was key in the group's decision to move the event to RSU. Rasor also serves as the university's representative to the board of directors of the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce.

"I look forward to serving the Board of Regents and Rogers State University in this new capacity," Rasor said. "Dr. Larry Rice and First Lady Peggy Rice have positioned RSU to make great strides in the near future. We have incredible students, staff, faculty and alumni, and I am eager to work with all of our partners to position RSU as the first-choice university in northeast Oklahoma."

Before coming to RSU, Rasor spent 11 years at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, including seven years as Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. He also served seven months as interim president.

Rasor also has 25 years of private sector experience in accounting and management and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Rasor holds a doctorate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a master's degree from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Baylor University.

Rasor will serve in the top leadership post at RSU following the retirement of Dr. Larry Rice.

"Dr. Rasor is an excellent choice by the Regents to serve in this role," Rice said. "He has been a valued and trusted member of the cabinet and has fully invested himself in the success of RSU. He has a full understanding of RSU's role in our campus communities, its history, and its role in serving the state."

Rasor will serve in the interim role as the Regents conduct a search for RSU's next permanent president.

## IMPORTANT REUNION NOTE:

***Dr. Mark Rasor, RSU Interim President will be attending the OMA Reunion September 20 and 21.***

***Please come and meet Dr. Rasor.***





## CHEROKEE NATION MAKES MAJOR INVESTMENT IN PROPOSED RSU STEM CENTER

The Cherokee Nation is committing up to \$4 million to the Rogers State University Foundation in funding to support the construction of the proposed Center for Science and Technology on the RSU campus in Claremore. The 52,000 facility will feature laboratory, classroom and office space for various science and technology related degree programs.

Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation Chuck Hoskin, Jr., RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, and Susan Kirtley, executive director of the RSU Foundation, signed a memorandum of understanding May 1 outlining the gift agreement.

This investment by the Cherokee Nation represents the largest single gift in the history of the Foundation and begins the effort to secure private funding to support the construction of the facility.

"The partnership between the Cherokee Nation and Rogers State University is long standing and this investment will have a transformational impact on our ability to educate future generations for the high-demand careers of tomorrow," said Dr. Larry Rice, RSU president.

As part of the memorandum, the RSU Foundation will provide privately funded scholarship assistance to Cherokee Nation citizens accepted into RSU's nursing program for a period of 10 years.

Chief Hoskin said the collaboration will ensure students are well prepared to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in critical new health, technology and other science fields.

"Today's agreement and gift of up to \$4 million toward construction of a state-of-the-art STEM education facility will create new pathways for students to pursue careers in health and allied health fields and bring new opportunities for all students, including Cherokee citizens," Chief Hoskin said. "This collaboration will ensure students are well-prepared to meet the growing demand for skilled professionals in these critical areas as well as serve Cherokees pursuing degrees in nursing."

## STATE INVESTMENT GIVES BIG BOOST TO RSU'S PROPOSED NEW STEM FACILITY

The goal of building a new Center for Science and Technology at Rogers State University took a big step closer to reality June 14 when House Bill 2928 was signed into law, appropriating \$10 million of state funds to the project.

A new facility to house RSU's growing science, technology and engineering programs has been needed to replace the current Loshbaugh Hall. Built in 1955, it is no longer large enough to accommodate enrollment and is plagued with a number of structural and maintenance issues.

After two years of advocacy, the legislature agreed to help fund the project. The process began in the Senate, where Sen. Ally Seifried of Claremore, vice chair of the Senate Education Committee, and a member of the Senate Appropriations Education Subcommittee, worked the entire session to gather support of committee leadership and members through a thorough and public Senate budget process.

"Nothing is easy at the State Capitol, especially when we are talking about dedicating large amounts of money to a certain project," Sen. Seifried said. "However, in keeping with Oklahoma's continued efforts to grow opportunities for students in STEM-related fields, I deeply believe in the worthiness of this project. This new science and technology building will help students learn and become fully equipped to meet the workforce demands of the future."

Paired with the \$4 million gift made earlier this spring by the Cherokee Nation, \$14 million of the \$30 million anticipated for construction is in hand. RSU officials plan to ask its Board of Regents for permission to issue bonds to help pay for the facility.

However, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice said an additional \$4 to \$5 million in private support is needed to fund the project.

"We have funding plan in place that called for \$8 to \$9 million of private investment," Rice said. "The gift from the Cherokee Nation gets us about halfway home. Working through the RSU Foundation, we're in a race to move forward with the construction process. We still need help."





**ROGERS STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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