

WINTER 2022

COURAGE ★ LOYALTY ★ HONOR

# GUIDON



OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM



1910s Uniform



1910s Uniform

THIS EXHIBIT  
COURTESY OF  
P. MALISHENKO,  
MAJ GEN USAF (ret)

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ken Colley '69

To my OMA Brothers:

This year's OMA Alumni reunion was wonderful as always. Thank you for coming from places all around the world to reconnect with former classmates and rekindle memories from the past. It was wonderful to see friends from previous years, those who I see daily and those who have been missed for years on the hill.

One of the most valuable lessons that I learned while at OMA was the idea of perseverance during hardship - and with the stresses of these past couple of years, that lesson has been put to the test time and time again. With COVID causing delays to advancements at the university and halting the progression of our 2020 reunion, it shows great perseverance and strength that we have all managed to survive and even thrive during these trying times. That is why it is so great to see all of you, and I look forward to seeing all of you next year at the 2023 reunion.

Those of you who were there this year were able to see that the much anticipated OMA museum has finished being renovated. It is a state-of-the-art facility that captures the lifeblood of not only military service, but of the OMA as well. It features interactive exhibits and a high-tech conference room, which will insure the legacy of this great institution for years to come. This is something that brings me great pride, and I am certain you share in this regard.

With courage, loyalty, and honor,

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

Ken Colley '69  
OMA Alumni Association President

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

Dear OMA Alumni,

I want to extend a sincere thank you to all of you that were in attendance for the OMA Alumni Reunion September 23 and 24. Your efforts resulted in a fantastic turnout for the reunion and to see firsthand the new OMA Museum, it is even better than we could have envisioned. I have a unique appreciation for each one of you and your dedication to continuously supporting the OMA Alumni Association and Rogers State University. Thank you for traveling from all over the United States to reconnect with former classmates and rekindle memories. Each reunion, I am reminded how time spent with the OMA Alumni is something valuable, meaningful, and good.

Very importantly, I want to thank all of you that contributed to the renovation costs for the new OMA Museum. Your contributions were gratefully received and deeply appreciated. Many people are making their way to "The Hill" to see the valuable stories the OMA Museum holds. We are hosting groups such as freshmen orientation, faculty groups, OMA Alumni, guests from our Claremore community and Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt selected the new OMA Museum to sign a bill approved by the Oklahoma Legislature to provide more funding for all college students that are in the Oklahoma National Guard. Our RSU GOLD students will benefit from this new assistance.

I also want to thank you for your generosity for your scholarships for the Guard Officers Leadership Development (GOLD) Program and our named scholarship endowments. We have a really great group of students this year.

Congratulations again to our 2022 OMA Alumni Honorees. We have a very impressive group. I have included the list again on page four.

Thank you so much for your wonderful support and interest. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you at the next OMA reunion in 2023. The OMA Alumni Association is very important!

Sincerely,

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

Danette Boyle  
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

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## FEATURES

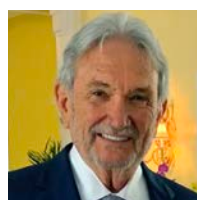
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## 2022 OMA ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



**LT. GENERAL  
WILLIAM E. POTTS  
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**  
Randy Vierling '63



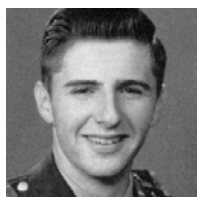
**OMA HALL OF FAME**  
Angel Beltran '66



**OMA PERSEVERANCE  
AWARD**  
Willis Hardwick '56



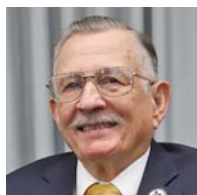
**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**  
Bonnie Gooch  
- OMA Honorary Cadet



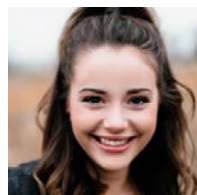
**OMA PERSEVERANCE  
AWARD**  
Hugh Miller '53



**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**  
Mickey Mills '61



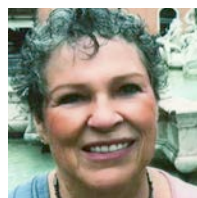
**DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI**  
J. Jay Hines '58



**OMA HONORARY  
CADET**  
Alyssa Cravens



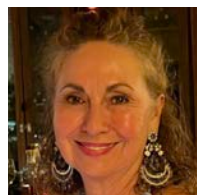
**DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI**  
Jim Tanner '67



**OMA HONORARY  
CADET**  
Sandy McMenamy



**DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI**  
Richard Dixon '68



**OMA HONORARY  
CADET**  
Rosalia Beltran

# IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION

Oklahoma Military Academy alumni and friends who have made gifts as of November 1, 2022 for the restoration and renovation of the OMA Museum.

Philip and Debbie Alexander	Richard Gatlin	Courtney LeVinus (Capitol Consulting LLC)	Ronald Redding
Tom and Kathy Andrews	Bud Gehrs Jr.	- In honor of Lt. Col. Lee & Doris Gilstrap	Pat Reeder
Ann Armbruster	Jim George	Allen and Colleen Lewis	Frank Robson
Mark Asbell	W. Hays and Suzanne Gilstrap	Ronald Lewis	John Ross
Van and Pat Barber	- In honor of Lt. Col. Lee & Doris Gilstrap	John and Kathy Lingenfelter	Bert Rosson
Angel and Rosalia Beltran	Fred Glassco	Carol Little	Wash Rushing
Dan Bernardy	Phil and Lisa Goldfarb	Jerry Long	Ron Sadler
Dr. Harvey Blumenthal	Pete and Debbie Goltra	Grady Lowrey, Military Order of Purple Hearts, Tulsa Chapter	Patrick Sells
Jim Bowman	Ron and Bonnie Gooch	T. P. Malishenko, Maj Gen, USAF (ret)	- In honor of John Helbing
Danette and Ron Boyle	Gary Good	Rep. Steve Martin	Bill Shaffer
Dorothy Bruffett	Barry Grabel	C.J. and Sara Masters	Norman Shaw
Robert Buchanan	Gus and Shelley Gustafson	Maurice Masterson	Richard Sherer
Col. Charles Bullock	Roy Hancock	Mike Mayfield	Lee and Patti Shero
David Carney	Tom Hanna	Curtis and Sandra McMenamy	Jack Short
Gary Carpenter	Randy and Sherrie Haralson	Hugh Miller	Kenneth Smith
Mark and Julie Colasacco	Willis and Jean Hardwick	Michael (Mickey) Mills	Steve and Kathy Smith
- In honor of Lt. Col. Lee & Doris Gilstrap	Tom Hargis	Vincent Mocini	Jack and Mary Lee Spinks
Ken and Lynn Colley	- In honor of John Helbing	Joyce & Bill Moore	- In honor of Lt. Col. Lee & Doris Gilstrap
Drs. James and Kathy Cooper	Bill and Sue Harris	Craig and Laura Morgan	Dan and Linda Stowers
Art and Sylvia Couch	Jerry Harwell	Jim and Norma Morrison	Jim and Cindy Tanner
JD and Suzy Cribbs	Linda Harwell	Doug Mosier	Charles Taylor
Col. Joe and Susan Daniel	John and Mary Helbing	Dr. Richard and Mary Mosier	Tom Thomas
William J. Daugherty	Randy Hetherington	Vernon Mudd	Charles Toegel
Richard and Gayla Dixon	Don Hill	Thomas Murray	Randy Vierling
Suzanne Dodson	Jane Hill	David Oldaker (Bettie L Oldaker Trust)	Tom & Andrea Volturo
Allan Dolman	Carolyn Hinch	Harry Poarch	Dr. Ronald Wallis
Curtis and Rebecca Drake	- In honor of John Hinch	Edward Poole	Wilbur Walls
Dan Duggan	Dr. Ted Hine	William (Bill) and Margaret Poteet	Clark and Terry Webb
Jim and Pat Elder	J. Jay Hines	Bill and Deann Ramsay	Dr. James M. Whiteneck
Mark Engskov	Col. Roy H. Hinman II, M.D.	John & Ida Ramsey	Binx Wilkinson
Dave and Mary Faulkner	Harry Hoyt	Dr. Raquel Ramsey	Fred Williams
- In honor of Col. John Horne	John P. Iglehart	- In honor of Lt. Col Edwin P. Ramsey	Dewey and Nona Wilson
Larry Fields	Darrell Jenkins	David Raper	Darrell and Judy Wooster
Rob and Vickie Fisher	Vernon and Julie Jones		Don Woffard
Andy Floyd	E.W. Keller		Robert (Bob) Wright
Van Foutch	Ronald Knellinger		S.C and Carmelita Wright
David and Susan Gallman	Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Mike and Wanda Kuehr		
Carlos Galvez	Frank Landrum		
- In honor of Julie Galvez			





## NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS TRACE HISTORY OF THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY



*The 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion was just great. I graduated in 1964 and it has been important for me to keep in touch with several of my former classmates. It means a lot to me. I was so pleased to see OMA alumnus Angel Beltran receive the Hall of Fame Award. And the new OMA Museum was better than I could have imagined. I really liked the Cadet Room.*

– Jim Elder '67

The Oklahoma Military Academy Museum recently reopened with all-new exhibits on the campus of Rogers State University in Claremore.

"For the last four decades, we have been collecting artifacts, photographs, and stories that capture the history of the Oklahoma Military Academy," said Dr. Danette Boyle, director of the museum. "Now, through the efforts of alumni, university leaders, and a talented team of museum consultants, we have first-class exhibits that honor that story in a fascinating, engaging way."

The Oklahoma Military Academy (OMA) was founded as a state assisted military boarding school in 1919. Until conversion to a junior college in 1971, OMA changed the lives of more than 10,000 cadets who learned the lessons of discipline, teamwork, and personal responsibility. The motto of OMA, "Courage, Loyalty, and Honor," captured the spirit of the school.

The exhibits fill almost 4,000 square feet of space on the second floor of Meyer Hall, the first building constructed for OMA in 1919 and now the administration building for Rogers State

University. One gallery features a short video history of OMA with seating in the front half of a World War II-era Jeep and a touch-screen video experience with biographical information about OMA cadets and leaders.

The main gallery, where most of the artifacts are woven into the story, includes three "experiential" exhibits that take visitors back in time. One is a reproduction of a cadet's room with a life-sized, video-generated cadet describing life at a military academy. Another is a Sibley Bell tent where the first cadets lived in 1919.





A gallery featuring a short video history of OMA with seating in the front half of a World War II-era Jeep and a touch-screen video experience with biographical information about OMA cadets and leaders.



*I really thought the new OMA Museum was great. It will attract a lot of tourists, hometown friends from Claremore and much wider audiences once people find out about it.*

– Richard Dixon, '68



A reproduction of a cadet's room with a life-sized, video-generated cadet describing life at a military academy.



A scaled reproduction of a Stearman 75 biplane that was used at OMA in the 1930s to train pilots and mechanics.

A third room features a scaled reproduction of a Stearman 75 biplane that was used at OMA in the 1930s to train pilots and mechanics. Visitors sit on the lower wing and experience a close-up, wide screen video presentation of a Stearman taking off, doing a roll and spin, and landing on a grass runway. Visitors with queasy stomachs are warned to close their eyes during the roll and spin.

Bill Ramsay, an OMA alumnus and chairman of the Museum Committee, said it was a total team effort raising money, developing a design, and completing the half-a-million dollar project in less than 18 months.

"I want to thank Dr. Boyle for her vision and coordination, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice for his commitment of space and resources, and Oklahoma historian Dr. Bob Blackburn, our museum consultant, who contracted with the right people to create a new museum that will engage people in a creative way."

"Most of all," he added, "I want to tip my hat to the OMA alumni who donated money and time to make this transformation a reality. OMA changed their lives, and now they have helped change the story of that experience."



# NEW OMA MUSEUM PHOTOS





## NEW OMA MUSEUM PHOTOS





# OMA ALUMNI SALUTE DOUG MOSIER

OMA Honorary Cadet



*I am thankful to have been able to attend the 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion. It was such an honor to receive the Perseverance Award and to stay in the OMA House on the RSU campus. The new OMA Museum is memorable and will project well into the future.*

– Hugh Miller, '63

When Claremore cattleman Doug Mosier starts ticking off a list of his friends and acquaintances who went to OMA, it doesn't take long to see that this is a man whose ties to the Hill are strong, deep, and lasting. In fact, Doug began forging those connections a half-century ago, when, as a boy just entering his teens, he arrived on campus with the rest of his family. They were there because Doug's father, Dr. Richard Mosier, had been hired as the first president of Claremore Junior College, the successor institution to OMA.

Coming in from Kansas, where his father had been Colby Community College's president, Doug simply hadn't heard much about the school once known as the West Point of the Southwest.

"I just knew that it was here," he says. "That's it. I did not know anything about it."

However, it didn't take him long to learn. One of the first friends he made on campus, Dr. Danette Boyle, was at the time the new college's director of counseling. Within a couple of years, she would become the on-campus

connection to the newly formed OMA Alumni Association, a position she has held ever since. Thanks to Dr. Boyle and others, Doug found out a great deal about the people who'd populated the Hill in the decades before he'd arrived, as well as their traditions, challenges, and successes in the world beyond. From the beginning, he and his family began attending OMA alumni reunions, where he learned even more, straight from the attendees themselves. Within the space of a few years, a lot of former cadets were looking forward to seeing the welcoming Doug Mosier whenever each reunion rolled around.

"I think the thing I admire and respect and love about Doug the most is how he's reached out to the alumni," says Dr. Boyle. "Unless they're out of town, he and his family come to every reunion. And Doug reaches out and asks where the attendees are from and tells them how glad we are to have them back on campus. I've heard Doug go up and say, many times, 'Thank you for caring, and thank you for being a part of this.'"

"Doug has spent more time on this campus than any other person, except maybe for Dr. Mosier," she adds. "He went to school here for years. He'd come by and visit, and he'd say things like, 'Danette, I know you're getting ready to have the reunion. Is there anything I can do to help?' He's been a huge volunteer, and he has commitment. You couldn't ask for any honorary cadet to display the OMA characteristics of courage, loyalty, and honor better than Doug Mosier."

Doug had been set to become an Honorary OMA Cadet in 2020, but the pandemic delayed the ceremony. So it wasn't until last year's reunion that it became official. No matter when it came, though, it's clear that the designation is something very special to him, reflecting that longtime link he has with so many former cadets.

"They've always made me feel like I'm a part of them," Doug says. "So this award makes me very proud."

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OMA ALUMNI REUNION | SEPT. 22-23, 2023

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT DR. DANETTE BOYLE**

**DBOYLE@RSU.EDU | 918-343-6888 (OFFICE) | 918-381-8764 (CELL)**







## HISTORY OF THE SAM BROWNE BELT

By Phil Goldfarb



Where did the term Sam Browne come from? The Sam Browne is a leather belt with a supporting strap that passes over the right shoulder, worn by military and police officers and was named after General Sir Samuel J. Browne (1824–1901), the British Indian Army general who invented it.

Browne began his service in India in April 1849 as Second in Command of the 2nd Regiment of the Punjab Cavalry,

the unit which also later took his name (22nd Sam Browne's Cavalry). On 31 August 1858, at Seerporah, India, Browne silenced a field gun, single-handedly, which blocked the advance but during the fighting he received two sword cuts, one on the knee, and the other on the left shoulder which cut off his arm. This made it difficult for him to draw his sword, because the left hand was typically used to steady the scabbard while the right drew out the sword. Because of this action, he was a recipient of the Victoria Cross, the most prestigious award for gallantry in combat that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

Browne came up with the idea of wearing a second belt that went over his right shoulder to hold the scabbard steady. This would hook into a waist belt with D-rings for attaching accessories. It also securely carried a pistol in a flap-holster on his right hip and included a binocular case with a neck-strap. Other officers began wearing a similar rig and eventually, it became part of the standard uniform.

During World War I, the Sam Browne belt was approved by General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, for wear by American officers as a rank distinction. The United States Army mandated the Sam Browne belt for overseas soldiers in 1918 under the name "Liberty belt" and for all service members in 1921, this time under the internationally accepted name "Sam Browne belt." It was a standard part of the uniform between World War I and World War II but was limited in use in 1940 when the Army abandoned sabers.

Oklahoma Military Academy cadet officers first began wearing the Sam Browne belt and carrying sabers in the school year 1923-1924 when OMA changed from the West Point type of uniform to a more modern uniform. OMA officers wore the Sam Browne along with their sabers until 1971 when the school closed.



*The GOLD program has been a wonderful opportunity to grow as a leader and develop skills to be a successful officer in the Army. I cannot thank enough for the generosity of the alumni, since I would not be here if it weren't for them. It is a privilege to be apart of the legacy of the OMA, and be able to mingle with them and understand the history of this university at the reunion. I have throughly enjoyed my time in the program, and look forward towards the future.*

– Carlson  
RSU Gold student







*I have the deepest gratitude for both the GOLD Program and the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association. The GOLD Program has paved a path for me to further and enhance my career in the Oklahoma Army National Guard and has developed my leadership skills that I can one day use in my civilian career as well. The OMA Alumni Association has allowed me to maintain my college status without the extra burden of finances and debt. The yearly OMA reunion allows for me to give back and give thanks to those who have made my college dream possible and I enjoyed meeting those who served our nation. I appreciate all that the GOLD Program and OMA have done for me.*

– Tairent  
RSU Gold student



*I am so thankful to be here on the hill striving towards my goals and having the chance to develop my leadership skills with my peers and under the tutelage of our Captain who completed the program himself. Being able to meet OMA members at the reunion was especially important for me because it cements those traditions that make our military brotherhood special. It was nice to learn and take part in the Grand March.*

– Fivekiller  
RSU Gold student



# 2022 LADIES LUNCHEON REUNION PHOTOS





# 2022 LADIES LUNCHEON REUNION PHOTOS





# OMA ALUMNUS LIFE LESSONS

Courage, Loyalty and Honor for Life



Col. Roy H. Hinman II, M.D. is the founder of Island Doctors. ([www.islanddoctors.com](http://www.islanddoctors.com)) He opened his first office in 1991 on Anastasia Island in St. Augustine, Florida. Island Doctors has grown to employ more than 450 people, working in over 54 wholly owned offices throughout the state of Florida. Dr. Hinman still personally

oversees operations while also seeing patients in various offices.

Dr. Hinman was raised in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Military Academy class of 1971, received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Tulsa University, and his master's degree in human resource management from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. He completed medical school at Universidad Tecnológica de Santiago in Santo Domingo, the Dominican Republic. He served his family practice residency with the University of Florida, Medical Program at the University Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida and worked as an emergency room physician at Bradford County Hospital in Starke, Florida and at Ed Fraser Memorial Hospital in Macclenny, Florida.

Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Armored Cavalry in 1975 at Oklahoma State University, Colonel Hinman ultimately retired from the U.S. Army Reserve in 2014 as a Medical Corps officer, after 37 years of military duty in the United States, Germany, Korea, Kuwait, Nicaragua, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Iraq where he served three combat tours. He also served as the Territorial Surgeon of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dr. Hinman is board-certified in family practice and is a member of the Florida Medical Association, the American Association of Family Practitioners, the Florida Association of Family Practitioners, the St. Johns County Medical Society, and the American Academy of Anti-Aging. He has full Family Practice admitting privileges at Flagler Hospital in St. Augustine, Florida, where he has been an active staff member since 1991. In his spare time, he enjoys scuba diving, hunting, fishing, and military training.



## LESSONS LEARNED ON 'THE HILL'

My best recollection is of Michael Schooling, who was my chemistry instructor both in high school and college. Do I tell this story? Well, I was standing by the urinal, I finished my business and started to leave, and Schooling said to me "Hinman, what the hell are you doing? NEVER walk away from a urinal that's unflushed! I don't ever want to see you do that again." I never paid attention to that before, but it changed my life. (Dr. Hinman laughs) What I learned is that some of the small things we don't think about are really important in life.

But seriously, what I learned at OMA was the sheer discipline to get things done, no matter how long it takes, even if it was polishing my boots for 24 hours for inspection, because at the time, inspection was a life-or-death matter. The ability to ignore fatigue, irritation, the desire to do other things, to finish the task at hand, and to make things happen.

Coach Schmidt, who was an athletic coach and instructor, was a great inspiration to me because he did not pigeonhole cadets based on groups or abilities. He treated everyone as individuals and he always called out excellence, whenever and wherever he saw it, through public recognition. It's a great motivator of success.

*I was so glad to be at this year's past reunion. I cannot find adequate words to describe the wonderful work you and your team of students did this year; EVERY year. I've never been to our reunion two years in a row, I'm looking forward to it. I just cannot find adequate words to describe the wonderful things you and the RSU students do for us cadets.*

– David M. Carney, Lance Corporal, OMA Cadet, Alpha Company





## NEWS YOU CAN USE: WHAT'S NEW IN RSU ACADEMIC AFFAIRS?

This fall RSU launched its second cohort in the new Master of Science in Community Counseling program with 36 total majors preparing to sit for their Licensed Professional Counselor exam after graduation. The program offers internships at area mental health agencies and centers, providing Northeast Oklahoma with needed resources for healthy living. Together with the online MBA program, RSU has enrolled 110 graduate students in fall 2022 and is planning for new opportunities to meet community needs.

During RSU's most recent academic year, 610 baccalaureate and associate degree students graduated. Seventy-four percent graduated with a baccalaureate degree, and 98 of these were nursing majors, helping to close an occupational gap in our region.



RSU faculty seek out opportunities to involve our learners in scholarly research. **Dr. Min Seo** has been awarded a US Department of Energy grant to study unitary qubit lattice algorithms for plasma physics connecting two undergraduate students in this quantum information science research.

**Dr. Jin Soe** was awarded an Oklahoma INBRE grant connecting metabolism and immunity as well as an Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) grant studying obesity control.



**Dr. Mark Peaden** is completing work with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to study desert tortoise populations, and **Professor Curtis Sparling** offered an unmanned aircraft systems (drones) workshop for area Girl Scouts during summer 2022. During the first half of the



fall 2022 semester, eight faculty were awarded Organized Research grants to present scholarly research ranging from exploring college students' experiences via journey mapping to Photovoice Project Works with participants involved with Volunteers for Youth services and community interaction.





# OMA'S ENDURING LEGACY



**MICHAEL KUEHR**

**Major General, USA (retired)**

**OMA Class of 1968**

This September 23, 2022, at our OMA Alumni Association Reunion, we dedicated the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum, another important part of our legacy. The new museum is a multi-functional state of the art museum of which we can all be very proud. The creation of a first-class museum has always been a focal point of the alumni and considered a vital part in telling the OMA story.

In the challenging past years, efforts to bring the museum to fruition have been in earnest. Our alumni have supported the effort magnificently, whether by monetary contributions, artifact donations, or provision of labor to get exhibits and space ready. The many tireless hours of hard work, planning, and leadership of the OMA Alumni Association's Board of Directors and that of Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle were instrumental in keeping the project on plan and within budget. Without their efforts, we would not have today's quality museum. Many thanks are also due to Dr. Bob Blackburn, our museum project consultant, for his superb professional acumen, experience, vision, and leadership in steering us through the many unknowns in creating an outstanding museum. Bob has a unique connection to OMA in that (as some of you may remember) his father Bob Blackburn, Sr. was an OMA history professor for many years.

Our new museum was not solely a product of a dedicated alumni association, but it was also the product of a total community team effort by Rogers State University, led by its president, Dr. Larry Rice, who provided sage advice and unwavering support. Without RSU leadership's support, our task would have been far more difficult. The wide spectrum of support also included the RSU Foundation and the Rogers State University Physical Plant Department, led by Karl Reynolds in providing steadfast construction, printing, and administrative assistance.

As we know, there are many types of historical legacies. Some legacies consist of accidental or unplanned remainders, ones either good or bad. Those often result in vague or inaccurate stories which rarely come close to telling accurate histories; latter day historians or pundits are left to fill in the blanks, often leading to credibility problems and a diminution of legacy value. That is certainly not the story of the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum.

In our museum, stories are comprised of 52 years of separate stories of the more than 10,000 students who attended OMA. Our museum depicts what it meant to be an OMA

Cadet regardless of the length of time spent, the historical period, or our personal or shared experiences at OMA.

Key among our various stories is how we all were instilled with the school motto of Courage, Loyalty, and Honor as it applies to our country and ourselves. We learned many things, academically, militarily, and personally:

- That being pushed to do your very best means you can accomplish anything;
- That responsibility goes down the chain of command as well as up, as do loyalty and respect; and
- That leadership can be taught as well as bearing, discipline, and honor.

My OMA experience helped shape who I am both personally and professionally and I am grateful for that on an almost daily basis. I often wish others had similar opportunities to learn about shared dependence, loyalty, responsibility to and for others, mutual respect, and honor, and about the power of appealing to the best of what is in us and not to the worst. The principles taught at OMA are not always evident in our country today. We have seen firsthand the dangerousness and societal regression that results from the divisiveness, hostility, and selfishness on display daily by some who perceive themselves to be leaders. OMA had it right then, and, I believe our museum has it right now.

The more we understand the meaning of the past, the more we understand how to win the future. Our museum will illuminate our heritage so that others can see our legacy and however small the glimpse, be inspired by their visit. Our museum allows all of us to connect and be forever tied to those who came before us and to serve as an example for those who come after us.

A new beginning of the OMA Museum is only one of the many significant achievements of the Alumni Association. Over the years, we have also established the OMA KIA memorial, steadfastly supported the RSU GOLD Scholarship Program, sponsored the Vietnam War Memorial (The Wall That Heals), the OMA Commemorative Stones project, a host of quality alumni reunions, established many scholarship endowments totaling millions of dollars and carried on the OMA traditions even longer than OMA existed. I know of no other academic institution that can make that claim.

Our deepest gratitude to everybody who was involved in this great museum undertaking and making possible another special day and yet one more OMA Alumni Association success story and milestone.





## RSU RECOGNIZED IN LATEST U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT RANKINGS

A combination of quality academics, affordability and accessibility placed Rogers State University among the top regional colleges in the western United States in this year's U.S. News and World Report college rankings released.

RSU was ranked No. 14 in the Regional Colleges category and ranked No. 6 among the Top Public Schools in the west.

The western United States grouping consists of 15 states, including Oklahoma, Texas and California.

"Our position in these rankings is continued validation of our focus of offering quality academic programs that lead to jobs while maintaining affordability," said President Dr. Larry Rice. "I am particularly proud of being recognized for value and for serving a significant number of students with financial need."

RSU also was recognized at No. 4 as a Best Value School. The calculation used considers a school's academic quality, as indicated by its U.S. News ranking, and the 2021-2022 net cost of attendance for an out-of-state student who received the average level of need-based financial aid. Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included because U.S. News considers the most significant values to be among colleges that are above average academically.

RSU ranked No. 34 in Advancing Social Mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded with Pell Grants. Most of these federal grants are awarded to students whose adjusted gross family incomes are under \$50,000.

A complete listing of U.S. News and World Report's rankings of regional colleges in the west is available at <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/regional-colleges-west>.

## ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

OMA alumni appreciate the personal connection with their fellow cadets, with the OMA Alumni Association, with Rogers State University, RSU faculty, staff and students. The generosity of the OMA alumni means so much to the Alumni Association and to the university.

As we get closer to the end of the year, alumni have been asking what are the year end priorities? Many want to give to the greatest need of the Association.

This year funds are needed for the operations of the OMA Alumni Association and for scholarships for RSU students. Rogers State University provides support for the OMA Alumni Office and activities, but more funds are needed now for the alumni expenses. Our RSU students need assistance so they will not need to take out as many loans for tuition, fees, and books.

**One top scholarship priority is to establish a scholarship endowment. Here is how it works:**

- A gift of \$25,000 will establish a named endowment. This may be a one-time gift or paid over a period of years.
- Your gift creates the endowment fund that remains permanently intact and is carefully managed by the RSU Foundation.
- A portion of the earnings is used to assist RSU students with tuition and fees, while another portion is reinvested to increase the principal balance of your endowment.
- Your named endowment continually grows over time and provides scholarships to generations of students.
- Your named endowment will establish a permanent legacy for you or your loved ones or a beloved teacher or coach from OMA.

**Please consider making a year end gift. We make it simple:**

Call Dr. Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or 918-381-8764 or email her at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu). Danette will assist you in the process of sending a check, using your credit card, or giving stocks, bonds, or other securities.

**Or just make a check payable to the RSU Foundation and mail to the attention of:**

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



# LETTER FROM HONORARY CADET BONNIE GOOCH



## Attention:

RSU President, Dr. Larry Rice  
Dr. Danette Boyle, Executive Director  
OMA Alumni Association  
OMA Board of Directors

Thank you for the unexpected honor of being selected to receive the impressive President's Award during the 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion. I am very appreciative to those of you that thought I was deserving of it. The Casey family and I treasure your kind words. The framed certificate given to me will be displayed in my home with great pride.

We also thank everyone that gave hours of time, efforts, and talent to make the magnificent new beginning of the OMA Museum possible. WOW! What a project of Labor and Love! It portrays a complete condensed history of OMA, the "The West Point of the Southwest," appealing to our senses of

seeing and hearing. The walls coordinated colors, photos, videos, and the Cadets displays are beautiful and educational! Captain Casey's touching "lessons Learned at OMA" exhibit and military display are stunning. Our hearts skipped a beat when we saw them, so strikingly patriotic! They honor the OMA Cadets that served in Vietnam and Killed in Action. A heartfelt thanks from all five members of my extended family who were present.

The highlight of the year is the OMA Alumni Association Reunion on the beautiful patriotic campus of Rogers State University. Your efforts that made it an outstanding reunion are appreciated. The Casey family is grateful to be a part of the OMA Alumni Association!

Sincerely,

**Honorary Cadet Bonnie Gooch**

Sister of OMA Alumnus Mike Casey, Killed in Action in Vietnam







## ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### OMA Alumni,

Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of you that were in attendance at the 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion Sept. 23 and 24. Based on comments, the reunion turned out really well and the new OMA Museum is just FABULOUS! It really is great and better than we could have ever envisioned.

We are starting to host groups to see the New Museum. On the day I wrote this note, we hosted an RSU Freshman Orientation class here and OMA Curator Dewey Wilson, class of 1966, guided the tour.

Very importantly, I want to thank all of you that contributed to the renovation of the OMA Museum. Your contributions were gratefully received and deeply appreciated.

I have recently received several inquiries from alumni asking if you could still contribute to the Museum and yes you can. We are going to continue improving the museum and building our endowment for the Museum. The Museum Endowment is a permanent fund we will always have and it will generate earnings each year to help with ongoing expenses. Of course, RSU helps us a great deal with utilities, staff, supplies and other operational costs.

I also want to thank you for your generosity for the scholarships for the Guardian Officers Leadership Development (GOLD) Program. We have a really great group of students this year. They volunteered at the reunion and were the leaders of the Grand March at the dinner Saturday night. You will be hearing more about these students and seeing information on them in the next Guidon.

I apologize for the confusion this year about how to make out the checks you send for the reunion or for contributions. Our banks and auditors are requiring all checks be made payable to the Rogers State University Foundation.

Please note on the check the OMA project you are supporting.

**Please remember you can always email me at [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu) or call me at 918-343-6888 or 918-381-8764 if you have any questions or need any assistance.**

– Danette Boyle

Executive Director OMA Alumni Association



# 2022 OMA REUNION PHOTOS





# 2022 OMA REUNION PHOTOS







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