


GUIDON



GREAT STORIES FROM OMA ALUMNI
PAGE 6



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Mr. Randy Vierling

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Who could have possibly imagined just a few months ago that we would be living in a time where the normal things that we take for granted would be totally eradicated? We have been invaded by an enemy we cannot even see, and it has totally disrupted our lives; and most likely has changed many aspects of our lives in the future. (Who knows? Maybe a crisp salute will replace the handshake at our next reunion. It worked pretty good in years past.) One of the most disruptive things for OMA Alumni is the inability to have our annual Reunion this year.

The board of directors realize that the opportunity to come together and celebrate our friendships and memories grow more precious each year. We, as Americans and OMA Alumni, are very resilient and we will emerge from this situation stronger and more optimistic about the future than ever. As a matter of fact, we are already planning a "Blowout 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion" that will be second to none, and I believe it will be one of the biggest, fun and most well attended reunions in the history of the association. So, get ready!

The OMA Alumni Board of Directors and the newly appointed OMA museum legacy committee have begun plans to place what we believe will be the crown jewel in the legacy of the OMA Alumni Association. Over the years we have completed many significant projects together including an OMA book, documentary film, the OMA KIA Memorial, THE WALL THAT HEALS, and the OMA Legacy Plaza. We have also established many scholarship endowments for deserving students and partnered with Rogers State University to establish the GOLD Program and bring Boots Back on the Hill. We believe the restoration of the OMA Museum will be one of the most important we have ever undertaken.

Quite honestly, for our Museum to remain relevant after the last one of us is gone and for it to continue to tell the OMA story for generations to come, it will need some renovation and upgrading. This will involve hiring a professional museum design consultant to assist us. We are excited about this and already have plans to visit some of the top museums in the region to get ideas. We will keep you updated on this project.

There will be new officers for our association in June. Ken Colley, class of 1969, will be our new president. As you remember, Ken led the very successful THE WALL THAT HEALS event in 2018, and I am looking forward to his very dynamic and effective leadership in the future. Many of you know Ken also serves on the RSU Foundation Board and he will be a very valuable liaison between our two organizations. Your new association vice president is Rob Fisher, class of 1968, and secretary/treasurer will be Barry Gabel, class of 1964.

It has been my privilege to serve as your president these past two years and I would like to thank the board of directors and all alumni who have given such valuable support and assistance during this time. Also, a very special thank you to RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, Dr. Danette Boyle and Tammy Ryan for their tireless work on our behalf. I will continue to work hard under Ken's leadership to assure that we leave an OMA legacy that will continue for generations to come. Thank you and God Bless you! Look forward to seeing everyone at Reunion 2021!

Your OMA Brother,


Randy Vierling '63

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI!

I apologize we were forced to cancel the 2020 OMA Alumni Reunion. The coronavirus is very disrupting to us, but we are remaining strong.

Very soon, we will set the dates in June of 2021 for the OMA Alumni Reunion. It will be an extraordinary and outstanding reunion. We will be commemorating the final year of OMA (1970-1971) and recognize that it has been 50 years since OMA was closed.

In recent weeks, many of you have let me know you love hearing from fellow cadets. Beginning in this Guidon, we will have more memories, comments and other communication from our alumni.

In the meantime, send me your stories of OMA, such as your memories of past reunions and fellow alumni that you cherish. You can email me, send snail mail, text or call me.

REPORT TO THE HILL JUNE 2021

With All Good Thoughts,

Danette Boyle

Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

FEATURES

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 2 Letter from the President | 6 Great Stories from OMA Alumni | 13 2021: 50 Years Since Final OMA Graduating Class |
| 3 Letter from the Editor | 8 OMA Museum Restoration being Planned | 15 A Message From President Rice |
| 4 RSU Celebrates Student Veteran Center Grand Opening | 10 Success: Raquel Ramsey's Publishing and Documentary Filled Life | 15 Brandon Irby Named as RSU Director of Marketing |
| 4 A Salute to Harry Simpson | 11 OMA Cadet Shares His First Letter Home After Arriving 'On the Hill' | 16 RSU Names Goltra, Rasor as Executive Administrators |
| 4 OMA Alumni Association 2020-2021 Board of Directors | 12 2020-2021 OMA Award Recipients | 18 Four RSU Students Accepted into OSU Medical School |
| 5 Webber Honored for Service with Scholarship Endowment | 13 GOLD Program Students 2020-21 | 19 Trent Siever Receives Newman Civic Fellowship |
| 5 OMA Salutes | | |



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.

This publication is issued by Rogers State University. A total of 2,000 copies have been printed at a cost of \$1.40 each. Rogers State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. **June 2020**

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

Administrative Assistant:
Tammy Ryan
tryan@rsu.edu
918-343-6889

Editor: Dr. Danette Boyle
Assistant Editor: Tammy Ryan
Designer: Kate Northcutt

RSU CELEBRATES STUDENT VETERAN CENTER GRAND OPENING

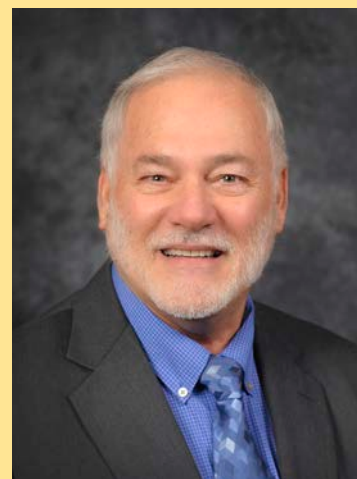


Pictured left to right: Dr. Michael Horton, Executive Director of The Coffee Bunker, Dr. Stephanie Jones, Mr. Jim Morrison, Dr. Heidi Hoskinson and Col. Ray Knapp (USAF Ret.), President of the Bunker Board of Directors.

Rogers State University celebrated the grand opening of its Student Veteran Center (SVC) on Feb. 13, 2020. The center will serve as the central location for veteran support services and a space for student veterans, active military and military-affiliated students to study, relax and foster a sense of community.

The SVC is located on the RSU Claremore campus in the Fine Arts Annex located between Preparatory Hall and Baird Hall. It houses a study and lounge space for students and the Veteran Upward Bound office. The SVC is made possible in part by the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association. In honor of OMA's rich tradition, Rogers State University continues to provide transformational educational opportunities to student veterans and their families.

A SALUTE TO HARRY SIMPSON 1945-2020



The OMA Alumni Board of Directors and hundreds of OMA Alumni are deeply grieved at the sudden death of Harry Simpson, class of 1965.

Harry Served on the OMA Alumni Board since the early 70s. His obituary will be available by contacting the OMA Alumni Office at dboyle@rsu.edu or 918-343-6888.

OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenneth C. Colley '69
President
Rob Fisher '68
Vice President
Barry Grabel '64
Secretary

Joe Daniel '69
Phil Goldfarb '69
Allen Lewis '61
John Lingenfelter '67

Curt McMenemy '64
Jim Morrison '52
David Oldaker '70
Bill Ramsay '61

Bill Shaffer '65
Lee Shero '65
Steve Smith '65
Jim Tanner '67

Randy Vierling '63
Clark Dean Webb '61
Dewey Wilson '66
Darrell Wooster '62

WEBBER HONORED FOR SERVICE WITH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT



Carlene Webber pictured center with (left to right) RSU Vice President for Development Steve Valencia, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, RSU Foundation Chair Roger Moiser, Mick Webber, and OMA Alumni Executive Director Dr. Danette Boyle

For more than 20 years, the Rogers State University Foundation has experienced one constant – the leadership of Carlene Webber of Claremore.

This semester her service to the foundation has been recognized with the Carlene Webber Scholarship Endowment established by her son Mick Webber and his wife Audrey. The endowment will fund scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in any

areas of business administration. First elected to the Foundation's Board of Directors in 1999, she became vice-chair in 2011 and assumed the position of chair a year later. After serving as chair, the board selected Webber to serve as executive director, a volunteer position.

"Carlene has been a true North star for the foundation," Rogers State University President Larry Rice, said. "She has a passion for helping

students and a love for RSU. We are thrilled that Mick and Audrey have chosen to honor her service with a scholarship endowment."

Webber has been a member of the Foundation's auction committee since its inception in 2005. During this time, she has sold more raffle tickets than all other committee members combined. She also supports the Claremore Scholarship Breakfast. In addition, Carlene has been very involved with the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, and has been selected as an Honorary Cadet.

Each year, she enthusiastically informs people about the work of the Foundation. Her knowledge and standing in the Claremore community has been extremely beneficial in helping the Foundation raise funds, cultivate prospective donors and establish important donor relationships.

OMA SALUTES

Phil Goldfarb '69 and Barry Grabel '64 for establishing *The Colonel Barry H. Grabel (USAR) and Captain Phil Goldfarb (USAR) Scholarship Endowment*

Steve Smith '65 and Lee Shero '65 for establishing *The Carl and Nelda Smith and Arch and Mary Shero Memorial Scholarship Endowment* in honor and memory of their parents

Allen Lewis '61 and Colleen Lewis for establishing *The Allen L. and Colleen Lewis Scholarship Endowment*

GREAT STORIES FROM OMA ALUMNI

As a new cadet recruit finally getting in the rack for my first night on the hill, I heard the lonesome whistle of the freight train down on the flats a mile and a half away; how I wished I was on that train and was determined to join it in the very near future. It didn't happen; I was one of the 14 year old freshman that stayed on for the next six years, only to present the U.S. colors from the last retreat at the end of the school year to the retiring president of OMA. I am so thankful that my parents wouldn't let me quit. I appreciate how much they sacrificed so that I could stay and reap the benefits of growing up from boy to (almost) man at the academy. There are many things that I could enumerate that I learned, but the most important one is learning from one's mistakes and not from one's successes." – *Anonymous OMA Alumnus*

The most important thing I learned at OMA was attention to detail. This has helped me all my life. I am really looking forward to the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion." – *Charles S. Babb '68*

I spent five years at OMA and then a lifetime with the best friends I made there. I make every reunion to be with those friends and support the OMA alumni and Rogers State University. Our OMA Museum will outlast the last living cadet and keep our story going. I can't wait until the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion!" – *Curt McMenamy '64*

The memories of my time on the "Hill" were of making life-long friends that last until this day. Being on the OMA Alumni Association Board of Directors also allowed me to meet and serve with alumni who I had never met before.

The caliber and dedication of these men has been nothing but outstanding and admirable! I have a lot of great memories of my time at OMA (except for pledging to the Saber Society in a March snowstorm by myself!). However, the single memory that always brings a smile to my face was the first day of the entire Corps being

on campus in August 1968. I was the Corps of Cadet Adjutant and had to read the orders that evening at mess. Of course, the orders ended with "By Order of Col. Horne, President" and then I had to say the newly appointed Commandant's name and what a name it was! The first time I read his name that evening: "Feegeebie Parrish III, Captain, Commandant of Cadets" I cracked up at the microphone as did every cadet in the mess hall!

I got a look from Captain Parrish that I still remember to this day and thought that I was going to be busted down to a private. After that first time, I was fine, but it was a memory I will never forget." – *Phil Goldfarb, HS'67, JC '69*

I first attended Oklahoma Military Academy in the fall of 1965. My parents sent me there because they felt that I had more potential than what was realized through public school. As you know the first year was difficult, but the discipline and development would benefit me for many years to come. In the spring of 1966, during a weekend barracks inspection, Cadet Corps Commander Dan Stowers gave a speech to my platoon as we stood outside of our rooms. It was an inspirational speech that went something like this: 'One of you in this room will rise to be the Corps Commander someday, I don't know which one, but one of you will! Well, I took the challenge and decided maybe it'll be me. So I worked at it and in 1970 graduated as Corps Commander. There are only a few people that have made a difference in changing direction in my life. Sometimes people don't even know what impact they have on others until later in life. In January 2004, I communicated this in a letter of thanks and appreciation to Dan.

A few years after graduation, the academy closed and went co-ed. Some of the academy memorabilia was auctioned and I made it clear that I would be top bidder on the Saber Society plaques, swords and shield. In the mid 1980's, I donated the two plaques back to the OMA museum and in cleaning out the garage in 2004, I found the matching shield and swords.

I offered these to Dan, and then we both agreed to donate them to the OMA museum." – *D.K. Oldaker '70*

I spent four years at OMA, 1961-1965 for my high school years. Looking back, I wish I had attended junior college there. Those years were four of the best years of my life. I have so many good memories and I made so many lifelong friends that I look forward to seeing every year at our reunions.

I learned so many traits that have served me well throughout my life. Attention to details, always telling the truth and following the rules were probably the most important to me. I learned that following the rules brought rewards.

I have been rewarded by being selected to serve on the board of directors for our alumni association. I got so much out of attending OMA that serving on the board has afforded me the opportunity to give something back. The high point of this was establishing a memorial scholarship endowment in the name of my mom and dad so that our Gold Students can have the same opportunity that I had."

– **Steve Smith '65**

Life comes full circle. I am now pursuing a retirement career in oil painting. Art has always been important to me. Something that I always wanted to do. Life, and then OMA, and then scouting, as well as jobs at Sears, Harrington's Clothing Store, Philbrook Art Center and the Shadow Mountain Psychiatric Hospital for Children, just got in the way. But art was there, just lingering below the surface, waiting to get my attention. Art was the reason I was sent to Oklahoma Military Academy. Difficulties with my math teacher at Wilson Jr. High School in Tulsa, resulted in my mom's decision to send me to OMA.

My good friend on the OMA Board of Directors, Dewey Wilson, saw one of my paintings posted on Face Book and asked for the full story. I had mentioned that my mom, intent on driving me to a "successful and meaningful" career, had thrown out all my paint, colored pencils, charcoal, pastels, paint brushes, and tablets. She did not see art as an alternative for me.

So I told Dewey how it all happened. I was seated in the back of math class, drawing a cartoon of my teacher. I looked up and there she was. She grabbed my notebook out of my hand and ripped the page with the cartoon out of it, slammed the notebook back on my desk and tore up the cartoon. Before she was back to her desk, I

was drawing another one. We were seated in alphabetical order so I was all the way in the back. I thought she was gone but she came back and I didn't hear her. She tore that one up too and then she bent down, inches away from my face, and stuck her Phi Beta Kappa pin in my face and told me that I would never have one of those because I was a "stupid boy". Next thing I knew, I popped her one. That was it. One unguarded moment, loss of temper, loss of control, at the cost of six years at OMA.

Unfortunately all my charms didn't work on my mom. I tried everything. Promises, crying, begging, her telling me on the way to Claremore, "Gentlemen don't hit women. It's clear to me that you are no gentleman". I was assured by Colonel Ledbetter that OMA would fix that." I was pretty silent on the ride to Claremore, knowing that my fate was in the hands of someone named Ledbetter, and my silent treatment started to work on my mom. I think she might have started to waver a little bit.

We arrived at OMA. Kids were running everywhere. Why were they running? I didn't want to run everywhere. And then she met Sam Trizza. He looked at me and smiled. But it wasn't a friendly smile. It was menacing and intimidating. My mom didn't see it. He was what she wanted me to be. I thought "Oh Jesus, please don't leave me with him!"

And then came the double whammy, she met Col. Baird. She told him about my difficulties with math. He told her that he could teach math to a lamp post if he could get the lamp post to listen. Then he winked at me and said, "I'll bet I can get you to listen." My fate was sealed. And now I'm on the OMA Board. What a wild ride. That's the whole story.

I didn't know where I was headed in life. I knew my friends were not the ones who would help me be successful. School was not important. I had no goals. OMA changed all that. Good men were in my classrooms. Role models were everywhere guiding me in a better direction. OMA changed young men's directions. No telling how many lives have been positively affected by the experience of being an OMA Cadet. From the first time I heard the name "Ledbetter", to today, I don't regret a single minute of my six years there. It was a blessing."

– **Bill Shaffer '65**

OMA MUSEUM RESTORATION BEING PLANNED

The OMA Museum is the crown jewel and the cornerstone of our legacy. It is what we will leave our children, grandchildren and future generations to understand what OMA was all about. However, our current museum requires updating and remodeling. Instead of just objects and pictures, we want to tell the story of OMA in a modern, innovative approach. The plan is to make this museum the most appealing and state-of-the-art museum possible so it will be visited by people from all over the country for many years. This will be the last time the Museum will be upgraded with input from us who were part of it all.

The museum initially was created to satisfy the need for preserving artifacts from OMA's past. At a meeting in late 1973 with Claremore Junior College President, Dr. Richard Mosier and Dr. Danette Boyle, along with former cadets Jim Elder, '67, Bruce Daugherty, '67 and Barry Grabel, '64, there was an agreement that Meyer Barracks top floor become the site to house the museum after gutting and remodeling. Renovation began the next year in 1974. There was very little funding available so it took many years to do the basic renovation on the space available. OMA Alumni Reunions started in the 1970s.

It took almost 10 years to catalog the artifacts from the vault in the administration building, get additional artifacts and have

them placed on the top floor of the building. Meanwhile, the lost artifacts continued pouring in. Those included the OMA bass drum used at two Mardi Gras, fencing foils formerly used by the fencing team, trophies, plaques, and all the rest. The first grand opening of the museum was at the 1984 Reunion, the same time that General William E. Potts was the first alumnus to be inducted into the OMA Hall of Fame.

In the 1990s additional space on the second floor of Meyer Barracks was renovated for the OMA Museum. In 1997/1998, many alumni generously contributed to

become charter members and we celebrated the second major remodel and renovation of the museum.

Recently, we have discussed the need to update and remodel our OMA Museum. A Museum Legacy Committee has been formed and these members include Randy Vierling '63, Ken Colley '69, Phil Goldfarb '69, OMA Museum Curator Dewey Wilson '66, Bill Ramsay '61, Mike Kuehr '68, Barry Grabel '64, Allen Lewis '61, Bill Shaffer '65, and Steve Smith '65.

WE ARE ASKING FOR SEVERAL THINGS:

1. If you have any special OMA memorabilia that you had "borrowed" in the past, this would be the opportune time to visit with the OMA Museum Curator Dewey Wilson to see if the item(s) should be returned back to the museum. No questions asked! Let's get the very important items back before they go into a garage sale or flea market! We have an amnesty period effective immediately!
2. There will be an opportunity soon to contribute to this very important effort to renovate the OMA Museum. We will match your gifts dollar for dollar. It will be a GREAT tax deduction!
3. If you are interested in naming rights in perpetuity for large things like entire rooms, display cases, board room table, or individual sections such as: Saber Society/Chevron Society/O Club Section, Band, Rabbit Period, Polo teams, Horse Cavalry, Tanks on the Hill, First year Cadets living initially in tents, Marches, Bivouac, Cadet Capers, Cheerleaders, Hearse, Lazy Day, OMA Recruiting, War Board, Col Ed Ramsey section, Col Horne story, Aviation Department, Dances, Grand March, Cadets who became Claremore mayor, Drill Team, the 10 Cadets who became Generals, etc., you will have the opportunity at various giving levels.

Continued from page 8

Over the years, the alumni association has raised money for the OMA Museum Endowment Fund to sustain the museum for many years. We feel now is the time to use some of these funds and raise additional money for our remodel of the OMA Museum. The OMA Alumni Board along with Dr. Larry Rice, President of RSU, and the RSU Foundation is behind us with this endeavor.

Our goal is to have the OMA Museum updated completed by the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion, which just happens to be the 50th anniversary of the closing of our school! For questions, please contact Dr. Danette Boyle at dboyle@rsu.edu or call the OMA alumni office at 918-343-6888 or 918-381-8764.

OMA MUSEUM LEGACY COMMITTEE

Ken Colley	Bill Ramsay
Phil Goldfarb	Bill Shaffer
Barry Grabel	Steve Smith
Mike Kuehr	Randy Vierling
Allen Lewis	Dewey Wilson

OMA ALUMNUS GIVES GENEROUS GIFT TO RSU STUDENT

I'm currently the lead contract PKI Cybersecurity Engineer for the Defense Health Agency (DHA). My whole team is 100% tele-work now, as are many of our clients and customers. If the smoke cleared I had planned on attending the reunion this year. I will total up what I would have spent for transportation, hotel and events, and contribute to a scholarship fund to be given out to a young student who needs some financial help. No strings attached.

Best regards,

Mark Asbell '70

Mark's generous gift arrived the end of March. In response to Mark's gift and additional gifts from OMA Alumni, the following comments were received:

"OMA alumni support is more essential than ever for the continued success of our students." – Dr. Larry Rice, RSU President

"Our greatest generation stepping up yet again." – Karl Reynolds, RSU Director of Facilities

"Thanks for sharing. That is so sweet of the OMA alumnus for doing that." – Dr. Mary Mackie, RSU Department Head, English and Humanities

"That is a great display of OMA legacy." – Brandon Irby, RSU Director of Marketing and Communications

"What a wonderful gesture. We are very appreciative. Please convey our thanks for his generosity." – Kathryn Stockton, RSU Assistant Director, Financial Aid

"That is wonderful of Mark. I know there are students who will greatly need the financial help." – Shonna Payne, RSU Accountant

"Danette, your work on behalf of the university continues to bear fruit in extraordinary ways. The OMA alumni are to be commended for their ongoing support of RSU and our students. You are the link that keeps this mission viable. Thank you!" – Clarice Doyle, RSU Grant Writer



Pictured left to right: Steven Barber, Producer; Matt Hausle, Director; and Jay Miracle, Script Writer for the "Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story." Sitting, author and OMA Honorary Cadet, Raquel Ramsey.



Raquel Ramsey holds the Congressional Gold Medal she received for her husband, Col. Edwin P. Ramsey, 26th Cavalry PS who fought during WW II in the Philippines.

SUCCESS: RAQUEL RAMSEY'S PUBLISHING AND DOCUMENTARY FILLED LIFE

Former UCLA Extension student Raquel Ramsey has had significant success with nonfiction work based on her family members. Raquel says, "When my husband passed way in 2013... I became Executive Producer of 'Never Surrender: The Ed Ramsey Story' which premiered on Nov. 13, 2016 at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance in LA. Upon my husband's request to write his sister's book, I embarked on the project and became an archivist, historian and writer of 'Taking Flight:

The Nadine Ramsey Story', which will be published in October 2020 by the University of Kansas Press." This second book is also in production as a documentary to be narrated by Jane Seymour.

Of her experience in the writers' program, Raquel says, "I feel that having attended the writers' program, especially under the mentorship of Dr. Stephen Cooper, set me on the road to fulfilling my dreams of becoming a writer and opened the doors to becoming an

Executive Producer as I carry my mission of spreading the legacy of my incredible Ramsey family." – *Writers' Program at UCLA Extension*

The documentary, Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story, is currently in production by Vanilla Fire. The film will premiere this fall in conjunction with the book's release date of October 2020.

OMA CADET SHARES HIS FIRST LETTER HOME AFTER ARRIVING 'ON THE HILL'

Clark Dean Webb, from El Paso, TX, writes to his parents after arriving to the Oklahoma Military Academy during his freshman year in 1957. It cost him \$.06 to send his letter airmail.

8:00
Sept. 1, 1957

Dear Mom, Dad & Susan,

Would you please look and see how long rabbit period is supposed to last? It says in the picture catalog. They say 16 weeks here. There is not a teacher around the rooms during study period to help with the questions either. It isn't hardly anything like it said in the catalogs. At meal times you have to sit on the first 3" of the chair – when you sit at attention you have your right hand about 6" over your left hand.

When you are at ease you have to have your arms folded and stare at a spot on the table. If your eyes are not on the table, plate, or straight ahead at all times you have to exercise. You cannot go out for varsity sports like football and baseball, marksmanship, etc. if you are in band. It said different in the book. Right now I am not supposed to be writing but it is the only time we are not being ordered around except for in class. We get an evening paper every day for \$1.50 a month but we have been able to read it only once. We can't have a paper over a day old in our room either. You have to walk along the right side of the hall at all times & stay exactly 6 paces behind the person in front of you except when on detail % when falling out for formation. If you stop more or less than 6 paces behind the man in front, you have to do pushups or another exercise. I also have to have a medium dictionary should I buy one or will you please send it to me with the rag. Every night between 9:30 & 10:00 o'clock we have to take a shower, brush teeth, shave, power our legs, feet and comb our hair. We have to have our shoes spit shined all the time and our belt buckles polished. I have not gotten my second pair of street shoes yet. The reason everyone wants to go to bed is because nobody gives orders to you during 10:00 p.m. & 6:00 a.m.

We drill about every day. I also have band every day except maybe the weekends. I haven't had a pop to drink or seen T.V. since I got here. I don't think I will be able to send or take any pictures for the next 6 or 16 weeks because we don't have any spare time.

My roommates name is Martin Ronnie and his father is a dentist. He has the top bunk and I have the bottom. A dictionary here costs \$6.00 and if you want me to buy one just say so. I haven't done anything but work, march, run, eat, sleep and take orders since I got here. We have to run from class to class. I have 3 classes in the Library, Science Bldg., 1 in the Engineering Bldg. next to M.S.T. Bldg. and 1 class in the M.S.T. Bldg. My arms are dead tired and I can hardly write with them. We have to square all corners too. At breakfast we drink milk and at lunch we drink juice, ice tea, or Kool-Aid. The food is ok. Sometimes I wish I were home.

P.S. There is probably a lot I left out but I don't have any more time.

Love & wish I could see you.

Webb, C.D. (Dean)



OMA Rabbits sit at attention before meal time.

2020-2021 OMA AWARD RECIPIENTS



LT. GENERAL WILLIAM E. POTTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Phil Goldfarb '69



OMA PERSEVERANCE AWARD

Jim Morrison '52

OMA HALL OF FAME



Dave T. Faulkner '34
(Posthumous)



Rob J. Fisher '68



Allen L. Lewis '61



Bert J. Rosson '54

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



John E. Helbing '67



Vincent P. Mocini '69



Darrell W. Wooster '62

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

George Proctor
Karl Reynolds
Rhonda Spurlock
Robert (Bob) Wright '53

OMA HONORARY CADETS

2 LT Rhett Ables	Tammy Ryan
Sue Burke	Kathy Smith
Jean Hardwick	Tom Volturo
Luther Martin	Nona Wilson
Doug Mosier	Don Wofford

2020 GOLD PROGRAM STUDENTS

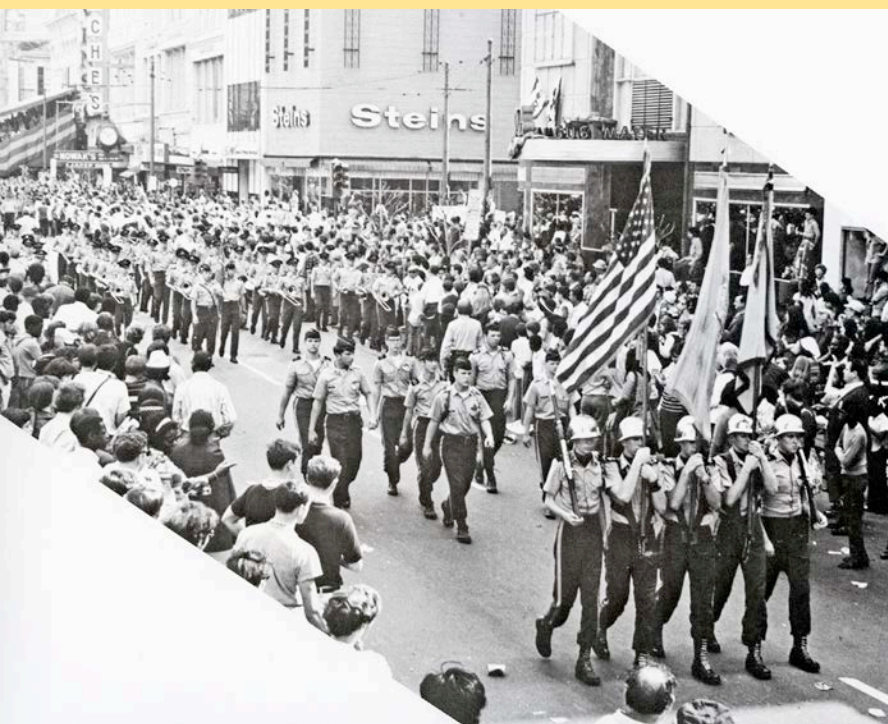


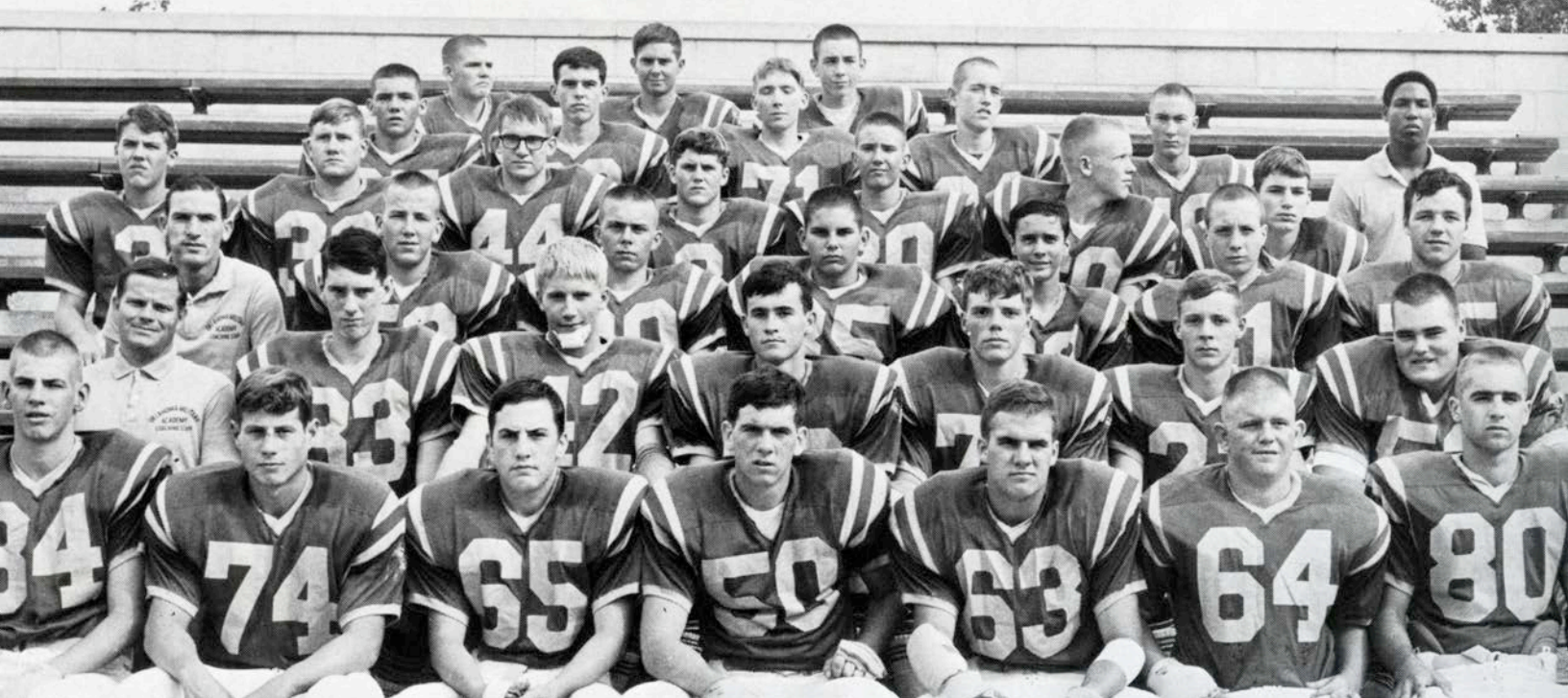
Left to right: Randy Vierling ' 63, RSU President Dr. Larry Rice, RSU GOLD Student Shawn McCrary, Phil Goldfarb '69, Danette Boyle, RSU GOLD Student William Heath, Bill Ramsay '61, and Capt. Christopher Buck, Oklahoma Army National Guard
Back Row: Darrell Wooster '62, and RSU GOLD Students Jerrod Quindt and Cole Reeves.

Rhett Ables | Pryor, OK
Ethan Cain | Tulsa, OK
William Heath | Collinsville, OK
Dylan Huffman | Broken Arrow, OK
Janny Leyva | Tulsa, OK
Shawn McCrary | Bristow, OK
Jerrod Quindt | Bartlesville, OK
Cole Reeves | Talala, OK
Jack Schultz | Fort Gibson, OK
Raymond Smith, III | Collinsville, OK
Delvin Tucker | Tulsa, OK

2021: 50 YEARS SINCE FINAL OMA GRADUATING CLASS

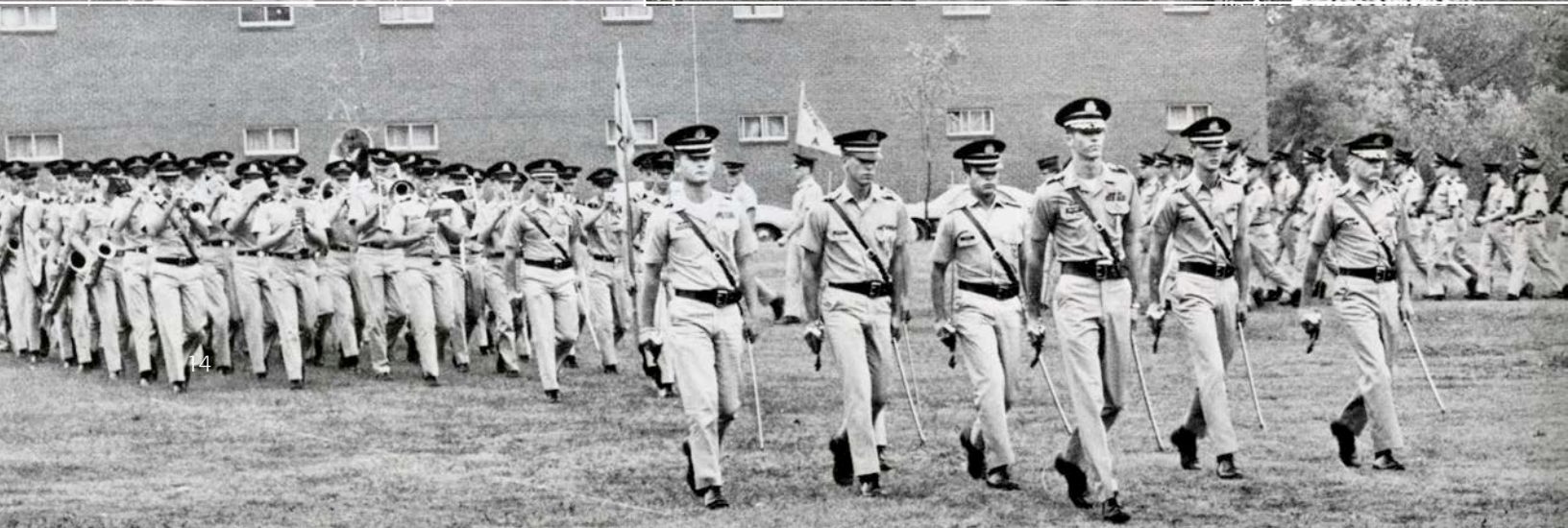
As we prepare for the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion, photos from the 1971 Vedette commemorate 50 years since OMA closed and the last graduating class of 1971.





2021: 50 YEARS SINCE FINAL OMA GRADUATING CLASS

Continued from page 13



A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT RICE



Dr. Larry Rice

This past semester has been a time of great challenge for the members of our Hillcat family and the communities we serve. In the face of uncertainty and

significant hardship, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been met with great resilience. This determined spirit will lead us forward, together.

When it's time for our students to continue their educational goals, we'll be here for them. Our intention is to return to in-person educational operations on all three campuses, including traditional instruction and residential life this fall. For those unable to join us on campus, we are committed to offering quality online courses and programs.

Safety precautions will be at the forefront of every decision we make. This includes adapting class

schedules, utilizing the continued practice of social distancing, and extensive cleaning of buildings and residence halls. We will exercise caution and adapt our operations based upon developing data and the guidance of health authorities.

I am proud of how our RSU family has come together to rise to these challenges, and I look forward to the day when we will all be together again, safely, this fall.

Larry Rice,
President



Brandon Irby

BRANDON IRBY NAMED AS RSU DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Rogers State University named Brandon Irby as Director of Marketing. He will develop and execute marketing strategies to increase awareness and reach university audiences.

An RSU alumnus, Irby was appointed as Interim Director of Public Relations in October 2019. Previously, he served as Associate Director for the Claremore Industrial and Economic Development Authority and on staff at the RSU Innovation Center.

RSU NAMES GOLTRA, RASOR AS EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATORS



Dr. Robert Goltra
*Vice President for Student
Affairs*

Rogers State University has named two executive administrators filling roles vacated during the previous summer and fall semesters. The university named Dr. Robert Goltra as its new Vice President for Student Affairs and Dr. Mark Rasor as its Vice President for Administration and Finance. Both began at RSU in early January.

Goltra joins the university from Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City, Missouri having more than 20 years of experience in common and higher education. At MCC he was responsible for student success initiatives and engagement activities for 22,000 students across five campuses. He will lead the RSU Student Affairs division including Career Services, Counseling Services, Disability Services, Esports, Health Center,



Dr. Mark Rasor
*Vice President for
Administration and Finance*

Residential Life, Student Activities, Student Development, GEAR UP and TRIO Programs.

RSU President Dr. Larry Rice said Goltra's previous leadership roles made him a great fit for leading the university's student affairs efforts.

"Robert brings with him proven leadership and a personal story of accomplishment that resonates with our students," Rice said. "We are pleased to welcome him to RSU."

Rice said that supporting students and ensuring their success outside the classroom is essential to a college education.

"At RSU, about 67 percent of all students are the first in their family to graduate from college. For all of

our students, but especially first-generation students, it's important that we help provide the support and resources for success," Rice said.

A graduate of regional institutions who worked his way up to administration throughout his career, Goltra said coming to RSU was a natural fit.

"Rogers State University's rich tradition of assisting students in achieving their educational objectives is a terrific match with my experience and passion for student success and engagement," Goltra said. "The opportunity to collaborate with faculty and staff to further enhance the overall student experience at RSU greatly excites me. Rogers State University has a bright future and I am proud to be a member of the Hillcat family."

Rasor joins the university from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Oklahoma having most recently served as Interim President and Vice President for Fiscal Affairs. He will oversee administration and finance at RSU and will be responsible for business affairs, administrative services, auxiliary services, the physical plant and campus police.

"We are pleased to welcome Mark into this vital role," Rice said. "Mark brings with him an exceptional

background in leadership that will position the university for continued success."

Rasor said that joining RSU was a an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

"I am excited to join the RSU family," Rasor said. "I admire the long legacy that the university represents and the educational opportunity it provides to the region."

Tracing its roots back to 1909, RSU celebrates 20 years as an accredited institution awarding bachelor degrees this year. Six years ago the university introduced its first graduate degree, the Master of Business Administration. Today the MBA@RSU is offered completely online to meet the needs of professional working adults. RSU operates its main residential campus in Claremore, with additional campuses in Bartlesville, and Pryor.

RSU is consistently recognized as one of the region's most affordable colleges, with more than half of last year's graduates earning their degree without taking a student loan.

ALUMNUS MISSES CELEBRATING 50 YEAR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

I understand and believe it is the best decision for us to cancel the 2020 reunion because of the Coronavirus, but I am disappointed as this was my 50-year high school reunion. I was planning to send in my registration shortly. I know it is hard on you. You do the best job of keeping the cadets of past years together. I look forward to 2021.

Guy A. Rogers II
COL (R), US Army
Cadet #1893

PRESIDENT'S AWARD RECIPIENT COMMENTS ON REUNION

We were sorry to hear but not unexpectedly that the reunion has been cancelled. You always orchestrate a wonderful event for us every year. Friendship, fellowship and food! Our present not togetherness with family and friends is difficult, but we want everyone safe and well. We look forward to the party when this is all over.

Best wishes to Dr. Rice and Peggy.

Bob Wright '53

SPECIAL LETTER FROM DR. RAQUEL RAMSEY

It is sad to know that you will postpone the OMA reunion but it is a wise decision and necessary under these dire circumstances for the health and safety of everyone. You are doing well by working in the museum and keeping track of everything and everyone. I know Ed is there with you.

It's fate that I was not going to be able to attend the 2020 Reunion because of the publication of Nadine's (Ed's sister's) book, "Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story" that is expected to be published by October 2020. Now I would not have missed any reunions as I plan to be there next year, God willing, with the published book and a possible book signing. The Nadine Team just completed reviewing the copy edited pages and sent them back to UPK and we expect the layouts on May 15, my Mom's birthday. She died when I was 5 months so I never knew her and miss her so much too.

Thanks for your great work and dedication as you keep the OMA spirit alive.

Do take good care and love and prayers to you, your family and my OMA family as well. The 2021 reunion can't come too soon!

Raqui Ramsey
OMA Honorary Cadet '15

FOUR RSU STUDENTS ACCEPTED INTO OSU MEDICAL SCHOOL



Rogers State University has four pending spring graduates who have gained acceptance to the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa for Fall 2020. Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences Dr. Keith Martin expects that number to grow as acceptance letters from other schools are issued.

"This is a remarkable achievement for the students and for our program," Martin said. "A regional institution rarely accomplishes this level of success."

This milestone continues a recent trend which has seen more than 150 RSU students move onto professional schools pursuing medical, healthcare and veterinary careers.

The students, Matthew Choate, Abbigail Hollihan, William Redmond and Colton Smith, will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Molecular Biology.

"These students exemplify the Hillcat spirit," RSU President Dr. Larry Rice said. "Soon they will be serving on the front lines and caring for those in our communities. Never before has there been a more compelling time to ensure that the future is staffed with bright and caring healthcare providers."

Receiving the news of acceptance during a global pandemic and public health emergency, these students are not discouraged from continuing their dream of becoming doctors. A dream they have worked hard to accomplish. Several thousand students will apply to approximately 165 seats in the OSU program split between the Tulsa and Tahlequah campus.

"Outside of academics, I believe that OSU is looking for applicants who are passionate about serving their community and are motivated to be successful within a career in medicine," student Mathew Choate said.

Dr. Jerry Bowen, Department Head and Associate Professor of Biology, said that a biology major incorporates a significant amount of the essential credits medical schools require.

"Our medical, molecular biology degree is strongly aligned with the prerequisites for medical school. However, it can also prepare a student for many additional professional programs or graduate

school," Bowen said. "We have had students accepted into programs for dentistry, physician's assistant, pharmacy, optometry, physical therapy and more."

RSU students agree. Their experience in the classroom and labs prepares them for success beyond undergraduate studies.

"I am dedicated to be a successful student. I make sure to study, improve, and constantly self-evaluate if there is any material I need to study further," Choate said. "In addition, having a great support system at school to help with any questions has helped make me a successful student."

Dean Martin also attributes this success to the relationship between RSU and OSU Health Sciences.

"The OSU College of Medicine does a tremendous job recruiting our students, and they have a great mission to sell," Martin said. "Many of our students who successfully gained admittance were from rural communities in Northeast Oklahoma. They are one of the primary providers for rural medicine in Oklahoma."

RSU recently entered into a bridge program agreement with OSU Health Sciences. The 3+1 program allows RSU students focused on rural medicine to apply for early entry into the OSU program.
— Jennifer Smith

TRENT SIEVER RECEIVES NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOWSHIP



Trent Siever

A good leader has the heart of a servant, and a Rogers State University student has already demonstrated his commitment to serving others.

Trent Siever was the recipient of the 2020-2021 Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellowship.

The Newman Civic Fellowship is a yearlong program that recognizes and supports community-committed students who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. The fellowship is named in honor of Frank Newman, one of Campus Compact's founders, and is supported by the KPMG Foundation.

"I am proud to receive this recognition because it reflects my commitment to making our community and campus a better place. Having a role in projects that are positively impacting people is a privilege," Siever said. "It is always important to give back. I am honored to be recognized as a servant to the people of Rogers State University and to our community."

The 2020 fellowship class includes 290 students from several colleges across the United States and Mexico. This class is the largest cohort to date.

Siever, a political affairs sophomore, was nominated by RSU President Larry Rice. Only one student can be nominated from each institution.

"Trent has been a leader at our freshmen Hillcamp helping incoming freshmen adapt to their new adventures at the college level. He is an outstanding leader for RSU. We are proud of his integrity and his commitment to others," Rice said.

During the Fellowship, Siever will learn how to be a problem solver for the community he serves.

"I will learn several skills in relationship-building and tactical skills to facilitate action. I hope

to build more on my abilities for communication, collaboration, networking, and awareness skills to be more effective in future projects and teams. I will build tactical skills to facilitate more action including asset mapping, attracting resources, and community organizing," Siever said.

Qualifications for the fellowship are extensive. The nominated student must demonstrate the motivation and potential for effective long-term civic engagement, act in addressing issues of inequality and political polarization, and collaborate with surrounding communities to create long term social change.

To stand out for the fellowship, Siever encourages his classmates to look for opportunities to serve.

"Fully commit to anything you do. Whether it be a class project or a service project impacting the lives of hundreds of people, having the integrity to stick to it and to do your best regardless of the outcome is important," Siever said. "Be an opportunist and be eager to help in any way you can, as a leader or a follower. Overall, it is important for a person to desire to be a servant and respond to the needs of others."

– Jennifer Smith



ROGERS STATE
UNIVERSITY
OMA ALUMNI OFFICE
1701 W. WILL ROGERS BLVD.
CLAREMORE, OK 74017-3252

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLAREMORE, OK
PERMIT NO. 185

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

OMA ALUMNUS STEVE SUMMAR SALUTES HIS FELLOW ALUMNI

Danette, you and your precious staff are the best. We are totally homebound now with VA aides in attendance, otherwise I would attend the reunion. Gary Anderson's wife, Jeannie is taking good care of both of us. God bless you and your splendid efforts.

My fond and deep regards for my fellow alumni. I salute our brothers who paid the ultimate price, especially the late Master Sergeant Parrett, OMA military science instructor. His sage advice saved my life more than once. May they rest in eternal peace.

Some gave all...all gave some...none are forgotten.

Steve Summar '66

OMA Chevron Society, First Sergeant, Echo Company, HS '66; USAF Strategic Air Command B-52's, 4017th Combat Crew Training Squadron, Castle AFB, CA. E-5, 1967-70

FORMER CADET PRAISES OMA ALUMNI OFFICE

Danette, thanks so much for your leadership. It is truly a tough time for all of us with no clear end in sight. I sincerely hope you and yours are safe and healthy, as are we here in Tampa, abiding by all reasonable directions. Take care, and once again, thanks for all you are doing to preserve the great institution of Oklahoma Military Academy. The 2021 reunion will be the best ever!

Regards,

Bill Nipper