

COURAGE ★ LOYALTY ★ HONOR

GUIDON



MEMORIES FROM THE HILL | PAGES 6-8



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ken Colley '69

Dear fellow Alumni,

Plans are underway for our 2021 Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Reunion. After missing our 2020 Reunion, I am looking forward to seeing former cadets and reminiscing about our memories on "The Hill".

The more I read about my fellow cadets from OMA and their many accomplishments, I can now quote the late Walter Edwin Price, Class of 1944, "When you're almost ninety, only four things matter; God, Country, Family and Friends." He claimed to have the best roster of friends a man could ask for. I am one who has been blessed by God to allow me to attend OMA. My 3½ years were a life changing experience, and I continue to use the leadership skills I learned there every single day.

At our 2021 reunion, we will recognize our alumni with honors for their service to our country and community. Friday night we will bring back Kadet Kapers and enjoy singing, skits and other forms of entertainment.

Thanks to Rogers State University President, Dr. Larry Rice, for his continued support of the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program at RSU. Currently, there are sixteen students in this program.

Mark your calendars to attend the Reunion June 11 and 12, 2021! Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season!


Ken Colley, '69
OMA Alumni Association President

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

Dear OMA Alumni,

I think of you each morning when I arrive on campus, especially now that it is getting cold! Many years ago, you were walking or running across College Hill in the pouring rain; enduring strong winds and the cold.

Due to COVID-19, we have found ourselves in uncharted times. Everyone on campus is wearing a mask. Fortunately, we haven't had any major virus spikes among our students, faculty and staff.

The OMA Alumni Association is alive and well. We have 16 students in the Guard Officers Leadership Development (GOLD) program. This is the largest number ever. Thanks to so many of you in the OMA Alumni Association, these military students have some much needed financial assistance from the scholarship funds you have generously given to them. This is huge because they do not have to borrow so much money! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. And please keep giving if you can!!!

Some of the most exciting news is that the OMA Alumni Board, led by our President, Ken Colley, class of '69, has voted to move forward to update and restore the OMA Museum. We have entered into an agreement with John Wooley, author of our OMA book, "Voices From The Hill". He also wrote the script for our movie, "Oklahoma Military Academy, West Point of the Southwest". John will work with our board members and other OMA Alumni to write the story of OMA for the Museum. We plan to hire a consultant to help design the museum and RSU President Larry Rice has offered financial help from RSU and assistance from our Physical Plant staff. We will be raising funds to help with this effort and can use OMA Alumni Museum funds that we have saved over the years to help with the restoration and updating and to match funds given by those of you that can help.

Maybe the best news is that we have scheduled the next OMA Alumni Reunion, June 11 and 12, 2021. We really hope COVID-19 will be under control and you will be able to attend!

Danette Boyle
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association



Harry Simpson '65



Harry Simpson '65 and RSU GOLD Program Student, Raymond Smith, Recipient of the Colonel Ed Ramsey Scholarship Endowment

REMEMBERING HARRY

GEORGE (BILL) SHAFFER '65 PRESENTED EULOGY FOR HARRY SIMPSON '65

Thank you for allowing me to speak with you today as we honor the life of my friend, Harry Simpson.

I met Harry in 1960 when we both enrolled as freshmen at Oklahoma Military Academy. We became friends and remained close over the years even though our lives took different directions.

When we graduated from the academy six years later, Harry headed for Vietnam and I headed for the University of Tulsa. We stayed in touch off and on over the years. Harry played a key role in my becoming involved in the OMA

Alumni Association. Oh, how he loved that brotherhood of former cadets.

Harry put his focus and enthusiasm into every project the alumni association was involved in. In 2018, at the OMA Alumni Reunion, he secured hundreds of people to serve as volunteers at THE WALL THAT HEALS. Harry put together a group of volunteers that so impressed THE WALL officials from Washington that they said it was a better job of hosting than any other place they had visited. One of the groups that Harry recruited was the Boy Scout Troop I sponsored

in Tulsa. One of our Eagle Scouts met with Harry and developed a plan to involve troop members to help with THE WALL THAT HEALS. More than 150 Scouts and leaders participated in the event. Scouts holding American flags lined the roads as the vehicles bearing THE WALL THAT HEALS made its way to "The Hill". Scouts were waiting to help assemble THE WALL. Harry felt strongly that the children in America were not being taught what the Vietnam War was all about and how the veterans of that war felt. He inspired my Scouts to learn about that misunderstood part of our history. And when it was over, Harry

Simpson came to a Scout meeting to personally thank the scouts for their participation and express how much their involvement meant to him.

Harry Simpson served in the Army with the 11th Armored Cavalry Division in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967. He received full military honors including the playing of taps and the folding of the American flag at his graveside service on June 1.

Harry and I were honored by the OMA Alumni Association as Distinguished Alumni in 2015.

These are the things that Harry did. But that doesn't tell the true story of who he was – a patriot, a son, a brother, a husband, a father, and a valued member of this community. I was really hoping Harry would speak at my funeral. He always knew what to say.

I really enjoyed being around Harry because he was so socially outgoing. Always greeting everyone and making them feel welcome. He liked everyone. He always knew what to say to make people feel welcome and at ease. He always asked the right questions and was

sincerely interested in what people had to say. As a person who tends to be socially awkward and doesn't always know what to say, I really appreciated Harry. He was my get out of jail free card and stepped in and led conversations where I could stand back and listen.

The OMA Alumni are an interesting group, filled with military people and community leaders and, at times, it seemed like a convention of alpha males. Each one with his own viewpoint. Each one with his own plan of action. Invariably disagreements and differences of opinion arose in such a group. But in my private conversations with Harry, he had only good things to say about the people he might have disagreed with. He always considered their point of view. He never allowed it to be personal. He never allowed disagreements to interfere with friendship. He was a leader but also a valuable member of a team. He was one of the gentlest and kindest human beings I have ever met. He was a model of the kind of man I wanted to be. He was always a doer. He was inclusive and respectful. His enthusiasm and kindness brightened a room.

One of my favorite memories of Harry was at one of our OMA Military Balls. I walked in late and saw Harry standing on the other side of the room with the biggest smile on his face. I wondered what he could be looking at that would make him beam like that. And then I saw what he was looking at. He was looking at Dee (who later became Harry's wife). She looked like a princess with a beautiful gown and arm length gloves and I thought to myself...How in the world does Harry have all the luck? But I truly believe that we were the lucky ones to have had the honor of knowing Harry Simpson and calling him a friend. The world is a colder place without Harry. I hope that the people whose lives he touched will follow his example and treat each other with the kindness and respect that Harry treated them. What a better world this would be if there were more folks like Harry Simpson. He will be missed!

MEMORIES FROM THE HILL



Charles V. Laster, '71 photographed April 1977, age 21. First Armored Division First to 94th Field Artillery.

Charles V. Laster '71

Laster, born Sept. 11, 1955 believes he's the youngest OMA cadet.

I was born and raised in Oklahoma City. My father passed away when I was 11 years old. My mother owned four nightclubs so I ended up at OMA.

Armstrong landed on the moon and one week later I was on "the Hill". I was a Rabbit from August 1969 to December 1969. OMA's Rabbit period was a time for soul searching to find out who you are, what you stand for and come to terms with your own findings. I hated OMA,

but it was the best thing that ever happened in my life

Fred Glassco '44

In the fall of 1942, at the age of 54, my mother enrolled at the Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa. The school was owned by John Paul Getty, who lived in Tulsa at the time, and was supposed to have been the richest man in the world. Mother enrolled to help in the war effort and to make some money. After graduation, she worked at the Ford plant in Detroit, a plant in Hackensack, N.J. and Thunderbird Field in Phoenix. She placed her

undersized 14 year old son at the Oklahoma Military Academy. The thought at the time was if your son had military training on his resume, he might avoid being placed as a private in the infantry when drafted.

I entered OMA in January of 1943. I remember upon arrival that I quickly had my head shaved and was given cadet clothing. In the morning it was very early, very dark, and very cold. I heard some shouting. I later learned it was the troop commander replying, "Sir, A Troop is all present and accounted for!"

OMA was a horse calvary unit at the time. I was a city boy from Tulsa and had never ridden a horse, which they could sense. We frequently had a drill on an equitation ring (small circle) where we would ride at a slow trot with no reins and feet out of the stirrups. I was issued a horse named Duce and she spent the whole time with neck turned, trying to bite me. I seemed to get Duce issued to me quite often.

During study hall one evening, a staff member came in to my room and informed me I was to take Captain Hamilton's daughter to an upcoming dance. Captain John C. Hamilton was a West Point graduate, class of 1919. He was the head man and well respected. He ran OMA like a junior West Point, a lot of discipline. I walked the daughter to the class dance and she was very nice and put me at ease. The

next time I saw Captain Hamilton up close, I was in my last semester and leaning on the canteen counter drinking a chocolate malt. I saw him approaching, he said, "Glassco, I saw you are going to quit soldiering, we'll miss you." I said, "Thank you, sir."

I left OMA in June of 1944. I had reached the rank of Guide-On Sargent and was the proud possessor of my non-com spurs. My son, Jeff, has them hanging on his wall in his home in Newton, Kansas.

I turned 92 last month and I will never forget my OMA days. I made a number of lifelong friends. I will always remember the sacrifice my mother made in sending me there.

A few memories from an old cadet.

Richard H. Dixon '68

I was a Junior at Memorial High school In Tulsa in the 66-67 school year when my dad was transferred to Houston.

I aspired of playing college football. The state of Texas had a ruling (that was later abolished) that if you were a transfer you were not eligible to play varsity sports your first semester. One of my coaches at Memorial knew an alumnus of OMA and suggested I consider

attending there for my senior year. So my parents enrolled me.

This turned out to be an excellent solution to my dilemma. I had a very successful season playing for Coach Bob Cone. I was honored to be selected as an All State Running Back by the Tulsa World and received the Best All Around Athlete Award at OMA (I finished 6th in the State as a Wrestler).

I was recruited by West Point, The University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and The University of Tulsa. After graduation I received a full athletic scholarship and went on to play defensive end at The University of Tulsa.

I have many fond memories of OMA and my fellow classmates and team members.

Just like 2020, my graduation year of 1968 was a year of turmoil and unrest in our great country!

Daryl A. Crotts, '68

A demerit, as written from the Office of the Commandant, for discovered contraband hidden by Daryl A. Crotts, '68:

24 FEBRUARY 1966
SPECIAL ORDER
NUMBER 64



4th Squad 3rd Platoon Delta Co.

Cadet L/Cpl Crotts, D.A. #255 for having civilian clothes hidden in heater closet 23 February 1966 is awarded 10 demerits and will serve 10 punishment tours. He will dig a hole 4 foot by 4 foot by 4 foot, and bury therein a rag.

D.K. Oldaker, '70

It was spring 1965 and I was completing the 9th grade at Edison Jr. High in Tulsa. I had long hair, played bass, 6 and 12 string guitars - but not good enough to play with my soon to be famous rock-n-roll drumming brother. I looked forward to attending a local Republican Camp Convention in July, with my first girlfriend. Edison Sr. High was just around the corner.

My parents had different plans, as my mother had been attending

OMA MUSEUM RESTORATION UPDATE

LETTER FROM JOHN WOOLEY



John Wooley,
OMA Honorary Cadet

As a consultant for the restoration of the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum, I'm happy and excited to share with you the plans to make this museum into a world-class tourist destination. The updates will keep the unique story of OMA and its people front and center while enlightening new generations on the lasting legacy of the West Point of the Southwest.

The OMA Board of Directors, Dr. Boyle and her staff at the OMA Alumni office have already begun laying the groundwork for this major project. Tentative plans call for the museum to be divided into three wings, with the first one covering the period between the school's beginning to the end of 1941 and the start of World War II. The second wing will be dedicated to the war years, and OMA's role in turning out officers for the world's battlegrounds. The third will begin in 1947 and end in 1971, when the OMA flag was finally lowered from the flagpole on 'The Hill', marking the end of the school and the beginning of what would eventually become Rogers State University.

Also under consideration for the refurbished museum is a meeting room that can also be used as a classroom – embellished, like the other sections of the museum, with fascinating OMA artifacts.

In order to remain both relevant and engaging to their patrons, today's museums must use interactive components to not only entertain, but also to get their stories across. We're lucky and blessed to have Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, advising us on what we can do to make sure the OMA story continues to be viable and compelling as the years go by.

"For me, it's personal," said Dr. Blackburn. "It's my family heritage. My dad taught Government and History at OMA, and when I was a kid, I spent a lot of time in the tank they had up on 'The Hill'."

He remembers that climbing onto that old vehicle triggered thoughts of battlefield heroics, of giving your best effort, your all, for your country. That's just one of the feelings we're striving to evoke in the minds of visitors to the upcoming redesigned museum, as they walk the same ground that you walked as cadets, visit one of the same buildings, and, we hope, get a little glimpse of what it must've been like to live the life you led.

It's an honor to be working with you again.

OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION

JUNE 11-12, 2021

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

8:00 a.m.

REUNION REGISTRATION

Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum

9:00 a.m.

ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

Heritage Hills Golf Course 18 Hole Tournament

Shotgun Start Begins

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

Golf Lunch

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

11:30 a.m.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

Hosted by RSU First Lady Peggy Rice
President's Residence, RSU Campus
Reservation required with maximum 40

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

REUNION OPENING RECEPTION AND BUFFET

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

• 6:30 p.m. | Kadet Kapers



Norman Shaw '53 took the opportunity recently to get out of his home in Chelsea to visit the OMA Museum.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

8:00 a.m.

REUNION REGISTRATION

Meyer Hall, OMA Alumni Office and OMA Museum

Coffee and pastries

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

FUN PHOTOS AND MORE!

Opportunities to take photos with fellow cadets, family and friends. Making memories forever.

10:30 a.m.

ALUMNI CEREMONIES

Will Rogers Auditorium

- Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Ceremony
- Honoring OMA's Recently Deceased Alumni
- Color Guard presented by the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program Military Students

11:45 a.m.

ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

- OMA Honorary Cadets
- President's Awards
- Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence
- OMA Perseverance Award

Special Guests: RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program Military Students

5:30 p.m.

RECEPTION, DINNER, GRAND MARCH AND DANCE

Golf carts available to assist Alumni

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT DANETTE BOYLE
AT 918-343-6888 OR DBOYLE@RSU.EDU**



KADET KAPERS RETURNS TO THE HILL FUN TIMES AT OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY

On Friday night, June 11 2021, "Kadet Kapers", a talent show put on by the cadets, officially returns to the Hill for the first time since 1971!

Do you remember the fun, antics, and music in the auditorium for Kadet Kapers (also called Cadet Capers) through the years? The Drama Society was in charge of the annual presentation of Kadet Kapers which was the highlight of each year's dramatic efforts and was an original production written and produced by the cadet's themselves.

Think of when you were on the "Hill" when you could make fun of cadets, officers, the faculty, the commandant and the president of the school. Where you could see homespun humor, practical jokes, ballet (cadet style, of course), guys dressed as women, comedians, music, and other questionable skits-Kadet Kapers! The first "Amateur Hour" for cadets was performed in

1938. Kadet Kapers was established in 1942 and lasted until the last one in 1971.

The following OMA Alumni have committed to participating in the 2021 Kadet Kapers: Phil Goldfarb, Randy Vierling, David Raper, Joe Davenport, David Oldaker, Jim Elder, Harry Simpson, Barry Grabel, Johnnie Davis, Bill Shaffer and Ken Turk. Ken Colley has volunteered to be the director.

We already have a few skits lined up (along with a few surprises), but if you have a suggestion, idea or would like to try and recreate what you did, please contact Danette Boyle in the Alumni office and let her know. This will be the highlight of Friday night June 11th at the reunion. You do not want to miss it! More information to come on this exciting addition to the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion!



2020-2021 OMA ALUMNI 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



Harry Simpson '65
(Posthumous)

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



John E. Helbing '67



Vincent P. Mocini '69



Darrell W. Wooster '62

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

George Proctor
Dr. Raquel Ramsey
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



L to R: OMA Alumni John Helbing '67 and Don Bolt '69 serving in the Vietnam War; Robert (Bob) Buchanan, Pat Sells, John Helbing, Don Dowell and Tom Hargis; OMA Alumni Association President Ken Colley presenting the 2020-2021 OMA Distinguished Alumni Award to John Helbing '67.

CHANCE MEETING OF A FELLOW OMA CADET IN VIETNAM 50 YEARS AGO

I was serving as Senior Medical Aidman for Delta Company 4/503, 173rd AN Bde on a fortified hill top position in the An Loa Valley, located very close to the I Corp and II Corp border.

On this day, sometime in May 1970, there was an explosion at the base of the hill and a lot of yelling and screaming in Vietnamese. A squad was sent to investigate and found a wounded young female. Apparently, she would not cooperate with Viet Cong and they fragged her and several others.

Normally I would go to the wounded, but on this particular day the squad brought her to the

top of the hill to me. I immediately assessed the multiple frag wounds she had, and began work to stop the bleeding and start an IV.

While engaged in this activity, a fellow soldier came up to me and asked if he could help, which I readily accepted. He applied pressure on wounds while I worked on others. There was something peculiar about this guy, he looked familiar but I just couldn't put my finger on it. After I got the young girl dusted off to a higher level of treatment, I thanked the guy for his help and mentioned that I knew him from somewhere. He then told me he went to OMA with me and his name was Don Bolt.

I did not see Don again the rest of my tour which ended a couple of months later. I met his brother Dan a few times at our annual reunions and have been hoping Don would show up for one, one of these days.

I accompanied the young girl we treated back to her village about a month later. She was doing pretty good physically.

Our ROTC instructor, Johnny Holder, was assigned to one of the Delta company platoons but because we were spread out in the area, he left the country before we could meet.

What a small world!! – John Helbing '67.

RSU STUDENT AND OMA ALUMNI STUDENT- WORKER WRITES ABOUT OMA CADET IN COLLEGE ASSIGNMENT



Ellie Nickell

The Vietnam War was very emotional for many families, such as the Casey family who lost their youngest in the Vietnam Conflict. Michael Casey was born in Sallisaw, Oklahoma and attended the Oklahoma Military Academy from the years of 1962 to 1966, two years of high school and then two years of college. Michael was an extremely involved student who was a member of chapel counsel, the drill team, the Saber Society and the marching band. He was not only involved with extracurricular activities, but

he was also rewarded with high marks in his education, earning the Outstanding Cadet Identification Disk. He was a member of both the outstanding company and the best platoon, which taught him a sense of leadership skills that he would eventually use in the Vietnam War. Michael graduated from OMA with an associate degree on May 27, 1966. A little over a year later his journey in Vietnam would begin and he would soon show others the skills that the Oklahoma Military Academy taught him as a cadet.

In an interview with Bonnie Gooch, Michael Casey's sister, she stated that many citizens had a fear of Vietnam but remained patriotic in hopes that their loved ones were not affected. Michael, or as Bonnie referred to him as "Little Mike," volunteered his service after attending Oklahoma State University for one year. In October of 1967, Michael was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and was assigned to Fort Benning. He was later transferred to Fort Hood, Texas to complete his training. By September of 1968, Michael was stationed at the Republic of Vietnam with a new rank of First Lieutenant and assigned to the Army's Seventh Squadron of the Seventeenth Air Cavalry as an Aero-Rifle Platoon Leader. Michael was also a Platoon Commander for a troop named "The Ruthless Riders." Bonnie stated "they (The Ruthless Riders) were his brothers." Michael was very respected by his troop; he would never ask them to do something that he himself would not do. This was the reason his troop gave him the nickname "Blue." Blue was based off his squadron name, the Aero-Rifle or the Blue Platoon. By the end of his tour he was wounded multiple times; However, this did not stop

him from serving another tour nor stop him from downplaying his injuries to his mother, Mrs. Bertha Casey. In his letters Michael wrote, "I was reading over the letter and the part where I said, "I only had three small holes in my head," isn't as bad as it sounds. The pieces of the bullets that hit me went through the skin and slid around under my hide."

After a short recess in his hometown of Sallisaw, Michael returned to Vietnam in September of 1969 as a Captain with a relatively safe post. However, Michael did not like the idea of staying behind while his troops were risking their lives in the

jungle. He was granted the request to serve in his former post as the platoon leader of The Ruthless Riders. In January 23, 1970, Michael volunteered to go on a rescue mission. Three American soldiers were injured in an ambush then left in the jungle. Bonnie mentioned in the interview, "Michael had the day off and these men were not a part of his platoon, but he strongly believed in no man left behind. Michael rode on a helicopter into a small jungle clearing. First, they saved a wounded Radio Man by placing him in the helicopter." Then it was learned two other men were wounded past the clearing. Michael and another fellow soldier brought

one injured man safely back to the helicopter. However, one was still in danger. Michael went back after the third man, and it was during this selfless act that Michael was killed in action. The soldier he was trying to save survived. Michael gave his life in order to save another. Bonnie described Michael's death as: "Mike was our light on our hill, then the light went out." Bonnie Gooch has met many of the Ruthless Riders and fellow cadets who attended the Oklahoma Military Academy with Michael, she stated "after all this time his death still brings tears to their eyes, Mike was loved."

OMA ALUMNUS WINS EMMY AWARD

On July 25, the Documentary L'Dor V'Dor Generation to Generation-A History of Tulsa's Jewish Community won the Heartland Division Emmy Award for Best Historical Documentary. This is the story of Tulsa's Jewish community from its arrival in America, to its settling in Indian Territory, to its contemporary commitment to Oklahoma. Themes of persistence in the face of hardship and discrimination, institutional racism and dreams of a better life are addressed. The documentary has been shown on PBS stations around the country including RSU-TV. The Emmy winners were:

Jeremy Lamberton: Director,
Lookout Mountain Productions

Elvis Ripley: Director, Lookout
Mountain Productions

Phil Goldfarb, OMA '69:
Producer, President of the Jewish
Genealogical Society of Tulsa

Jerry Parkhurst: Producer, Tulsa
Historical Society

Michelle Place: Producer, Tulsa
Historical Society

The DVD is available at The Tulsa
Historical Society. It can also be
viewed on Amazon Prime Video or
on YouTube.



Mr. Phil Goldfarb '69

FAMILY OF FIRST OMA PRESIDENT VISITS THE HILL



Ahead of the nation's Independence Day holiday, three special guests took time to learn about the legacy of Colonel Stephen M. Barrett, the Oklahoma Military Academy's first president.

Xander and Brendan Oldham, along with their mother Melissa, visited the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum located on the campus of Rogers State University. Melissa's husband Jeff is the great grandson of Stephen Barrett. The family visited from their hometown of Austin, TX. Dewey Wilson, OMA Class of 1966, provided a tour of the museum to the family while Dr. David Bath, RSU history professor, spoke with Xander about his interest in military history.

The OMA Museum tells the story of more than 10,000 cadets who attended from 1919 to 1971.

The museum collects, preserves and exhibits items relevant to the institution's history.

"This was a very special day to have these very close relatives of President Stephen M. Barrett on the campus to see firsthand the OMA Museum and gain an understanding of the relationship between the OMA Alumni and Rogers State University," OMA Director Danette Boyle said.

RSU was established in 1909 as Eastern University Preparatory School. Barrett held what would be the last president's position for EUPS and was the first president of its successor, the Oklahoma Military Academy. He served as OMA President from 1920-1923 and spent his life educating others, in teaching, administrative positions and as a writer.

Barrett's grandchildren, Jo Barrett Oldham and Jane Barrett Hill, established the Colonel Stephen M. Barrett Scholarship Endowment in his honor. The family established the scholarship in hopes of helping students who want to enter the field of education.

RSU's military history spans five decades supporting the needs of area residents and the United States Armed Forces. RSU established the Oklahoma Army National Guard's Guard Officer Leadership Development program in 2014. The GOLD program provides an opportunity for soldiers to attend college full-time, attend military science classes, and prepare themselves for an exciting and challenging career as an Army National Guard officer.

Earlier this year, RSU celebrated the grand opening of its Student Veteran Center, which serves as a space for student veterans, active military and military-affiliated students to study, relax and foster a sense of community.

The SVC is made possible in part by the OMA Alumni Association. In honor of the OMA's rich tradition, RSU continues to provide transformational education opportunities to student veterans and their families. This year, RSU celebrates 20 years as an accredited institution awarding bachelor's degrees.

"TAKING FLIGHT: THE NADINE RAMSEY STORY" IS NOW AVAILABLE!



Dr. Raquel Ramsey

Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story by Raquel Ramsey and Tricia Aurand has been published and available for purchase from the OMA Alumni office. Raquel Ramsey is the wife of the late OMA Alumnus, Col. Edwin P. Ramsey '37. Nadine Ramsey is Edwin Ramsey's sister and Raquel's sister-in-law. The book is an inspiring story of a girl from Depression-era Kansas who overcame tremendous challenges and defied convention to become an elite pilot – one of few American women to fly fighter aircraft during World War II.

If you wish to have an autographed copy, you can order direct from Raquel Ramsey at raquiramsey1946@gmail.com and include a check in the amount of \$36.00 (\$29.95 for cost of book and \$6.00 for shipping). If possible, Raquel will attend the 2021 OMA

Alumni Reunion and be available for a book signing at the Saturday luncheon.

Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story is more than the tale of her days as a WASP ferrying high-priority army aircraft across the skies of World War II America. It is the heartfelt account of her family and its collective grit, patriotism, and raw courage. A good read with a ton of great research on woman pioneers in aviation." Sarah Byrn Rickman, Author of *The Originals: The Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron of World War II and Wasp of the Ferry Command; Women Pilots, Uncommon Deeds*.

Film production of the documentary, *Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story*, by Vanilla Fire has been postponed due to COVID-19.

OMA ALUMNI SUPPORT THE GOLD PROGRAM



We need your help with BOOTS BACK ON THE HILL by supporting scholarships and activities for the RSU students in the Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program. The GOLD program provides an opportunity for Soldiers to attend college full-time, attend Military Science classes, and prepare themselves for an exciting and challenging career as an Army National Guard officer. Your

generous contribution today will not only have a positive lifetime impact on a young military student, but it will also help perpetuate the OMA legacy.

For more information or make a contribution, please contact Danette Boyle at 918-343-6888 or email dboyle@rsu.edu.

RSU ENROLLING FOR SPRING SEMESTER; REMOVES APPLICATION FEES IN COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS FIRST

The Rogers State University Office of Admissions is gearing up for spring enrollment while offering no application fee for the 2021-2022 academic year.

"We are excited to be able to give back to our partnering high schools, organizations and communities by removing the application fee," Lee Johnson, director of admissions, said. "This new avenue toward submitting an application without fee adds a level of personal touch and a student first mindset for future Hillcats."

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to meet the needs of the incoming student population, RSU also offers no essay questions, no minimum ACT or SAT scores and no minimum GPA required for admittance.

"Our goal is to focus on touch points with current relationships, while opening new doors for outreach in communities, organizations and businesses. Being adaptable and accessible has never been more important than these last months.

It is an obstacle we have accepted with a strategic-minded approach," Johnson said.

The spring enrollment period is also open for RSU's Reach Higher program for adult learners. Five convenient, eight-week mini semesters allow working adults to complete their degree with minimal interruption. The next mini semester begins in January.

"The Reach Higher program is a convenient and flexible degree option for many working adults in our community that do not have time for a traditional class schedule. We are committed to doing our best to get them back into college to complete their degree with minimal interruption, while also providing them with an excellent avenue for degree completion," Ronna Hatley, Reach Higher facilitator, said.

RSU's Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership is part of the statewide initiative to increase the number of state residents who have earned bachelor's degrees, coordinated by the Oklahoma State

Regents for Higher Education. This degree path is offered online in a flexible, accelerated format to assist more adults in northeast Oklahoma to earn a four-year degree. Financial aid also is available to help pay for attending classes.

"It is always reassuring to assist in eliminating any kind of financial barriers, and within that barrier decreasing levels of stress that may come with the application process," Johnson said.

Rogers State University is a four-year regional university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission. Tracing its roots back to 1909, RSU celebrates 20 years as an accredited institution awarding bachelor's degrees this year.

RSU has been a leader in distance learning and was the first Oklahoma university to offer degree programs entirely online. 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 out a student loan.

IN MEMORY OF OMA CADETS

Please join us in remembering the Oklahoma Military Academy cadets who have recently passed or we have just been notified of their passing.

1940s

Zorus P. Colglazier '45, Deceased January 4, 2020
William (Bill) C. Mason, '45, Deceased October 13, 2020
Joe White McBride, Jr., '49, Deceased February 25, 2020
Charles Donald Neal, '46, Deceased April 17, 2020
Ervin Raus, '49, Deceased April 25, 2015
Paul Rooker, '43, Deceased February 16, 2020
Evans (Grant) Stephens, '40, Deceased July 25, 2019
Fred Tayar, '40, Deceased October 14, 2020
James (Jim) B. Townsend, '45, Deceased July 18, 2019

1950s

Don Bateman, '55, Deceased November 19, 2020
David L. Blankenship '52, Deceased January 19, 2020
Barton Broadhead, '50, Deceased October 29, 2019
R. Alan Chase, '50, Deceased October 13, 2020
Charles R. Corbett, '55, Deceased October 25, 2019
Gene Crose, '56, Deceased August 13, 2020
Ronald C. Eells '57, Deceased December 8, 2019
Joseph Ted Frizzell II, '54, Deceased October 17, 2017
David Galloway, '52, Deceased August 2019
Clarence F. Green '58, Deceased October 10, 2019
William C. Hayes, '59, Deceased June 15, 2019
Don Hill, '54, Deceased August 24, 2020
Robert Hudiburg, '55, Deceased January 27, 2020
Robert Hurst, '59, Deceased April 13, 2020
Robert Lee Jinks, '54, Deceased December 30, 2019
Harold J. Johnson '50, Deceased July 19, 2019
Larry D. Rawlings, '54, Deceased September 8, 2020

Jim Stravlo, '50, Deceased February 29, 2020

Robert (Bob) Wallack, '53, Deceased December 8, 2019
Charles Woodson, '52, Deceased September 23, 2020
Ted Wright, '52, Deceased August 21, 2019

1960s

James Branstetter, '60, Deceased May 24, 2019
James Carson, '62, Deceased December 25, 2019
John Scott "Scotty" Crouch, '67, Deceased June 7, 2019
Joe Dudley, '67, Deceased July 29, 2020
Claude Graves, '66, Deceased April 1, 2020
Roy David Haines, '68, Deceased March 19, 2020
Carmon Harris, '60, Deceased November 4, 2017
Kenneth J. Howard, '69, Deceased February 9, 2009
Richard E. Jones, '64, Deceased January 14, 2018
Wayne McBeath, '67, Deceased September 26, 2020
John Rapp, '60, Deceased November 18, 2019
Max Roberson, '60, Deceased April 15, 2019
Victor Rogers, '68, Deceased December 6, 2019
Bobby Seat, '66, Deceased May 10, 2020
Harry Simpson, '65, Deceased May 23, 2020
Beery Sorenson, '63, Deceased March 25, 2013
Richard Stowers, '65, Deceased December 24, 2019
Jack Teusink, '67, Deceased July 2018
Jerry Glenn Walters, '67, Deceased May 6, 2020
Billie G. Williams, '69, Deceased June 22, 2019
Jim D. Williams, '68, Deceased March 15, 2020

1970s

David Laster '71, Deceased November 14, 2020
James Neil Webb, '71, Deceased August 16, 2020



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INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT OMA LIFE IN THE 1940s

- First year (Rabbits) were not allowed to go home until Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- In 1944, Rabbit period was shortened from a year to a single semester (because the Army needed officers quickly for WWII)
- The only time to call home was after their Rabbit semester and then they could call home on weekends only (remember long distance – even to Tulsa was expensive)
- Family could not come except for parades and Parents Weekend
- The registration fee in 1943 was \$30.00. The cost for a four month term was \$69.50 per term, plus laboratory fees.
- Items cadets could bring from home:
 - 1 bathrobe (plain)
 - 1 pillow, standard size
 - 1 pair slippers (plain)
 - 6 pairs shirts, under
 - 6 pairs shorts, under
 - Toilet articles (plain)