A NEW BEGINNING
FOR THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY MUSEUM

PAGE 4
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

To my OMA Brothers:

It was wonderful to see the great turnout for our latest OMA Alumni Reunion. Thank you all for traveling from places near and far to reconnect with your former classmates and friends and share once again our unique bond as former OMA cadets.

One of the best things we learned on the Hill was making opportunities from challenges – getting positive outcomes from trying circumstances. I think that’s exactly what happened with the reunion this year. After the pandemic forced us to change our date from summer to fall, we found that early autumn was a perfect time of year for the event. We’ve already set our next reunion for the weekend of September 16-17, 2022. Please mark your calendars with that information.

Those of you who participated in this year’s reunion know that we’re now well underway with one of the most exciting projects ever launched by the OMA Alumni Association. It’s also one of the most important. A newly designed, state-of-the-art OMA Museum, featuring a high-tech conference room and dining area along with interactive exhibits, will insure our school’s legacy will continue for many years to come. That’s something that makes me proud and happy, and I know you feel the same way.

With courage, loyalty, and honor,

Ken Colley ’69
OMA Alumni Association President

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Dear OMA Alumni,

Like OMA Alumni President, Ken Colley and many other alumni who attended the latest OMA Reunion, I was very impressed with the presentation on the new OMA Museum made by Dr. Bob Blackburn, the former executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and a nationally known expert on museum renovation. I’m happy to report that we have already received significant contributions toward our goal of $500,000. RSU President Dr. Larry Rice has also assured us of RSU’s participation in and commitment to the project. We are well along the path to completion.

In addition to Dr. Blackburn (the son of an OMA professor-coach), the team working on the museum includes Cameron Eagle, a noted artist and museum-exhibit specialist, and John Wooley, author of the Voices from the Hill book and screenwriter for our award-winning documentary, Oklahoma Military Academy: West Point of the Southwest. In the following months, these three men will be working together on an extensively refurbished museum that, when finished, will not only make us all proud, but will also ensure that OMA will be remembered and celebrated for a very long time.

In the next month or so, you’ll be hearing more from us about this project and your opportunity to be a part of it. These are exciting days for OMA and its alumni, and I’m honored, as always, to be sharing them with you.

Sincerely,

Danette Boyle
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2021-2022

Mr. Philip Alexander ’67
Mr. Ken Colley ’69
Mr. Joe Daniel ’69
Mr. Rob Fisher ’68
Mr. Phil Goldfarb ’69
Mr. Barry Grabel ’64
Mr. Allen Lewis ’61
Mr. John Lingenfelter ’67
Mr. Curt McMenamy ’64
Mr. James Morrison ’52
Mr. David Oldaker ’70
Mr. Bill Ramsay ’61
Mr. Bill Shaffer ’65
Mr. Lee Shero ’65
Mr. Steve Smith ’65
Mr. Jim Tanner ’67
Mr. Randy Vierling ’63
Mr. Clark Dean Webb ’61
Mr. Dewey Wilson ’66
Mr. Darrell Wooster ’62
This October we had the imminent launch of the new Oklahoma Military Academy Museum. Scheduled for completion in September 2022 – less than a year from now – it will be a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility, using a variety of audio and visual elements that will keep OMA, its alumni and staff, and its principles of Courage, Loyalty and Honor alive for new generations to experience and understand. In addition to becoming one of this area’s top tourist destinations, the new OMA Museum will be a living, breathing part of the Rogers State University campus, with a multipurpose, high-tech conference center able to accommodate everything from meetings and lectures to weddings and special dinners. Not only will it be educational, enlightening, and entertaining – it will also be useful to RSU staff, faculty, and students, as well as to the greater community.

Designed by nationally known artist and exhibit specialist Cameron Eagle and Dr. Bob Blackburn, former Executive Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the son of a former OMA professor and coach, the new museum will focus on two themes: the school’s history, and the lessons alumni learned on campus, the ones that have guided their lives ever since.

The restoration and renovation of the OMA Museum has a budget of $500,000 for the project and $50,000 for the contingency fund.

“This is our lifetime opportunity to upgrade the OMA Museum to utilize the latest 21st century audio-visual technology. It will be a tribute to all OMA cadets that walked on ‘The Hill’.”
– Phil Goldfarb OMA ’67 & ’69

“Just a note to tell you how pleased I am to hear the OMA Museum will to be renovated. When completed, it will be state of the art.”
– Bill Harris ’54

J. Jay Hines ’58, Randy Vierling ’63, Danette Boyle and Dr. Bob Blackburn going over all the plans for the OMA Museum after J. Jay presented a generous gift to secure the naming opportunity for the Conference Center.
We can begin work when we have the gifts and pledges. We are so thankful that through the years, the OMA Alumni Association has saved money for the museum and RSU and the RSU Foundation are generously supporting us. With these funds and recent gifts and pledges, we currently have about $400,000. We need another $100,000 to begin work and $50,000 for the contingency fund.

With this new museum poised to stand for many decades as a tribute to the legacy of our school, we believe this is a particularly exciting time to be an OMA alumnus. And, as we will once again get together for the 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion on September 16 and 17, we are reminded just how resilient we all can be.

"I’m excited to be a part of the renovations to the Oklahoma Military Academy’s Museum and the upgrades to a first class Legacy Center." – John Lingenfelter ’67

To support the OMA Museum restoration and renovation with a tax deductible contribution, please contact Danette Boyle at dboyle@rsu.edu, 918-343-6888 or 918-381-8764.
OMA ALUMNI SALUTE TO MAJ. GEN. (RET) MICHAEL A. KUEHR

OMA Alumni Association member Major General (RET) Michael Kuehr attended OMA from 1966-1968 on a basketball scholarship. His leadership during his time as a cadet, as well as military service, has allowed him to play an active role in the restoration efforts for the OMA Museum.

"General Kuehr has been an exemplary member of the OMA Alumni Association and served for many years on the Board of Directors. He assumed a leadership role in launching the efforts to restore and renovate the OMA Museum," Dr. Boyle said.

For Kuehr, the museum is more than a vault of stories. It represents a worthy legacy in which all cadets can be proud.

"It is important for OMA history to remain alive because it represents, in the best way, what is possible in advancing the cause for the greater good. While OMA was initially established to meet the needs for growing educational requirements and to support military manpower requirements, it has become so much more," Kuehr said.

Kuehr served in the Army’s Military Police Branch, Air Defense Artillery, 82nd Airborne Division and the 1st Armored Division. After six years of active duty, he attended law school, but remained in the reserves as part of the 90th Army Reserve Command. He served in various staff positions, including Aide de Camp, operations officer, battalion commander and commandant of the US Army Reserve Forces School.

His awards and decorations include The Army Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Army Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medal, the Senior Parachutist Badge and the Pathfinder Badge.

"The OMA alumni contributions did not stop upon graduation or retirement. We have endured well past what most would have expected, as evidenced by the strong support of the OMA Alumni Association to Rogers State University, current generations and beyond," Kuehr said. "There are few organizations with our increasing challenges that have our spirit and resolve as we continue our service to the nation by making significant leadership and monetary contributions."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
OMA ALUMNI REUNION | SEPT. 16-17, 2022

James Tanner ‘67 | 2022 OMA Alumni Reunion Adjutant
LETTER FROM JOHN WALTHOUR ’61

Thank you for sending me the great information from your well-done reunion. I could not attend but felt a part of it as I read about the great time had by all.

I read over and over the names of cadets that have left us in the fourth quarter and reached the overtime years of their lives. Everyone will leave being thankful for attending OMA and the experiences they used throughout their lives.

I am hit hard with the knowledge of the sense of loss I felt for the 11 I knew and how many more you knew. Your sense of loss is magnified many times over compared to mine. Frequent grieving is how we keep their memory alive.

One fact I’ve discovered in my friends fourth quarter is how many are dealing with caring for their loved ones, taking away money saved for retirement dreams.

I appreciate your keeping me in the loop with the event mail out.

A definition of a peak experience: “It’s a moment when your mind and heart and body are all in sync, it’s the certainty of knowing that there is no other place on Earth that I should be right now.”

It doesn’t take a volcanic eruption to recognize the beauty of a moment. However, you must take the time to be in those moments. The OMA reunions are such moments.

IN MEMORY OF OMA CADETS

Please join us in remembering our lost OMA cadets. The list of deceased includes those who have passed and whose passing has been reported since the last Guidon publication.

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<tr>
<th>CADET</th>
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<td><strong>1940s</strong></td>
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<td>Durcie Freeman ’45</td>
<td>October 23, 2020</td>
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<td>November 14, 2021</td>
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<td>Danny L. Eppe ’55</td>
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<td>March 12, 2021</td>
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<td>Burney R. Bellettini ’70</td>
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2021 OMA Alumni Reunion honorees with OMA Alumni President Ken Colley and Reunion Adjutant David Raper.

Front row, pictured left to right: Ray Jennings ’70, who was accepting the Hall of Fame award on behalf of his uncle, Dave T. Faulkner ’34 (Posthumous), Phil Goldfarb ’69, recipient of the Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence, Capt. Vincent Mocini ’69, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni award, Bert Rosson ’54, recipient of the Hall of Fame award and Allen L. Lewis ’61, recipient of the Hall of Fame award.

Back row, left to right: John E. Helbing ’67, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni award, Ken Colley ’69, OMA Alumni President, David Raper ’65, Reunion Adjutant and Bill Shaffer ’65 who was accepting the Hall of Fame award on behalf of Harry Simpson ’65 (Posthumous).

Not pictured: Rob J. Fisher ’68, recipient of the Hall of Fame award, Darrell Wooster ’62, recipient of the Distinguished Alumni award and Jim Morrison ’52, recipient of the OMA Perseverance Award.

Phil Goldfarb, Class of 1969, shown with RSU President Larry Rice and OMA Alumni President Ken Colley ’69, as he received the 2021 Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence.

RSU GOLD Program students “Post the Colors” at the Distinguished Alumni/Hall of Fame Ceremony

Maurice Masterson ’69 and his son Maurice Masterson Jr. visiting the OMA museum.

GOLD Program student Chelsea Fivekiller and Michael Mills ’61.
First Place Winning Team in the 2021 OMA Alumni Golf Classic. Left to right: Bobby Cobb, Ash Lovell, Press Mahaffey and Ric Gatlin ’63.

RSU GOLD Program students perform in Kadet Kapers Friday night of the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion.

David Raper ’65 served as the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion Adjutant.

"I’m so thankful to be a part of what was a great institution and to be associated with the terrific men that made it great. I truly hope that future generations will look at the legacy we leave and say that we made a difference. It was four of the best years of my life.” – Steve Smith ’65

Frank Howard ’64 and his wife Jan; Bob Chambers, Jr. ’62 and his wife Jan; and Jim Elder ’67 and his wife Pat enjoying the Saturday night dinner dance.
RSU GOLD Program student, Second Lieutenant Dylan Huffman became a commissioned officer in the Army National Guard in a ceremony during the Saturday Luncheon at the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion. He is pictured with OMA Alumni Association President, Ken Colley ’69.

“It was a privilege to conduct the 9/11 20th year anniversary memorial service at the 2021 OMA Alumni Reunion. To do this with Randy Vierling and David Raper was an added pleasure.” – Allen Lewis ’61
“I’d like to express my appreciation for all you do to assist the OMA Alumni Association and to all those who attended that great institution. What a terrific weekend that just concluded. The activities that occurred don’t just happen. Especially during these trying times with COVID. It does my heart good to know that the OMA Legacy is in such good hands. For a first time attender, from the bottom of my heart, thank you and your staff for a job well done. Who knows, you may just see me again.” – Wash Rushing ’68
Left to right: GOLD Program students, Kyle Jackson and Tanner Tairent, Jim Elder ’67, Vincent Mocini ’69, Phil Goldfarb ’69 and Joe Daniel ’69.

Left to right: John Hinch ’66, Carolyn Hinch, Bonnie Gooch, Susan Gallman, David Gallman ’66 and Gary Good ’68.

Left to right: Ken Overton, Twyla Overton, Beverly Wofford, Don Wofford, David Semkoff and Cheryl Semkoff.
Colleen Lewis at the Ladies Luncheon.

Bonnie Gooch and Nona Wilson.

OMA Alumni and guests enjoying OMA memorabilia in the OMA Museum during the reunion.

Danette Boyle, Lana Raper and RSU 1st Lady, Peggy Rice.

Colleen Lewis at the Ladies Luncheon.
2021 OMA ALUMNI SOUTH PADRE MINI REUNION
HOSTED BY JIM KNIGHT ‘67
Attendees: Jim Knight ’67, Irma Chavez, Bill Harris ’54, Sue Harris, Allen Lewis ’61, Colleen Lewis, Bert Rosson ’54, Clark Webb ’61, Terry Webb, Ron Boyle, Danette Boyle, RSU President Larry Rice and First Lady Peggy Rice.
GOLD PROGRAM STUDENTS | FALL 2021

Taiwo Ayodele
Owasso, OK

Carlson Elizabeth
Tulsa, OK

Dylan Davis
Skiatook, OK

Caleb Dugan
Owasso, OK

Braydon Fields
Tahlequah, OK

Chelsea Fivekiller
Bartlesville, OK

Elijah Goswick
Tulsa, OK

Kyle Jackson
Collinsville, OK

Logan Jones
Tulsa, OK

Janny Leyva
Tulsa, OK

Dillon Kay
Owasso, OK

Ruben Morales
Coweta, OK

Garren Patrick
Owasso, OK

Cole Reeves
Talala, OK

Ian Stinnett
Bluejacket, OK

Scott Tairent II
Collinsville, OK

Tanner Tairent
Collinsville, OK

David Towner
Bixby, OK

Alex Tuttle
Jenks, OK

OMA ALUMNI ON DISPLAY

Dewey Wilson ’66, Curator of the OMA Museum, displays OMA memorabilia at the Will Rogers Museum 2021 Halloween event.

Philip Alexander ’67 and member of the OMA Alumni Board of Directors presents handmade American Flag to Dr. Larry Rice, RSU President to express appreciation for his support of the OMA Alumni Association.
United States Senator Jim Inhofe received the Rogers State University Constitution Award today during a ceremony on the Claremore campus. Former Air Force officer and NASA astronaut Lieutenant General Thomas P. Stafford, USAF (Ret.) presented Inhofe with the high honor.

Each fall since 1987, RSU has presented the Constitution Award to an Oklahoman who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution through his or her life’s work. The RSU Constitution Award was established in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. Constitution.

"We are honored to recognize Senator Inhofe with this distinguished award," RSU President Dr. Larry Rice said. "He has served Oklahoma and the nation with distinction, and he has honorably upheld the principles of the U.S. Constitution."

Inhofe is the senior U.S. Senator from Oklahoma, a seat he was first elected to in 1994. A member of the Republican Party, he is the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, chaired the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works from 2003 to 2007 and again from 2015 to 2017. Inhofe served as the U.S. Representative for Oklahoma’s first congressional district from 1987 to 1994 and as mayor of Tulsa from 1978 to 1984.

"I have had the fortune to have worked with many U.S. Congressmen, Senators, Presidents, and military and civilian leaders throughout my time in the Air Force, as an astronaut, and as a member of the public. In all that time, Senator Inhofe rises to the top," Stafford said. "He makes decisions according to the Constitution. More than that, he embodies the Constitution in all his actions. No time was that clearer than his vote in January on the presidential election. The Constitution is clear in that elections are held and
determined by the states. It must be the states. Senator Inhofe knows the Constitution. He knew it must be the states even when other members of our delegation did not. His unwavering commitment to the Constitution is what has made him a great public servant and U.S. Senator.”

In accepting the award, Inhofe spoke about the importance of the Constitution, to support and defend it ensuring the fundamental rights of life and liberty for every American.

RSU CELEBRATES FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

Being a first-generation college student is an act of courage. The United States Department of Education reports that 33 percent of higher education students in the United States are first in their family to attend college. At Rogers State University more than 1,700 students are first-generation, and on November 8 they were celebrated for their commitment to education.

“I applaud our students who are the first in their family to attend college; they deserve all the recognition and support our institution can provide. I want them to know that RSU is truly here to help each of them achieve their educational goals,” Dr. Robert Goltra III, vice president for student affairs, said.

First-Generation Day celebrates the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965. HEA was intended to help level a playing field that for too long had been weighed against Americans from minority and low-income backgrounds. In addition to creating federal grants and loan programs to help students finance their educations, the legislation made key investments in institutions of higher education.

Additionally, HEA ushered in federal programs, including TRIO, student assistance programs necessary for postsecondary access, retention, and completion for low-income, potential first-generation college graduates.

“Many of our first-generation students realize that education is a way to break the cycle of poverty they experienced as a child. They are motivated to get a college degree to make a better life for future generations, and many are parents modeling for their children that education is critical in attaining the future they desire,” Dr. Goltra said.

Being a first-generation college student comes with its own unique challenges. Support from RSU counselors with the TRiO Programs ensure that students are equipped with the resources they need. These programs support underrepresented ethnic minority, economically disadvantaged, and first-generation college students. Zoe Peters, a fine arts and multimedia sophomore from Claremore, said RSU has championed her along the way.

“To be celebrated as a first-generation student means the world to me. It has been a nerve-wracking journey for me knowing I’m the first in my family to take the journey, but I’m not alone. RSU has supported my college journey with scholarship money, while also providing supporting services such as tutoring, financial coaching, counseling and academic advising,” Peters said.

Charles Whitlock, a junior from Vinita studying physical science, math and physics, is a non-traditional student coming back to attain his educational goals. He began at RSU Bartlesville and transitioned to the Claremore campus. He encourages other first-generation and non-traditional students to communicate their needs.

“I cannot begin to explain the impact that I have had on my educational path by simply talking to my instructors and faculty on campus. Never be afraid to ask a question and if the person you ask cannot answer, seek out someone who can,” Whitlock said.

First-Generation Day included a panel presentation and lunch and learn by the Council on Education. The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs, Student Government Association and Student Support Services.

“First generation students are an essential part of our community on campus. This week, we recognized their bravery in being the first in their family to pursue higher education,” Kurt Levan, SGA president, said.
BOYS STATE SELECTS ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY AS NEW HOME

Oklahoma’s premiere leadership program for young men has a new home. For the first time in more than 35 years, American Legion of Oklahoma’s annual Boys State program will take place on the campus of Rogers State University in Claremore.

“We are proud to serve as the new host for Boys State,” said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. “RSU and American Legion of Oklahoma share a long legacy of service to our state and nation. This new partnership ensures a bright future for the next generation of leaders.”

Boys State is a non-partisan week long intensive leadership development program. Hundreds of young men from across the state participate each year. Participants are selected by their local American Legion post and include high school students who have completed their junior year or senior year and are judged as representing the best of their community. Through concurrent enrollment, students in the program earn college credit during the program.

“The decision to locate our program at Rogers State University was made with careful consideration,” said Oklahoma Boys State Director Corey Brooks. “This historic move will best serve our students as we endeavor to instill within them a deep sense of service, leadership and patriotism.”

“Affiliation with a four-year university is an intentional move for Boys State. Gaining access to a top tier institution located within the Tulsa metro will expose our students to new educational opportunities,” Brooks said.

Upon graduating from high school, students who complete Boys State will be eligible for tuition and housing scholarships at RSU. Boys State will take place during the upcoming summer from May 28 to June 4.
LETTER FROM AN ALUMNUS

August 29, 2021

Danette and Ken,

Enclosed is a photograph of three OMA cadets that (appeared back in the 1960’s).
(If my memory serves me: L-R, Gish, (unknown), and Charlie Pratt.)

The picture illustrates the standards all cadets tried to maintain with perfect uniforms, almost perfect!

That's how they came from our laundry and that's how we usually wore them.

Maybe the picture deserves a place in our Museum - simply to show the usual and customary military bearing of a cadet.

Thanks for all you do!

Iglehart, J.P. '64

P. S. Will miss you all this year.