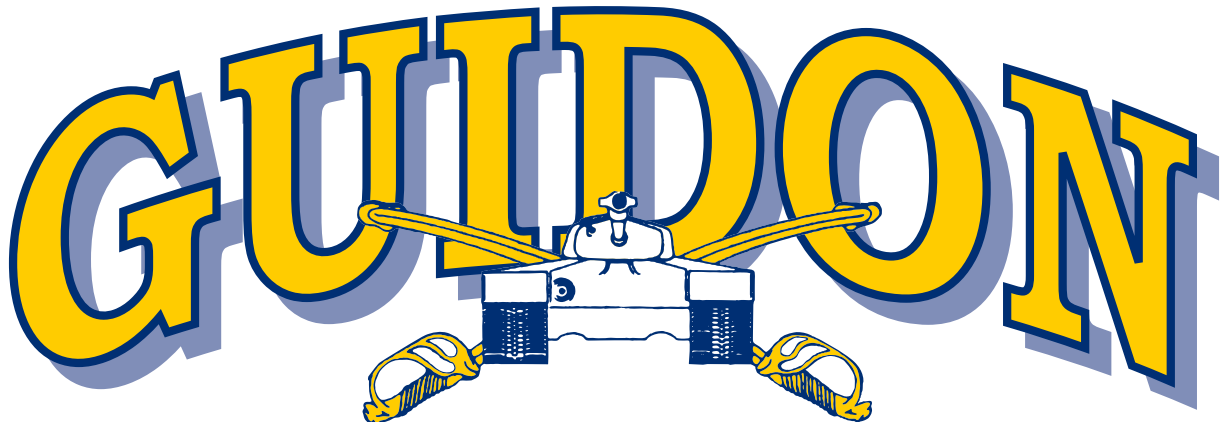


SPRING 2024

COURAGE ★ LOYALTY ★ HONOR



OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI



A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF THE OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Ken Colley '69

The 2024 year is well on its way and the plans for the OMA Alumni Reunion are underway. You should start getting excited as we unfold all the new activities for the reunion weekend, scheduled for September 20 and 21, 2024.

We will have an enhanced demonstration of drones with robotics added to the mix this year. And you can participate.

Even better, just how good is your memory? Friday evening "Open Mic" is happening again, and the best stories remembered and told will get you a great prize. No, I cannot tell you what the prizes are. That is a secret.

The best is yet to come! Saturday evening, we will have a Country Western Extravaganza! Everything from the food to the music, including line dancing, can happen. Get your boots, chaps, jeans, spurs, hats, and whatever else you cowboys have in your closet and come prepared to walk and talk like an Oklahoma cowboy. We will have the best country western music you have ever heard. And yes, we will have a contest for the best dressed, most creatively dressed, cutest cowboy couple, and on and on! We really want you to attend the reunion. Call Danette and she can register you over the phone.

In the meantime, please keep telling all your friends about our new OMA Museum. Our visitors keep coming and they love the OMA Museum.

With Courage, Loyalty, and Honor,

  
**Ken Colley '69**  
OMA Alumni Association President

## 2023-2024 OMA ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mr. Clark Dean Webb '61

Mr. Dewey Wilson '66

Mr. Darrell Wooster '62



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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dr. Danette Boyle

ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI:

I hope you have read the letter from our Alumni President Ken Colley. If so, I hope you are as excited as I am about the added fun activities we are planning at the Reunion. I cannot wait to hear all your stories on Friday night. And they better be good, because we are giving prizes to the best memories/stories of your years at OMA.

I am also pleased to let you know William Ramsay, class of 1960, will be our Adjutant for the Reunion. Bill is an outstanding OMA alumnus and was very instrumental in getting all the photos taken and edited for our new first class OMA Museum. Please see his biography on page xx.

Thanks to all of you who have sent me so many emails about how much you enjoyed the 2023 Reunion and your plans to be here September 20 and 21 for the 2024 Reunion. It will be so much fun. I am so excited about the Saturday evening Country Western Extravaganza, and I will definitely be wearing my boots and hat. There will be prizes for the best dressed. And the first one of you (OMA Alumni) that calls to tell me you are dressing up for the Western dress contest Saturday evening will get a discount for your reunion fees. Hurry up and call me today!

On a more serious note, the OMA Museum is a huge hit in Claremore, plus guests are traveling from Tulsa and all over to see the world class OMA Museum!

On a sad note, I am receiving too many obit notices so please do not wait to come Home!

REPORT TO THE HILL! SEPTEMBER 20 AND 21.

With All Good Thoughts,

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

**Danette Boyle**  
Executive Director OMA Alumni Association

## FEATURES

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## 2024 OMA ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

### OMA Distinguished Alumni

William R. Wilson (Posthumous) '65  
 Wayne McCombs (Posthumous) '72  
 Larry Fields '68  
 Randy Hetherington '67

### OMA Hall of Fame

Bill Poteet '65  
 Gary Good '68  
 Stratford B. Duke (Posthumous) '33

### Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence

Carlos Galvez '60  
 Dewey Wilson '66

*"Truly speechless. Last time I was here, the museum was just getting started. Thank you all for keeping OMA alive."*

– Lou W. Brock  
 Son of Wheeler Brock, 1930 High School graduate, 1932 Junior College



# MEET THE ADJUTANT FOR THE OMA ALUMNI 2024 REUNION



Bill Ramsay graduated from high school in 1961 after spending two years at OMA, achieving the rank of Master Sergeant, and was lead guitar player in the OMA Rock and Roll Band. He later graduated from The University of Tulsa with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Bill began his 40-year career in telecommunications at Southwestern Bell, working in the mailroom while attending college. After graduation he held many different positions in Oklahoma and in St. Louis including sales, technical support and marketing. He then joined AT&T at the time of the breakup of the Bell system. In 1986, Bill was hired by WiTel, a subsidiary of The Williams Companies in Tulsa, at the time of the rapid growth and development of WiTel and WorldCom. He became a five-time recipient of the WiTel Presidents Club Award.

During this time, he and a team of executives worked on planning and executing several acquisitions, along with negotiating large domestic and international customer contracts. Verizon ultimately acquired the company, and he retired from there in 2007 as director of global wholesale accounts, responsible for a sales and technical support group with an annual revenue base of over \$300 million. Since leaving Verizon, Bill has been developing a portrait and real estate photography business, along with the development of an internet marketing company.

Bill has been actively involved in civic and community activities for many years including The United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Junior Achievement and the Adopt-a-School program. He has been active in the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association, serving as president of the board of directors for three years, and currently as chairman of the OMA Museum committee. He was selected as an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 2014, OMA Hall of Fame in 2018, and received the Lt. Gen. William E. Potts Award of Excellence in 2023. Bill still plays his guitar and harmonica occasionally, and he and his wife Deann reside in Tulsa and have three children and four grandchildren.



2024 OMA Reunion Adjutant, Bill Ramsay, OMA Class of 1961.

## ANYONE 90 YEARS OR OLDER?

**Danette Boyle recently reported on the loss of two Distinguished OMA Alumni:**

**Robert "Bob" Heatley** - 99 years old passed away Jan. 4, 2024.

**Edward L. Poole** - 99 years old passed away Dec. 23, 2023.

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



# OMA ALUMNI RECALL MEMORIES ON THE HILL

Danette Boyle arrived on campus early on January 9 of this year with snow starting to cover the campus. After taking a few photos, she sent them to the OMA Alumni with the following message:

*"Please see the photos of our most beautiful campus, College Hill. If it reminds you of a time when you lived here, send me an email with your story."*

The following stories from OMA Alumni were quickly returned to Danette:

---

*"So beautiful!!! Captain Michael would be in awe of the respect and care that Rogers State University has given to the OMA landmarks throughout the years. I hold College Hill close to my heart and all of you that make it beautiful. I wish you a very Happy New Year with lots of God's Blessings!"*

Bonnie Gooch, Honorary Cadet 2015

---

*"I remember that the pond iced over every winter I was there and going to typing class with cold, cold hands."*

Richard Burdyn, Class of 1966

---

*"OMA was a place for unique experiences. It was difficult at first, learning new ways, new rules, and learning to succeed. As time went on, it became a way of life. After my first semester, with Rabbit Period, I never thought I'd look forward to fall and the beginning of a new school year. Those are memories I will treasure always and never forget. Even more important is the Alumni Association and its accomplishments. When I met Dr. Mosier at his invitation, and discovered his thoughts about forming the association, I was shocked to say the least."*

*Like most cadets, I felt like OMA had ended on a bad note, to the point that we probably weren't welcome on campus. I found out that we were wrong, and nothing could have been further from the truth. Had it not been for the association, most of us would have lost track of close friends from around the country and never seen them again. Of all the things the association has accomplished, memorials, endowments, and the museum, it has also afforded us the opportunity to gather, remember old times, and rekindle the friendships we had at OMA."*

*"Much time has passed, and regrettably, our numbers are shrinking. Old faces are disappearing, but as long as any of us remain, there will always be an OMA Alumni Association, with reunions to attend and projects to accomplish."*

Jim Elder, Class of 1967





*"As you know Cadets were quite 'Resourceful.' This is a true story. The statute of limitations has long expired if they would have even applied."*

*The winter of 1970-71 was very cold and lots and lots of snow. Tall snow drifts and snowplow piles were everywhere on campus. Snowball attacks, snowball fights, snowball wars, Mess Hall trays used for sledding, all a good time.*

*"The weather report called for extreme freezing cold one school night. There had been conversations about whether classes would be cancelled the next day. A couple of cadets came up with a plan to make sure they were. They acquired a fire hydrant wrench, and after lights out at 10 p.m., they proceeded to open a few fire hydrants going down the "Hill" to Claremore. Needless to say, their mission was accomplished! The water flooded and froze solid on the road to the academy. Classes were cancelled as nobody could get up the hill to the Academy. We had a free day which was used for more "snow activities." For the record this Cadet no longer remembers who actually done it, but it wasn't me!*

*There are lots of 'True' stories regarding Cadet shenanigans, this is just a 'Snow' one."*

David Sink, Class of 1971

*"So beautiful, to say the least! Thank you for the photos. Lots of fond, wonderful memories!"*

Barry Boyd, Class of 1971

*"Fantastic pictures. Beautiful campus!"*

Randy Haralson, Class of 1962

*"My high school sophomore year, my parents transferred me from Edmond High School to the Hill. Snow covered the landscape as my father drove me up Will Rogers Boulevard west toward the campus. The view of the white-domed administration building at the top of the Hill aligned perfectly with the guard house flagpole and the center of the boulevard. I was most impressed by this view, and my trepidation on transferring was immediately muted by the expectations there invoked by that stellar view against a robin's egg blue sky background. Flags were still at half-staff in honor of the late John F. Kennedy, assassinated seven weeks prior. Needless to say, my expectations were exceeded by those subsequent 2.5 years of attendance."*

John Byron Combs, Class of 1966

*"When I was in my early teens, we would sled down Blue Starr Drive on the back side of the Will Rogers Memorial on an old 40's vintage car hood. No brakes and high speed. When in danger, we bailed out and went spread eagle to come to a better less violent conclusion."*

John Lingenfelter, Class of 1967





# OMA BASEBALL COACH INDUCTED INTO THE RSU ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Left to right: Doug Mosier, OMA honorary cadet; Dr. Richard Mosier, OMA honorary cadet and RSU president emeritus; Dr. Danette Boyle, executive director of OMA Alumni; Luther Martin; and Dr. Chris Ratcliff, RSU vice president for intercollegiate athletics gather for a photo following the RSU Athletics Hall of Fame Luncheon.



A pillar of Rogers State in all three of its incarnations from Oklahoma Military Academy to Claremore Junior College to Rogers State College, Luther Martin first came to College Hill as OMA's baseball coach in 1968. When OMA transitioned into Claremore Junior College in 1971, Martin continued leading the Spartan baseball program amassing a record of 249-107 over 14 seasons, never finishing a season with a losing record. His most successful season came in 1978, when he guided CJC to a 31-2 record and an appearance in the NJCAA Region 2 Championship. That year, he helped guide fellow Hillcat Hall of Famer Steve Crawford to a 5-2 record on the mound with a 1.37 ERA as Crawford was named the NJCAA Region 2 Pitcher of the Year and was named to the Regional All-Star team. Martin made a coaching career recruiting the best baseball players from talent-rich, local high schools including Claremore, Inola and Salina among others, giving those young men a chance to play baseball at another level and earn an education in the process. In 1983, he was promoted to athletic director of

the newly renamed Rogers State College, overseeing the institution's Health, Physical Education and Recreation department. Martin served in various roles for Rogers State until his retirement in 1994, including a heavy involvement with student recruitment.







## ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY GOLD PROGRAM SEES RECORD GROWTH



SFC Ruben Gonzalez, OIC of the GOLD Program

Rogers State University has a leadership program that's as good as gold. The Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) program is the premier leadership program for Oklahoma National Guard soldiers attending Rogers State University.

In recent years, the program has seen record growth, with this semester boasting the highest number of officer candidates in the program's history.

"Currently, we have 24 officer candidates enrolled in the GOLD program at RSU. This is the largest number of recruits we've ever had at once," said Sergeant First Class (SFC) Ruben Gonzalez, National Guard member and non-commissioned officer in charge. "This speaks highly about the quality of the program and its benefits to those who go through it."

The GOLD program provides academic leadership training which is built into the candidate's college curriculum. During classes, leadership labs, physical training and field exercises, students learn firsthand what it takes to be a leader, to motivate groups and to conduct missions as an officer of the U.S. Army.

SFC Gonzalez, who has been with the program since 2019, said positive word of mouth has helped foster interest in the GOLD program and its benefits to potential candidates.

"Unlike regular National Guard recruits, GOLD program members are non-deployable through graduation, going through the drills with their unit here on campus and with their primary focus being on leadership. They get the (National Guard) tuition waiver, which pays for 100% of their tuition and fees, and OMA (Oklahoma Military Academy) alumni have established scholarship endowments and restricted scholarships to help with on-campus housing, books, and their board expenses, if funding is not available," he said. "They receive paid training and all benefits of being in the military."

After obtaining 90 college credits, officer candidates between their junior and senior year are given the opportunity to attend Officer Candidate School at historic Fort Meade in South Dakota or Fort McClellan in Alabama. Students then receive their commission and are promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Their commission, combined with a degree from RSU, gives students increased opportunities in both their military and civilian careers.

"I joined the program in part to learn how to be a better leader, to gain knowledge to leverage my unique qualities and embrace any opportunity to challenge myself," said Muldrow native Shailey Evans, RSU junior and RSU GOLD Program officer candidate. "In the time





I've spent with the program so far, I've learned a lot about some of the main things I'll be tested on at OCS (Officer Candidate School), such as land navigation, drill and ceremony, battle drills, operation orders and the qualities needed to be a good leader.

"GOLD (Program) gives all the candidates opportunities to be in student leadership positions and get a good experience of what the responsibility of being in charge of others consists of," she continued. "I feel that has played a crucial part in my readiness and confidence to advance to pre-OCS, and then OCS this summer."

Evans, a medical molecular biology major at RSU, also commended SFC Gonzalez and other GOLD Program members for exemplifying leadership and camaraderie.

Every year, GOLD Program candidates meet with members of the OMA Alumni Association at the annual OMA reunion.

"As has often been said, the truly great things in life are worth waiting for, and that's certainly true when it comes to waiting so long to get boots back on the Hill," said Dr. Danette Boyle, executive director of the OMA Alumni Association. "I can hardly wait every year until the OMA Alumni Reunion when alumni come home and meet one-on-one with our military students during our reunion weekend.

"It's always exciting and a unique reunion for all when our alumni have the opportunity to meet their OMA legacy GOLD Program students," she said.

SFC Gonzalez said his greatest satisfaction in being involved in the program is watching the growth of the recruits, both as individuals and as future soldiers.

"I enjoy training soldiers. It's rewarding for me to watch them start out as freshmen – as young, immature teenagers – and over time, see them mature and develop into disciplined officers," he said.

"Being a member of the GOLD Program has helped instill more confidence in myself and my leadership skills, which enabled my ability to succeed at OCS and become a competent officer in the Army National Guard," Evans said.

GOLD enlistment applicants are eligible for all Army National Guard incentives.

Combined with an RSU degree, completion of the GOLD program allows recruits to be a National Guard officer, with greatly increased career opportunities as a civilian, following their time in the service.

## RSU ANNOUNCES FALL 2023 PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL AND DEAN'S HONOR ROLL

### PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

SOPHIA ATKINSON  
FELICHA TREASE  
DAVID DEFRANC-PONCE  
CHELSEA FIVEKILLER

### DEAN'S HONOR ROLL

BLAKE NOVAR





## RSU GUARD OFFICER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (GOLD) PROGRAM STUDENTS SPRING 2024

Taiwo Ayodele  
Senior  
Owasso, OK

Chelsea Fivekiller  
Senior  
Wylie, TX

Ruben Morales  
Sophomore  
Coweta, OK

Dorian Bonilla  
Freshman  
Owasso, OK

Elijah Goswick  
Senior  
Tulsa, OK

Blake Novar  
Junior  
Owasso, OK

Jaret Burney  
Freshman  
Miami, OK

Quondarious Hall  
Freshman  
Nowata, OK

Zachary Oxley  
Freshman  
Claremore, OK

Elizabeth Carlson  
Senior  
Claremore, OK

Corbin Hallum  
Freshman  
Sapulpa, OK

Brodie Patrick  
Freshman  
Owasso, OK

Ben Cox  
Freshman  
Claremore, OK

Robert Hamby  
Freshman  
Claremore, OK

Henasie Roberts  
Junior  
Stroud, OK

David Defranc-Ponce\*  
Junior  
Elk City, OK

Jeffrey Johnson  
Junior  
Eucha, OK

Pau Sang  
Junior  
Jenks, OK

Shailey Evans\*  
Junior  
Sallisaw, OK

Jasmin Lover  
Freshman  
Tulsa, OK

Tanner Tairrent  
Senior  
Claremore, OK

Braydon Fields  
Sophomore  
Tahlequah, OK

Anika Miller  
Freshman  
Claremore, OK

Felicha Trease  
Junior  
Claremore, OK

*"I want to take this opportunity to tell you how thankful I am for everything Dr. Boyle and the OMA Alumni Association has done for me while I have been in the GOLD Program. During my time here you have taken so much care and attention to make sure all the candidates have everything we need from our books to our dorms and everything in between. It has been especially helpful to me since I have had to make the drive back and forth from Texas to balance college and family. All of your assistance with the dining-outs helped me grow so much as a person and will be valuable skills as I go out into the business world once I graduate. I really appreciate all that you have done for me these past few years."*

**Chelsea Fivekiller**  
Senior

\*Will attend Officer Candidate School in the summer of 2024.





O.M.A.





1919.



# OMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SALUTES JAMES H. MORRISON '52

OMA ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIFETIME APPOINTMENT, 1933-2023



James H. Morrison and his wife Norma visiting the OMA Museum in 2020.

Jim Morrison, '52, was instrumental in defining the OMA legacy for future generations by selflessly giving back his time and talents. From hardscrabble roots, Morrison was able to attend OMA and then flourish at the rigorously demanding school. Morrison's early involvement at OMA showed the first signs of a lifetime of association with the institution. Under Morrison's picture in the 1952 yearbook is a list of his OMA honors and activities, including PFC., Cpl., Sgt., M/Sgt., College Football, College Basketball, Horseback Riding, Tennis, "O" Club, President of Chevron Society, Cadet Capers, Hop Committee, Military Achievement Ribbon, Merit Ribbon, Honor Roll Ribbon, Athletic Ribbon, and Drill Team. He eventually graduated from junior college in 1952. He went on to attend the University of Oklahoma on an athletic scholarship and participated in ROTC, where he was a Cadet colonel. After graduation, he served two years of active duty in the Army and served three decades with the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring as a colonel.

In his business career, he began working as an industrial engineer with Colgate Palmolive Co., and later as a sales engineer with the Universal Atlas Cement Division of United States Steel Corp., which was the first step in his long and distinguished career of owning concrete companies in Oklahoma and Kansas.

He was passionate about continuing the OMA legacy, serving for many years on the board of directors, being a member of the RSU President's Board of Advisors, chairman of the Rogers State College Foundation Board of Directors and member of the UCT/RSC Board of Regents, and faithfully participating in OMA events over the years. He was selected as an OMA Distinguished Alumnus in 1990, OMA Hall of Fame in 1996, and received the Lt. Gen. William E. Potts Award of Excellence in 2016. A passionate believer in the power of education, he also has given back to OMA's legacy institutions, with service to the schools' governing boards and foundations. Morrison and his wife Norma established the Jim and Norma Morrison Scholarship Endowment at RSU, as well as supporting initiatives both small and large on campus, including the establishment of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's GOLD program at RSU.

Whenever there has been a need, Jim stood on the front line, ready and willing to carry on the OMA legacy while strengthening educational opportunities for all Oklahomans.

## COMMENTS ABOUT JIM MORRISON:

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*"A wonderful person and totally dedicated alumni. Once a cadet, always a cadet."*

Jim Elder, Class of 1967

---

*"Jim will be missed, won't be the same without him, but he will always be here in our memories."*

Curtis McMenemy, Class of 1964

---

*"So incredibly sad to hear that! He was a good guy, a class act!"*

John Lingenfelter, Class of 1967

---

*"I am incredibly sad to hear of Jim's passing. He was a true gentleman and I always enjoyed visiting with him at the OMA Alumni Board of Directors meetings. I will miss him!!!"*

Dewey Wilson, Class of 1966

---

*"He was such a kind and gentle man, who always made you feel important in the room."*

Tonni Harrahd, RSU Senior Director of Development

---

*"Men who accomplish much do not always possess the character qualities of both humility and greatness. Jim embodied both. He was a great role model and friend. He will be sorely missed."*

Randy Vierling, Class of 1963

---

*"He was clearly a strong supporter of the OMA Alumni Association and for everything the Association has done to sustain the memory of those who were educated and lived the unique military life on the Hill. I remember Jim telling me one time that his first-year roommate was John Long who was from Antlers and whose parents convinced my mother that she should consider sending me to OMA. Jim will certainly be missed."*

Willis Hardwick, Class of 1956

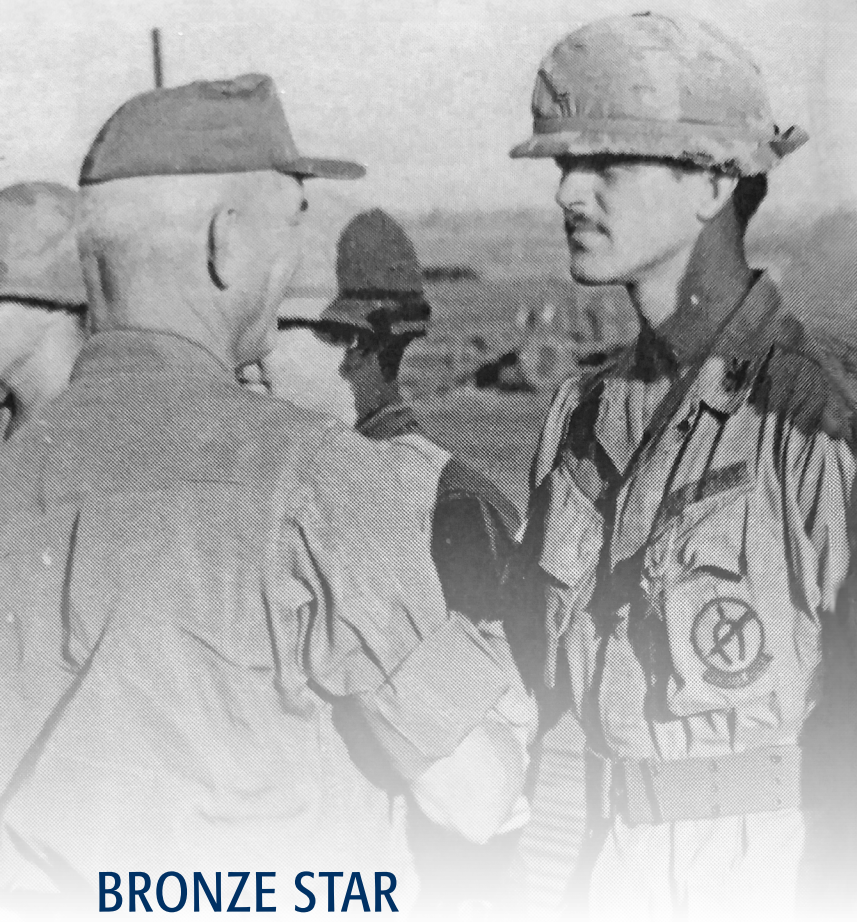
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*"I knew Colonel Morrison for over 40 years and served under him in the Army Reserve for over six years. During that period of time, Colonel Morrison was an outstanding commander who was devoted to his mission and men. He was a great commander and leader and a great friend."*

Barry Grable, Class of 1964

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## BRONZE STAR

Michael Casey, OMA Class of 1966, receiving a Bronze Star Medal for valor from Gen. William Westmoreland in 1968. KIA in Vietnam Jan. 23, 1970.



*"The GOLD Program has been a helpful part of my military career. What first attracted me was the financial support from the state of Oklahoma paying all my tuition and fees and OMA Alumni for my on-campus housing and books. Once I experienced how impactful I could be as an officer, I realized how much benefit I was receiving from this leadership program. All the students in the GOLD program become your closest buddies as you all see yourselves transform from the indecisive freshman to a focused senior."*

**David Defranc-Ponce**  
Senior



Photo left to right: Dewey Wilson, Richard Sherer, and Carlos Galvez.

## OMA RING DONATED

by Richard Sherer, '64

When I saw that sterling silver ring on eBay, I knew that it should be in the OMA Museum. I loved the inscription (Oklahoma Military Academy, Claremore, Oklahoma) on the front. I will be anxious to find out where the ring is going to rest. I love everything about the museum except the cadet room. In my opinion, it has more room in it than there actually was when I was a student. I really love the OMA Museum.



## ATTENTION OMA ALUMNI GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Since 1982, The Rogers State University Foundation endowed scholarship program has been made possible by the generous support of alumni and friends, foundations and corporations. Many students at RSU are very worthy and deserving of scholarships and could benefit a great deal from additional endowments. Establishing an endowment can be an important part of your legacy and your life. Establishing a scholarship would honor you for all you have accomplished at OMA and during your professional career. Please find information below on how you can get started to develop an endowment. Please keep in mind you can establish a scholarship endowment in memory or in honor of someone special.

### Establishment of Scholarship Endowments

By establishing an endowment, your gift continues forever, creating a legacy of hope and opportunities. To fully fund an Endowment at RSU, a minimum gift of \$25,000 is needed. This may be given as a one-time gift or may be paid over a five-year period. The donor may establish criteria that must be met in order for a student to qualify to receive the endowment. Only a percentage of the endowment earnings is allocated each year for scholarship spending, which typically ranges between 2.5 and 4.0 percent of the endowment corpus. This percentage is determined annually by the RSU Foundation Investment Committee. The RSU Office of Development works in cooperation with RSU Financial Aid to award the endowments each year. Endowments may be established in your name or in honor of someone you hold dear to your heart.

### Steps to establish an OMA Scholarship Endowment

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

**Please contact Dr. Danette Boyle for more information at  
(918) 343-6888, (918) 381-8764, or [dboyle@rsu.edu](mailto:dboyle@rsu.edu).**

## SOME GAVE ALL OMA KILLED IN ACTION MEMORIAL

The Oklahoma Military Academy Killed In Action Memorial serves as a permanent tribute to the OMA cadets who lost their lives during military service. Unveiled in 2011, the memorial is a black granite pyramid etched with the names of the more than 100 known cadets who made the ultimate sacrifice during service abroad.

The OMA KIA Memorial is situated between two of the oldest and most iconic buildings on the campus — Preparatory Hall and Meyer Hall, which are both listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The memorial has been constructed where the original OMA Post Office once stood.

Funds to build the memorial were provided through generous contributions from OMA alumni, families and RSU supporters. The amount raised above the cost of the memorial has been placed in a permanent endowment to preserve the memorial for posterity, to provide scholarships for RSU students and to maintain the OMA Museum.

WILLIAM R. BADGETT  
FRANK L. BROWN  
WILLIAM B. CASTLE  
CAREY S. COWART JR.  
ROGER L. FIFE  
WILLIAM C. GATES JR.  
EMERY M. HICKMAN  
WILBERT H. HILL  
DANIEL L. MCKINNEY  
JAMES S. RIMBLE JR.



## OMA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI | PAST RECIPIENTS

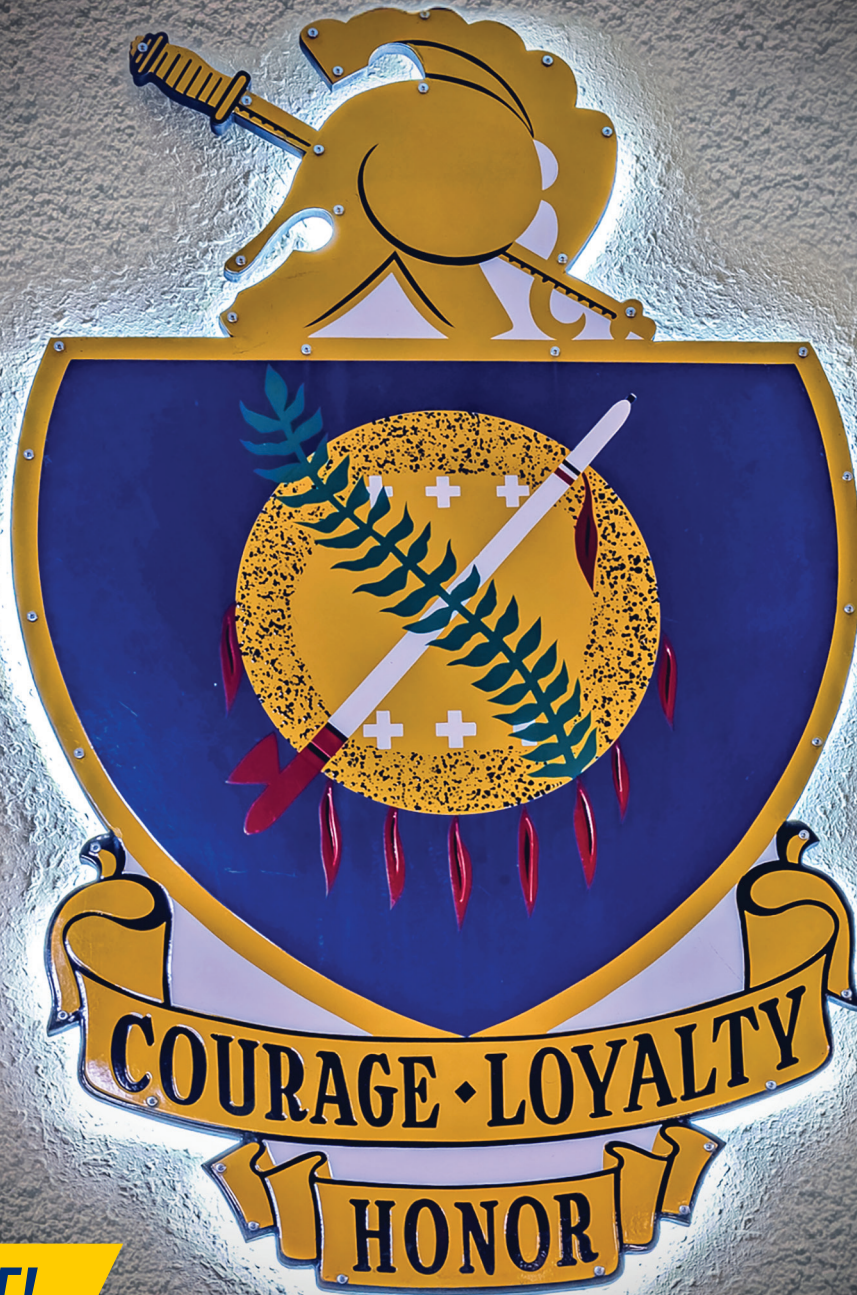
The Oklahoma Military Academy Distinguished Alumni Award was first presented in 1983. The award recognizes those alumni who have distinguished themselves in their professional or military careers and in service to their community by participation in the Oklahoma Military Academy Alumni Association or in the activities of Rogers State University.

1983	Mr. Dave T. Faulkner '33			2014	Mr. Wade Medberry '53 Mr. William Ramsay '61
1984	Mr. James R. Elder '67				
1986	Dr. Carl E. Ward '60	2003	Mr. Bob Corlett '62 Mr. Bill B. Harris '54 Mr. P.D. "Bud" Inhofe '50 Mr. Norman Shaw '53	2015	Mr. Shawnee Brittan '53 Col. Alvin B. Cobb '63 Mr. Robert L. Dean '49 Col. Frank Landrum '60 Mr. Harry Simpson '65
1987	Lt. Gen. William E. Potts '41				
1988	Col. Barry H. Grabel '64	2004	Mr. Jack E. Harris '55 Mr. B.G. Jones '64 Dr. Donald K. Routh '55	2016	Mr. Gary Easley '59 Mr. Robert Frank '69 Mr. Allen Luther Lewis '61 Mr. Tom Murray '57 Mr. Clark Dean Webb '61
1989	Mr. Carroll A. Reddic, Jr. '36				
1990	Mr. Alex K. Adwan '48 Col. James H. Morrison '52	2005	Mr. Ron Acree '54 Mr. Lew Beach '53 Mr. Hugh Miller '53 Mr. Bert Rosson '54	2017	Mr. Jack A Dolman, Jr. '66 Mr. Donald Roy Dowell '68 Mr. Robert (Rob) Fisher, Jr. '68 Mr. Charles (Charlie) D. Hatfield Jr. '65 Mr. George William "Bill" Shaffer '65
1991	Col. John E. Horne '39 Mr. George Hudman '53	2006	Mr. James E. Burt III '55 Mr. Willis C. Hardwick '56 Mr. Thomas L. Simpson '66		
1992	Mr. Leon Lloyd '43 Lt. Col. Edwin P. Ramsey '37	2007	Lt. Col. Warnock D. Harwell '43 Mr. Mack Palmer '52 Lt. Col. Walter Price '43 Mr. Stewart "Smokey" Stover '56	2018	Mr. Rober (Bob) Hancock '71 Mr. William C. (Bill) Hayes '59 Mr. Steve Smith '65 Mr. Dewey Wilson, Jr. '66
1993	Col. James R. Spurrier '38 Mr. Lew Ward '50			2019	Mr. David Blankenship '52 Mr. Gary Good '68 Mr. Tom Hargis '67
1994	Col. Robert B. Lewis '40	2008	Mr. Gerald Breeding '55 Mr. Charles Emerson '56 Mr. Scott Graham '53 Mr. Gene Howard '43 Mr. Gene Little '56		
1995	Mr. Jack W. McMichael, Jr. '41 Mr. Ted B. Wright '52	2009	Mr. Thomas W. Anderson '55 Dr. William J. Daugherty '65 Dr. Ralph "Ken" Johnston '62	2021	Mr. John Helbing '67 Capt. Vincent Mocini '60 Mr. Darrell Wooster '62
1996	Mr. Dale Covington '54 Mr. Gary Henry '50			2022	Mr. Richard Dixon '68 Mr. J. Jay Hines '58 Mr. Jim Tanner '67
1997	Col. Benjamin F. Boyd '43 Mr. Anthony M. "Tony" Massad '48 Mr. Harry H. Poarch '53	2010	Mr. Thomas M. Hanna '54 Mr. David L. Morgan '46	2023	Mr. Phillip Alexander '67 Mr. Darrell Jenkins '68 Mr. Drew Shipley '64 (posthumous) Mr. Jack Wikinson '67 (posthumous)
1998	Col. John W. Russell, Jr. '43 Mr. Herbert N. Standeven '53	2011	Mr. Robert "Blaine" Jones '53 Mr. Warren M. Rodgers '62		
1999	Mr. Jarold B. Casey '29 Lt. Sam Trizza, Jr. '63 (posthumous)	2012	Mr. Joe C. Daniel '69 Mr. Lawrence Lee Lantow '38		
2000	Mr. Daniel E. Duggan, Jr. '53 Mr. David Raper '65 Mr. John Tatroe '39 (posthumous)	2013	Mr. Ken Colley '69 Mr. Carlos Galvez '60 Mr. Curtis E. McMenamy '64		
2001	Mr. Randy Vierling '63				
2002	Col. Glen Burke '53 Mr. Larry Burton '63 Mr. Robert Wright '53				



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# OKLAHOMA MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION



***SAVE THE DATE!***

## SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024

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



# 2024 OMA ALUMNI REUNION SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

**8:00 a.m.**

### REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

Meyer Hall, OMA Museum

**9:00 a.m.**

### 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

OMA Museum Conference Room, RSU Campus  
Reservation required with maximum 40

**1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

### TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

Meyer Hall

**5:30 p.m.**

### REUNION RECEPTION AND BUFFET

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

**8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

### REUNION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN

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

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

### TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

**10:00 a.m.**

### ALUMNI CEREMONIES

Will Rogers Auditorium

- Honoring OMA's Recently Deceased Alumni
- Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Awards
- Lt. General William E. Potts Award of Excellence
- Color Guard presented by the RSU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program Military Students

**11:30 a.m.**

### ALUMNI LUNCHEON

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

- Comments
- OMA Perseverance Awards
- OMA Honorary Cadets and Presidents Awards
- Remarks and Comments by Ken Colley and Carlos Galvez

### TOURS OF THE NEW OMA MUSEUM

Available between the Alumni Luncheon and Dinner

**5:30 p.m.**

### RECEPTION, DINNER, GRAND MARCH AND DANCE

*Music provided by the area's best DJ.*

Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center Ballroom

**Golf carts available to assist Alumni**

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

### Hampton Inn & Suites

*Special OMA rate - \$89.00+tax*

1811 S. Scissortail Ave. Claremore, OK

918-965-1360

[www.hamptoninn.com](http://www.hamptoninn.com)

### Holiday Inn Express & Suites

*Special OMA rate - \$79.00+tax*

1400 W. Country Club

Claremore, OK

918-283-4877

[www.holidayinnexpress.com](http://www.holidayinnexpress.com)

### La Quinta Inn & Suites

*Special OMA rate - \$85.00+tax*

774 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd. Claremore, OK

918-965-1877

*Rate can only be honored through  
phone call*

[www.LQ.com](http://www.LQ.com)



## OMA MUSEUM VISITORS



Doug Mosier, OMA Honorary Cadet



Col. Charles A. Bullock, OMA Class of '51



Members of the Rogers County Literacy Group



Glen Wagner, OMA Class of '69 and his granddaughter Taylor Alford who is a student at RSU.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CLAREMORE MUSEUM OF HISTORY MEMBERS

"Love the meeting room. Great space in one of our treasured buildings of Claremore. Thanks for hosting us, much appreciated."

Gene Doty

"What a beautiful conference room and museum. Perfect for our needs and hope we can meet here again. Thank you for your hospitality."

Susan Kirtley

"Such a great facility. Congratulations on a wonderful exhibit. The conference room is a great asset for our city."

Steve Robinson

"Thank you for letting our Museum of History board meet in your lovely board room. Your newly remodeled museum is awesome. I can't wait to tell everyone!"

Lou Flanagan

"The museum is lovely. I can't wait to be back and spend more time exploring. It was a great place for the Claremore Museum of History meeting."

Carol Little

"Thank you for hosting the Museum of History meeting. Your hospitality was awesome."

Donna Froman

"Thank you for allowing our meeting to be held here. My first time in the museum and I am very impressed with the exhibits and history being preserved."

Wendee Henry



# CLAREMORE CHAMBER NAMES RSU PRESIDENT 'CITIZEN OF THE YEAR'



Rogers State University President Dr. Larry Rice has been named the Claremore Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year. This distinction was bestowed upon Dr. Rice at the Chamber's annual State of the Chamber Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon, held Jan. 25 in the Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center at RSU. During the annual event, the Chamber recognizes citizens of distinction for their contribution to and positive impact upon the Claremore community. Presenting the award was incoming Chamber Chairman Grant Gingerich.

"Today, we're here to celebrate a remarkable individual who has made a lasting impact on our community," Gingerich began. "New programming in a business or non-profit or educational institution occurs by having great leaders with vision and determination. Today's recipient represents a growing and prestigious institution that has flourished under his guidance for the past 15 years."

Gingerich cited RSU's new Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering degree program, as well as its new offerings in cybersecurity, drone technology and graphic design, along with the expansion of other graduate offerings as examples of the university's growth.

"New programs come from great vision and the hard work is done behind the scenes, including overseeing staff, development and operations in the university," he said. "He has also dedicated his work and his life to the betterment of our community. He has been a mentor to many and has always been willing to lend a hand to those in need. He has been an active member of the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce for many years and has been instrumental in promoting the growth and development of the Claremore community."

After noting the award recipient to have served as a "source of inspiration and pride for all," Gingerich announced the award's recipient to be Dr. Rice, congratulating him and telling him that Claremore is honored to have him as a member of its community. Dr. Rice was handed the award by outgoing Chamber Chairman Jim Simmons.

INSERT QUOTE FROM DR. RICE HERE.  
INSERT QUOTE FROM DR. RICE HERE.  
INSERT QUOTE FROM DR. RICE HERE.  
INSERT QUOTE FROM DR. RICE HERE.

Dr. Larry Rice has served as the 14th president of Rogers State University since 2008. He is an Oklahoma native, with more than 40 years of experience in higher education. He began his academic career in 1979 as a full-time faculty member at RSU, when it was still Claremore Junior College, where he taught classes in criminal justice, psychology, and sociology. From 1979 to 1986, he was Director of the Applied Science Division and from 1986 to 1991, he was Associate Director of Academics for the Pryor campus of Rogers State College.

He earned a Doctor of Education from Oklahoma State University. He also earned both a Master of Arts in education as well as a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Northeastern State University.

Prior to becoming president of RSU, Rice served in several roles at the University of Tulsa, including interim vice president of institutional advancement, director of public affairs, and executive assistant to the president. He also served in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1991 to 2004, representing District 8 including Rogers, Mayes, and Wagoner Counties.



# RSU PRESIDENT DR. LARRY RICE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Sixteen years after beginning his work as president designate of Rogers State University, Dr. Larry Rice has announced he will retire as president in early July 2024.

"It has been an honor and privilege to serve as president at RSU, the place where my higher education career started," Rice said. "The Hill holds a special place in my heart, and Peggy and I have cherished every moment here."

"I am grateful to the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma for the opportunity to lead RSU and its continuing support of our mission. I also offer my thanks to the employees, students, alumni and supporters for their gifts of time, talent and resources that have helped to establish RSU as a premier regional university in Oklahoma."

Rice began his academic career in 1979 as a full-time faculty member at RSU, which was then known as Claremore Junior College, before transitioning into administrative posts at the University of Tulsa. He served the citizens of Oklahoma as a state representative in House District 8 from 1986 to 2004, rising to the leadership post of Majority Floor Leader.

Rice's tenure has seen RSU expand academic offerings and campus infrastructure.

The university streamlined academic programs to focus on degrees that prepared career-ready students. Under his leadership, RSU became a leader in online delivery of courses and is regularly among the top regional universities in concurrent enrollment. Rice led efforts to begin graduate programs and in 2023 RSU began a bachelor's degree program in chemical engineering.

He also led efforts to build infrastructure, including finishing construction and opening the Dr. Carolyn Taylor Center in 2009. Other projects included the Diamond Sports Complex, new on-campus housing and Chapman Dining Hall. In 2010, the university expanded and renovated Baird Hall to meet the needs of a rapidly growing student body. With an eye on expanding workforce opportunities, RSU partnered with the MidAmerica Industrial Park in Pryor to build a campus in the park.

Rice spearheaded private fundraising efforts with the Rogers State University Foundation and was instrumental in securing some of the school's largest private gifts. He also led RSU's efforts to move its athletics programs to NCAA Division II and saw its women's softball team win the Division II national title in 2022.

Beside him during his tenure was his wife, First Lady Peggy Rice. She was an active advocate for RSU and was involved in numerous community and campus activities including the President's Leadership Class and the Honors Program. The First Lady deployed the President's Residence as a fund raising, friend raising and student-focused event venue. Celebrating her highly successful career in business and her contributions to RSU, friends created the Peggy Rice Award in Business Excellence endowment in 2021 to recognize a top graduating senior in business administration.

"President Rice has been an example of outstanding servant leadership and through his vision Rogers State University has excelled in fulfilling its academic and service mission," said Natalie Shirley, chair of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, Rogers State University and Cameron University. "He has earned the respect of the Regents and I know they share in offering my thanks and best wishes to him and his wife, Peggy."

The OU Board of Regents will develop a leadership transition plan for RSU.



## RSU'S ONLINE PROGRAM AGAIN RANK NATIONALLY



The U.S. News and World Report has named RSU's online degree programs as among the top five within the state of Oklahoma and ranked nationally among the U.S. News and World Report's 2024 Best Online Programs.

The rankings were released Feb. 7.

A pioneer in online education, RSU offers one master's degree, seven bachelor's degrees, and seven associate degrees entirely online. Since the inception of its online distance education program in 1992, RSU has earned distinction as the first university in Oklahoma – and one of the first in the nation – to offer college degrees entirely via the internet.

"We are grateful for this recognition by U.S. News and World Report, demonstrating the quality of our online programs at Rogers State University," said RSU President Dr. Larry Rice. "The quality academics, the personal attention, and the care we show to our students sets an RSU education apart. I am excited to see us rise in these rankings and I am excited for the future of online learning at RSU."

RSU ranked 197th overall out of the entire nation in the Best Online Bachelor's Programs, up 26 spots from the previous year's national ranking at 223. RSU is the fifth ranked school in this category from the state of Oklahoma.

Additionally, Rogers State University was ranked 114th in Best Online Bachelor's in Business Programs, up 27 spots from last year's ranking of 141. This placed RSU as tied for the fourth highest ranking in Oklahoma in this category.

RSU also ranked in the 260-345 ranking (this section doesn't assign individual ranks) in Best Online MBA Programs, equivalent to its placement last year, when the classification was 261-344. RSU tied for the fifth-place ranking for Oklahoma schools in this category.

## IMPORTANT UPDATE ON THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE RSU NURSING PROGRAM AND ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL



In spring 2023, Saint Francis Health System and RSU announced a partnership to launch an extended campus of RSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, housed inside the Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa. With generous funding from the William K. Warren Foundation, Saint Francis Hospital has renovated a 6,000-square-foot area within the hospital that houses a state-of-the-art simulation center and classrooms designed to educate the next generation of healthcare professionals.

The first cohort started this semester in January 2024.

Future cohorts will be added with 16 students per semester, ultimately with up to 64 nursing students – 32 juniors and 32 seniors – each year at Saint Francis. The RSU nursing faculty help facilitate classroom learning and teach labs and simulations.

For more information about the BSN program at RSU, please visit [www.rsu.edu/bsn](http://www.rsu.edu/bsn) or contact the RSU School of Nursing and Health Professions at 918-343-7631.





**ROGERS STATE**  
**UNIVERSITY**

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