



great graduates

BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2022 HONOREES





Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association
GREAT GRADUATES OF 2022
Recognition Ceremony and Reception

Varsity Club - BA Varsity Training Center
2200 N. 23rd St.
Friday, October 7, 2022

Master of Ceremonies

Derek Blackburn
Broken Arrow Public Schools
Class of 1990

Dinner

Welcome

Chuck Perry
Superintendent of Schools

**Greetings from the Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association**

Charles Gann
Class of 1955

Invocation

Charles Gann
Class of 1955

**Recognition of former great graduates
School board members and special guests**

**Introduction of Great Graduates
Class of 2022**

Bill Cade, *Class of 1975*

Frankie Catlett, *Class of 1990*

*Ruth Ann Cooper, *Class of 1957*

Dr. Kathryn Gardner-Vandy, *Class of 2000*

Closing Remarks

Glenn Wimpee, *Class of 1990*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Broken Arrow Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools

Chuck Perry

BAPS Board of Education

Steve Allen - Board President
Jerry Denton - Board Vice President
Brandy Roulet - Board Clerk
John Cockrell - Deputy Board Clerk
Debbie Taylor - Board Member

Writer and Editorial Consultants

Jan Simmons Collins
Carla Dobbins Crow

Printing by:

Royal Printing

Photography by:

Krista McKnight

Graphics by:

Michelle Lewandowski

GREAT GRADUATES COMMITTEE

Derek Blackburn, *Class of 1990*
Carla Dobbins Crow, *Class of 1970*
Chase Elkins, *Class of 2005*
Charlie Gann, *Class of 1955*
Carolyn Vaughan Hodges, *Class of 1970*
Jan Simmons Collins, *Class of 1965*
Tammy Barton Strickland, *Class of 1994*
Orpha Bunch, *Class of 1954*
Glenn Wimpee, *Class of 1990*

www.brokenarrowalumni.com

www.facebook.com/BAHSALUMNI

*Denotes recipient being honored posthumously.

Bill CADE

Class of 1975

Bill Cade attended Broken Arrow Public Schools twelve years. He was on the wrestling team and track & field. After graduation he began employment with the City of Broken Arrow in the Parks Department. After a few months he transferred to the Sanitation Department because he believed it was more challenging and there were more opportunities for growth in the department. In the 1980's, Bill joined the 279th Infantry of the National Guard. After basic training, he returned to his employment at the city while serving in the Guard for six years.

He started off as a collector on the rear of the truck, then advanced to a driver/crew leader. He was promoted to the manager position, his current role, over the Sanitation Department. It is now the Solid Waste and Recycling Department. In this current role, he also serves as acting Department Director in the absence of the Director. Bill has been with the city for more than 46 years.

Bill's care and compassion for children and families prompted him to start the Sanitation Santa program. After seeing a little boy named Chris running behind his bike-riding friends, trying to keep up with them, Bill was moved with compassion. He asked the boy's mother if he could buy her son a bike for Christmas. "She

was overwhelmed that somebody would do that," Bill said. "And to see that little dude's face light up! I bought him a bike, and it started right there."

He talked it over with the people in his department. They decided on the name "Christmas For Kids" for the program. They immediately started putting their money together and buying presents for people having hardships at Christmas. "I think it shines a positive light on the Solid Waste and Recycling Department," Bill said. "I want our department to stand out for doing something special for the kids." City staff from other departments also donate to the program. They have delivered Christmas miracles to Broken Arrow children in need, impacting lives of Broken Arrow families for more than 40 years.

Jerry Schuber says he first learned of the program in July after becoming the department director. He thinks the program is "amazing." "It was here when I got here, and Bill started talking to me about it, and I was astonished it had been going on this long," Schuber said. "And I think Bill's the driving factor of why it stays alive."

According to Kim Bailey, Risk Management Coordinator for the City of Broken Arrow, the Solid Waste and Recycling Department employees became known for



refurbishing used bicycles and gathering new toys and clothes for local children in need.

"Bill works with area schools to find the children who would benefit most. He hopes to bless the parents as much as the kids. Employees sponsor families, wrap and tag the gifts. Sanitation Santas deliver them to the families by Christmas Eve," she said.

"They're the ones who raised them all year and have hardships," Bill said. "If they love their children enough to humble themselves so their children can have a good Christmas, we're not going to take credit. We don't want to take away the best part of Christmas from the parents. The Sanitation Santas don't want any credit or notoriety for their gifts. It isn't about keeping score or gaining publicity."

In Bill's spare time, his hobbies include spending time with his eight grandchildren, fishing, horses, cattle and anything else that involves his family. The word is out: Sometimes Santa wears a Cowboy hat.

Frankie CATLETT

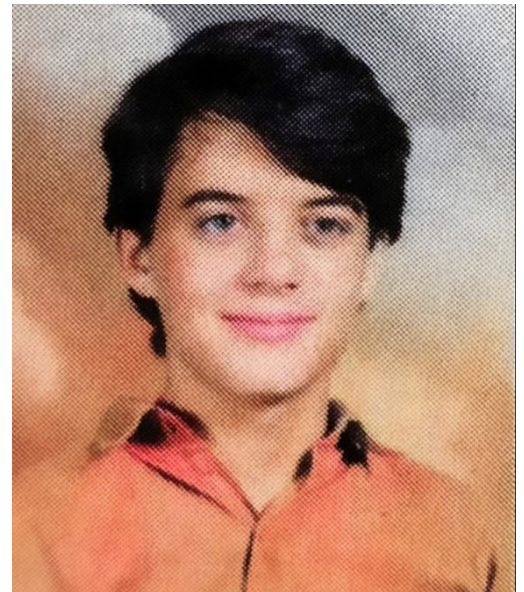
Class of 1990

Frankie is a 1990 graduate of Broken Arrow High School. His wife, Tina Catlett and he have been married for 26 years and have two children; daughter, Addison, a junior nursing student at Rogers State University and son, Owen, a BA Senior, both his children have been members of the “Pride of Broken Arrow.” Frankie’s career at Walmart spans 34 years, the last 8 years as the manager of the Hillside Store. Frankie’s awards and appointments throughout his years at Walmart are numerous. Frankie serves on the (BAPS) Broken Arrow Public Schools Long Range Planning Committee, while also serving as president of the BAPS Foundation, raising \$400k in three years. He was instrumental in BA teachers receiving \$15,000 through the Walmart/BAPS Teacher Hero program. Being a member of the Pride during his school years, Frankie is a Pride Operations Parent and a Pride Chaperone. Frankie is active in community organizations, one of which is the Broken Arrow Police and Fire Departments’ Shop with a Cops program. He has worked with the

TimberRidge Elementary School in securing backpacks for the students there. Through his leadership with Broken Arrow Neighbors, he was able to procure grants for the Back-to-School Supply Drive. He found time to coach both boys’ and girls’ soccer teams from U6 to U118. Another program he is associated with is the Tulsa League Operation School Bell.

Walmart recognized Frankie’s leadership commitment to the Broken Arrow community and awarded him with the Local Hero Award, for his community involvement in 2018.

Frankie credits his success to the inspiring teachers such as Judy Ortwein, Liz Burns, Nancy Knowles and Phillip Tucker, who led by example not only in their classrooms but in their everyday lives outside the school. They taught him community responsibility. As evident, Frankie has taken their lead and contributed to his community in many venues of service, that is admired and and greatly appreciated by all who know him.



Ruth ANN COOPER

Class of 1957

Ruth Ann was born in Broken Arrow and attended all twelve grades in Broken Arrow Public Schools, graduating in the class of 1957. Numerous classmates advocated for Ruth Ann's nomination. Many have known and observed her leadership skills for over 70 years and greatly admired her. She continued her education at Northeastern State College and later the University of Tulsa earning her Bachelor of Science degree in education and a master's degree in Modern Letters.

Ruth Ann married Cliff Cooper in 1962. They have two sons and two grandchildren. Both Cliff and Ruth Ann were teachers in Tulsa Public Schools. She taught Communication Skills for 21 years at Carver Middle School, and then was District Curriculum Coordinator for Language Arts, Reading and Speech Arts until her retirement in 1997.

An avid reader, Ruth Ann had a keen interest in books about World War II and the fate of European Jews. She wanted her students to understand the Holocaust and the perils of prejudice, apathy, and indifference to be able to apply these lessons to their personal situations.

In 1989, Ruth Ann had an opportunity to join 44 teachers nationwide in studying the Holocaust and Jewish Resistance through a three-week Summer Fellowship Program, being the

first teacher from Oklahoma. That fellowship was a defining moment in Ruth Ann's teaching. She returned determined to share the atrocities she had learned from scholars, historians and poignant stories from Holocaust survivors.

Students responded well to local Holocaust survivors who visited her classroom, creating lasting impressions. Hands-on projects evolved and were displayed at area libraries and the Tulsa Jewish Federation yearly.

Ruth Ann developed an extensive teaching guide, "From Holocaust to Hope," and made it available to educators interested in teaching about the atrocities the Jewish people experienced. She conducted conferences and conventions ranging from Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia, to local workshops in Oklahoma City and Broken Arrow. Her curriculum has been distributed nationwide and adaptable for students from sixth grade to adults.

As a member of the Holocaust Educators Committee, Ruth Ann received a prestigious invitation to the opening of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., in 1993 and returned many times to view new exhibits.

In 2001, the Jewish Federation of Tulsa presented Ruth Ann with the Janusz Korczak Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education



in recognition and appreciation of her dedicated efforts to ensure that future generations remember the lessons of the Holocaust.

According to her nephew, Chuck Perry, "She always put the comfort of others above herself. She was known to prepare meals and food for sick persons or for families who had lost loved ones. Her kindness, care and thoughtfulness embodied her character." A fellow classmate of hers, Dr. Richard Polk, tributes her life with these words, "Ruth Ann has gone above and beyond to educate others about the atrocities of the past to help insure a better world for future generation."

Dr. Kathryn GARDNER-VANDY

Class of 2000

Dr. Kat Gardner-Vandy (aka Katie Gardner) is a BA Great Graduate who takes flight and shoots for the Moon! Born in Tulsa and reared in Broken Arrow, Gardner-Vandy was active in concert band and the Pride of Broken Arrow marching band throughout her time at Broken Arrow High School. An All-State Band oboist, she played oboe and English Horn solos throughout the 1999 Pride show “Festival Español,” resulting in her being touted as the “woman with ice water in her veins” by the band directors.

When at South Intermediate High School, AP History teacher Paul Shaddox remarked that Gardner-Vandy wrote and thought like a scientist. It is no surprise that Gardner-Vandy moved to Norman, OK after graduating from Broken Arrow in the Top 3% of the Class of 2000 to obtain a BS in Geology summa cum laude from the University of Oklahoma in 2005. While at OU, she participated in several NASA internships and was awarded the prestigious national Goldwater Scholarship for undergraduate research. She also served in leadership of the Honors Student Association and the Sigma Gamma Epsilon earth science honor society and was a member of the PE-ET Top 10 Seniors Honor

Society. In addition to being named Big Woman on Campus twice, Gardner-Vandy completed her FAA Private Pilot certification right before graduation.

Gardner-Vandy then moved to Tucson, AZ to obtain a PhD in Planetary Sciences from the University of Arizona in 2012. While becoming an expert in the study of meteorites, she was awarded the Alfred P. Sloan Indigenous Graduate Partnership Fellowship and the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship. Upon completing her doctorate, she did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History where she had the honor of working directly with the Smithsonian’s collection of meteorites.

Now, Gardner-Vandy is an Assistant Professor of Aviation and Space at Oklahoma State University where she teaches and studies her two favorite topics: space and flight. As a proud citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, she is the Principal Investigator of a \$4M NASA Science Activation program called Native Earth | Native Sky. She manages a team of colleagues at OSU who work collaboratively with three Native nations in OK to



co-create earth-sky STEM curriculum for middle school grades in an effort to engage more Native American youth in earth and aerospace careers. She has a passion for the development of a diverse and inclusive STEM workforce in Oklahoma. Most recently, Gardner-Vandy was named to the 40 Under 40 2022 list of The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development.

Gardner-Vandy is grateful to be living in Tulsa, OK with her husband and their four children.

great graduates

HISTORY OF THE GREAT GRADUATE HALL OF FAME PROGRAM

The Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association honors a select group of “Great Graduates” who have exhibited – throughout their adult lives – strong leadership and good citizenship, which the Broken Arrow Schools helped develop during their formative years of schooling. The recipients are individuals who exhibit through a variety of activities a purposeful drive that helps them remain dedicated to service within their community and compassionate towards others. Each one has proven to have personal integrity, courage and has achieved in both his or her personal and professional life. As they continue to soar and live a commitment to excellence, they serve as role models to all of us. Nominations are solicited throughout the community of Broken Arrow and in the media for alumnae who have modeled a selfless life of achievement and service to others for at least 20 years. The Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association was revived in 1999, starting the tradition of the Great Graduates. The very first Great Graduates class was formally honored as part of the Broken Arrow Public Schools Foundation Banquet festivities in the spring of 1999. In 2001, the Alumni Association began to host their own event, specifically honoring the Great Graduates and their guests. This tradition continues to the present.

Great Graduates 1999

Virginia Watts Johnson, Class of 1948
Millie Marshall, Class of 1955
Jim Brewer, Class of 1956
Dr. Alan Keller, Class of 1965
John Hudson, Class of 1966

Great Graduates 2000

Howard Fisher, Class of 1935
Ed Cobb Jr., Class of 1943
Carl Martin, Class of 1943
Max E. Smith, Class of 1950
Roy Sturgeon, Class of 1959

Great Graduates 2001

Herb Karner, Class of 1934
Robert Eskridge, Class of 1944
Frances McNeely Leonard, Class of 1953
Dr. Jeff Lester, Class of 1964
Doug Lanier, Class of 1968

Great Graduates 2002

Letha Phillips Nichols, Class of 1931
Floy C. Pepper, Class of 1934
Bill Perry, Class of 1948
Richard Gilliland, Class of 1956
Brad Gahm, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2003

Max Brissey, Class of 1948
Rick Medlin, Class of 1963
Larry Deonier, Class of 1964
Dr. Gary Gerber, Class of 1968
Janice Worthington Lisko, Class of 1975
Luke Garrett, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2004

William C. Chapman, Class of 1938
Arnold Kunze, Class of 1946
William H. (Hank) Miesner, Jr., Class of 1957
Rowdy Williams, Class of 1958
Johnnie Parks, Class of 1965

Great Graduates 2005

Dr. Jack L. Griffin, Class of 1940
Maxine Layton Dark, Class of 1944
Bob Henry, Class of 1948
H. Delbert Frieze, Esq., Class of 1961

Great Graduates 2006

Paul Hayes, Class of 1940
Onis Lemon, Class of 1956
Mitchell Wilson, Class of 1970
Rebecca Righter Bluestone, Class of 1972
Russ McKinnon, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2008

Bert Kennard, Class of 1940
Nile Clark, Class of 1955
Elmo Johnston, Class of 1943

Great Graduates 2012

Ivan Brown, Class of 1919
Nick Aston, Class of 1963
Kristin Chenoweth, Class of 1986
Dr. Amy Sturgis, Class of 1990
Dennis Sagely, Class of 1992

Great Graduates 2013

William T. Autry, Class of 1925
Dr. Robert A. Rosser, Jr., Class of 1959
Dr. Jill Edwards Steeley, Class of 1968
Tim Lynn, Class of 1984
Dr. Denise E. Dutton, Class of 1990

Great Graduates 2014

Archie Pennington, Class of 1922
Ina Lynn Dilldine, Class of 1956
Joseph Lester, Class of 1963
Philip Tucker, Class of 1975
John Lindsay, Class of 1979

Great Graduates 2015

Rev. William L. Couch Jr., Class of 1956
Dave Alexander, Class of 1974
Jeff Roberts, Class of 1980
Amy Waller Ford, Class of 1982
John C. Wolfkill, Class of 1993

Great Graduates 2016

Charles Gann, Class of 1955
Larry Pennington, Class of 1963
Kelley Kimbrough Rash, Class of 1974
Michelle Sutton, Class of 1989

Great Graduates 2017

Jerry Rosser, Class of 1960
Marcella Giles, Class of 1961
Lee Schoeffler, Class of 1962
Jennifer Robertson, Class of 1977

Great Graduates 2018

Billie Sue Hood Thompson, Class of 1961
Loutitia Denison Eason, Class of 1964
Dr. LaMont Cavanaugh, Class of 1984
Oklahoma Sen. Joe Newhouse, Class of 1996

Great Graduates 2019

David Beverly, Class of 1964
Ken Collins, Class of 1967
Russell Gale, Class of 1974
Debra Wimpee, Class of 1990

Great Graduates 2020

Dr. William Baker, Class of 1952
Rev. A. Leroy Gerner, Class of 1975
John L. Ross, Jr., Class of 1980
James Meadours, Class of 1986
Darrin Davis, Class of 1987

Great Graduates 2021

Carla Dobbins Crow, Class of 1970
Steve Fulps, Class of 1974
Kenny Schwab, Class of 1984
BG Thomas H. Mancino, Class of 1998

