



great graduates

BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2018 HONOREES





Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association
GREAT GRADUATES OF 2018
Recognition Ceremony and Reception

Varsity Club, Broken Arrow High School
Friday, Oct. 5, 2018

Master of Ceremonies

Derek Blackburn
Broken Arrow Public Schools
Class of 1990

Dinner

Welcome

Dr. Janet Dunlop
Superintendent of Schools

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

Charles Gann
Class of 1955

Invocation

Tammy Strickland
Class of 1994

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

**Introduction of Great Graduates
Class of 2018**

* **Loutita Denison Eason, Class of 1964**
Presented by Carla Crow

Dr. LaMont Cavanaugh, Class of 1984
Presented by Darci Delso

Oklahoma Sen. Joe Newhouse, Class of 1996
Presented by Glenne Wimpee

Billie Sue Hood Thompson, Class of 1961
Presented by Max Smith

Closing Remarks

Charlie Gann
Class of 1955

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Broken Arrow Public Schools

Dr. Janet Dunlop

Superintendent of Schools

BAPS Board of Education

Steve Dunn

Director of Athletic Operations

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Printing by Royal Printing

Photography by

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BAHS Multi-media Students

Great Graduates Escorts

Broken Arrow High School Air Force JROTC Cadets

GREAT GRADUATES COMMITTEE

Derek Blackburn, Class of 1990
Gwynta Blissit Buchanan, Class of 1970
Carla Dobbins Crow, Class of 1970
Carolyn Vaughan Hodges, Class of 1970
Steve Schwab, Class of 1982
Max Smith, Class of 1950
Rowdy Williams, Class of 1958
Glenn Wimpee, Class of 1990
Tammy Barton Strickland, Class of 1994
Charlie Gann, Class of 1955

* Denotes recipient being honored posthumously.

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

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

Great Graduates 2000

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

Great Graduates 2001

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

Great Graduates 2002

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

Great Graduates 2003

Max Brissey, Class of 1948
Larry Deonier, Class of 1964
Luke Garrett, Class of 1977
Dr. Gary Gerber, Class of 1968

Janice Worthington Lisko, Class of 1975

Rick Medlin, Class of 1963

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

Kristin Chenoweth, Class of 1986
Ivan Brown, Class of 1919
Nick Aston, Class of 1963
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
Jeff Roberts, Class of 1980
Amy Waller Ford, Class of 1982
John C. Wolfkill, Class of 1993
Dave Alexander, Class of 1974

Great Graduates 2016

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

Great Graduates 2017

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

Loutita “TISH” DENISON EASON

Class of 1964

Very few people can match the standard of excellence in service to mankind established by this year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1964.

The late Loutita “Tish” Denison Eason was a hometown girl who graduated at the top of her class. She later earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Microbiology and in 1979, a Juris Doctorate, all from the University of Oklahoma. After college, she launched her career at the Oklahoma Department of Securities attaining the office of General Counsel.

Eason entered into private practice in 1983, specializing in securities and public trust law. She and Jack Lawrence served many years as General Counsel for the Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency. Upon Lawrence’s retirement, she continued to serve in that capacity.

In 2002, Eason became the first female and first layperson to serve as Chancellor of the Catholic Archdiocese of Okla-

homa. She distinguished herself in that role until her retirement in July of 2017. She passed away the following year.

According to newspaper records, Eason was a member of many charitable organizations, including the Oklahoma City Orchestra League and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. She and her husband of 38 years, Douglas Eason, had two sons, Chris of Tulsa and Bryan of Tacoma, Washington. Other survivors include her daughter in-law, Michelle, of Tulsa, two granddaughters and her sister, Brenda Wilson of Dallas.

Oklahoma Associate District Judge Mark Dobbins summarized the feelings of many who knew and were associated with Eason when he said he remembers her as intelligent, highly professional and “a loving and caring person who tirelessly sought to help others. Her inclusion as a Great Graduate is well deserved and an acknowledgment of a life well served.”



Dr. LaMont “MONTY” CAVANAUGH

Class of 1984

Friends and classmates say it would be impossible to identify all the milestones in Dr. LaMont Cavanaugh’s distinguished career in the limited amount of space available in this program.

They are absolutely right. But even a casual review of his resume provides ample evidence of why he was selected as this year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1984.

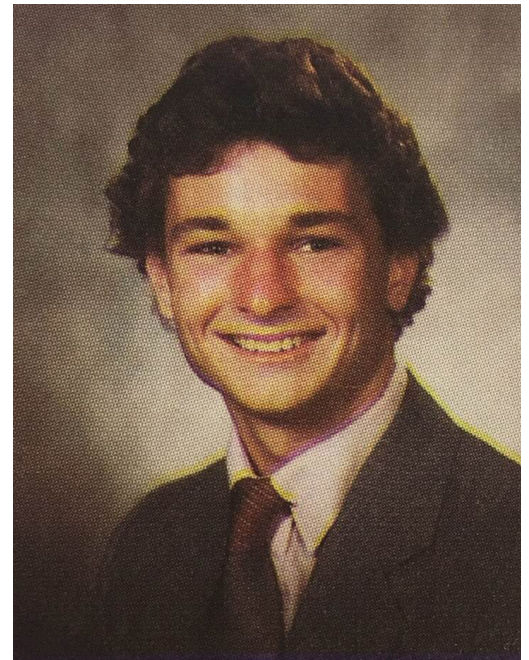
This story begins as “Monty” was wrapping up his first year as a student in Broken Arrow Public Schools. During his senior year, he was a Student of the Month, Boy of the Year, president of the Student Council, a member of the Senior Board and a leader of both the French Club and his school’s mentorship program. At the same time, he was part of the drumline of the Pride of Broken Arrow Marching Band and a member of the National Honor Society. After that, he became part of the Sooner world earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology and his medical degree, both from the University of Oklahoma.

Currently, he serves as Chair of the Department of Family & Community Medicine within the OU-Tulsa University School of Community Medicine and OU Physicians -Tulsa. A Fellow in Sports Medicine, he joined that organization as a faculty member in 2001 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010.

Additional responsibilities include service as Chairman of the Center for Concussion; Medical Director of OU’s Champion Health Program Center for Exercise and Sports Medicine, and Director of the university’s Health at Work program in Tulsa.

Away from the education environment, Cavanaugh is a staff member at Hillcrest Medical Center and serves as Chief of Aerospace Medicine for the Oklahoma Air National Guard’s 138th Fighter Wing.

Cavanaugh and his wife, Kristi, have four children: Lily, 13; Walton 11; Andrew, 9, and 7-year-old Evelyn whom they adopted from Uganda.



OKLAHOMA STATE SENATOR

Joe NEWHOUSE

Class of 1996

A product of Broken Arrow Public Schools K-12, State Senator Joe Newhouse played basketball, ran track, completed his first triathlon and as a senior, studied as an exchange student in Germany.

Following high school, this year's Great Graduate from the class of 1996 earned a degree in international economics from Georgetown University, became a jet pilot in the U.S. Navy and married Laura, his college sweetheart. Assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, then lieutenant Newhouse flew multiple combat missions in support of Marine ground troops during the Iraq War and earned the Air Medal.

Returning home, he taught fighter tactics at the Navy Flight School in Pensacola, Fla. and was named Instructor Pilot of the Year.

Newhouse graduated number one in his master's class at Chapman University in Los Angeles and earned certifica-

tion as a Project Management Professional and Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. A real estate broker, he owns and operates his own property investment business and continues to serve part-time in the Navy Reserve as a Commander. In that capacity, he completed a tour as a military advisor to NATO and earned Special Qualifications as an International Affairs Officer and Joint Strategic Plans and Policy Officer.

He began his public life as a field representative for Congressman Jim Bridenstine, a member of the Governor's Task Force to bring the F-35 to Tulsa and a board member of Coffee Bunker, a veteran's service organization. He was elected to the State Senate in 2016 but had to put that job on hold for a year after being recalled to active duty. Now back home, he has dedicated himself to providing the best service possible to some 75,000 residents of District 25, which includes part of Broken Arrow, south Tulsa and Jenks.



Billie SUE HOOD THOMPSON

Class of 1961

Billie Sue Hood Thompson is a theater guru and an award-winning educator who helped pave the way to Broadway for a number of her Broken Arrow High School students.

According to the nomination letter submitted by Jo Ellen Clow, our Great Graduate from the class of 1961 returned to her alma mater to share her gift of motivating young people in theater arts.

“Many of her performances were of college level quality, motivating students to move forward in their professional careers,” Clow said.

One of these youngsters was a little girl with a big voice ~ Tony Award winner Kristin Chenoweth.

Another of Thompson’s kids currently making it big on Broadway is Michael Patrick Gaffney.

“Every time I am working on a show, I think about what she taught me,” he said. “I hear her voice saying ‘the actor has three tools: the voice, the body and the imagination.’ Today, I have an award-winning show, and one of

the characters I play is Billie Sue.”

Following her retirement from Broken Arrow High School, Thompson continued to direct highly acclaimed productions that included children, youths and adults. She organized and ran several theater camps and still accepts a few roles in theaters around the greater Tulsa Area.

She was involved with Tulsa Arts and Humanities Council programming, including Artists in Schools, Artists in Residence and Summer Arts. She has also worked with the Museum Broken Arrow in portraying historical females of the community.

Cementing her theater guru status, in 2011, Thompson was named the first recipient of the Mary Kay Place Legacy Award. It was named for Tulsa native Mary Kay Place to honor “an individual who has advanced the standard of theatrical excellent in the Tulsa community through creative contribution, artistic vision, exemplary service and outstanding leadership.”

