



# great graduates

BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

2019 HONOREES





Broken Arrow High School  
Alumni Association  
**GREAT GRADUATES OF 2019**  
Recognition Ceremony and Reception

Central on Main. 201 N. Main St.  
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019

**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**

Max Smith  
*Class of 1950*

Recognition of former great graduates  
School board members and special guests

Introduction of Great Graduates  
Class of 2019

\* David Beverly, Class of 1964

Ken Collins, Class of 1967

Russell Gale, Class of 1974

Debra Wimpee, Class of 1990

**Closing Remarks**

Charlie Gann  
*Class of 1955*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Broken Arrow Public Schools

**Dr. Janet Dunlop**

Superintendent of Schools

**BAPS Board of Education**

Steve Allen - Board President  
Steve Majors - Board Vice President  
Jerry Denton - Board Clerk  
John Cockrell  
Brandy Roulet

**Bob Lewis**

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Kim Johnson

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Michelle Lewandowski

GREAT GRADUATES COMMITTEE

Derek Blackburn, Class of 1990  
Gwynta Blissit Buchanan, Class of 1970  
Carla Dobbins Crow, Class of 1970  
Chase Elkins of 2005  
Charlie Gann, Class of 1955  
Carolyn Vaughan Hodges, Class of 1970  
Steve Schwab, Class of 1982  
Max Smith, Class of 1950  
Tammy Barton Strickland, Class of 1994  
Rowdy Williams, Class of 1958

\* 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

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

# David BEVERLY

*Class of 1964*

It is fitting that the late W. David Beverly be honored as a Great Graduate from the Class of 1964 in the same year that the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of man's first steps on the moon – an event he played a big part in helping make possible.

Trent Mills, senior systems engineer for NASA, told the BAHS selection committee he worked with Beverly for more than 10 years at the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in the area of flight and hardware electronics reliability testing. He specifically called attention to the esteem his colleague earned for his technical knowledge and support of the manned space program.

Mills also told of their love of motorcycling and his friend's tireless efforts to boost this shared passion.

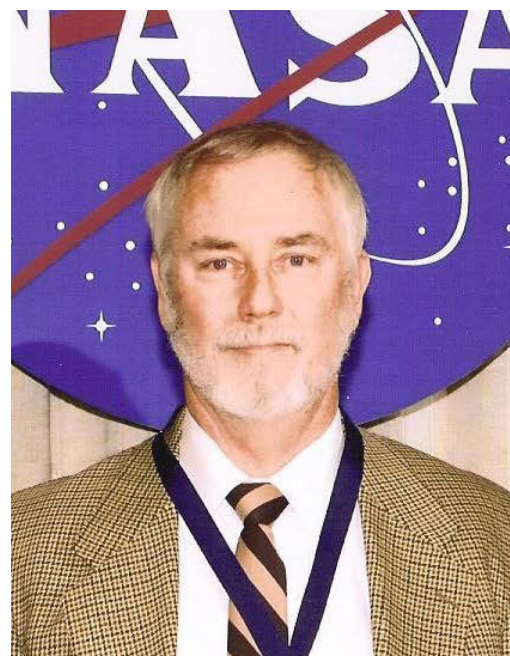
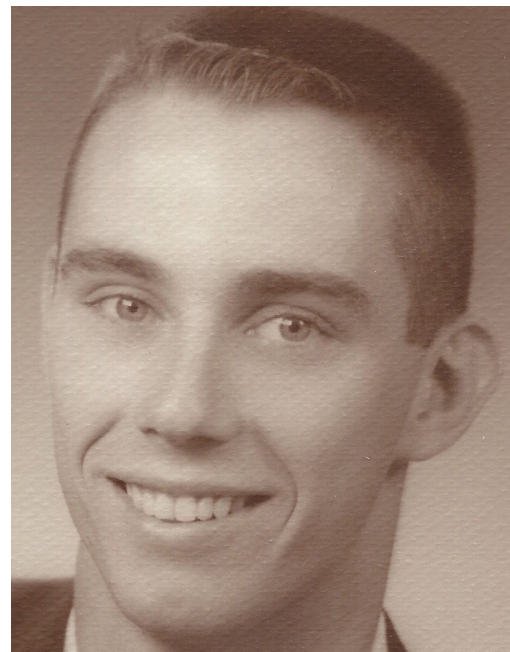
Beverly was instrumental in bringing some 400 enthusiasts together across the space center and led an organization dubbed Space Riders (now renamed Dave's Space Riders in his memory). To benefit fellow cyclists, he developed a database of riders, distributed a weekly news brief, organized plan rides, shared safety and technical tips and mustered considerable rider support for charitable organizations across the Gulf Coast area.

Mills wrote, "Dave left a vibrant legacy and was honored in many ways, including a motorcycle patch flown to the International Space Station that now hangs in the safety and reliability laboratory that was named after him."

As a student at Broken Arrow High School, Beverly played football and was on the basketball and track teams. He was active in the Spanish Club, speech and received the Danforth Award. Following service in the U.S. Air Force – including two tours of duty in Korea – he returned to school and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1978 with a degree in electrical engineering.

His wife, Linda Webb Beverly, told the selection committee her husband was active his entire life in a multitude of Christian activities. An active contributor, promoter and participant in a number of charitable organizations, he was especially involved in efforts to help people following the devastation of Hurricane Camille in 1969.

Many classmates agreed when she said, "his character and leadership were realized in virtually every endeavor he undertook. He lived a robust life and died a true hero."



# Ken COLLINS

*Class of 1967*

The story of why Kenneth L. Collins is this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1967 is best told by some of the people who sent in letters supporting his nomination. Our only regret is that available space makes it impossible to recite all the glowing comments received.

One endorser, Retired Brigadier General Thomas P. Mancino, said, "Perhaps the best example of (Ken's) dedication to Broken Arrow, his fellow students and veterans was the relocation of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial from the city park to the Military History Center. Ken spent his own time and money to complete this memorial and sought no recognition for himself."

Jean E. Bailie, executive assistant at the Center, added, "He has driven miles to help collect artifacts from veterans who live in other areas and used his carpenter skills to build shelves and display cases. He also organized the annual Vietnam Veterans Reorganization Event."

William Scarbrough, Collins' former boss at APAC-Central, Inc., told the committee, "Ken was undoubtedly the finest employee I ever had. He literally turned his division's safety

program around from lip service to actual verifiable improvement. I firmly believe he is responsible for saving the lives of many of our employees."

Ray Odor, an instructor and coach at Tulsa's Town & Country School, said Collins "worked very hard at keeping our facility in great working order so the faculty, staff and especially the students were safe. He was always quick to come fix things at a moment's notice, even on weekends."

Ronald A. Stover served with Collins in the U.S. Navy in Naples, Italy. During that time, he said he saw firsthand his friend's exceptional work ethic. He wrote, "No matter what time of day or night, it seemed Ken was always there. His duties were always carried out in the most concise and conscientious manner."

Teri Goodner-Dorshorst said since the time she was born Collins called her his little sister even though they were unrelated. "When I was six weeks old, he gave me Chicken Pox. I believe we even have matching scars," she joked. "But as I grew up, I learned why so many people looked up to him. This man stands out for no reason other than who he is."



# Russell GALE

*Class of 1974*

Russell Gale has earned the unofficial title of “Mr. Versatility” during his 41-years-and-counting career with the City of Broken Arrow. It is well deserved recognition for the number and diversity of special projects this year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1974 continues to take on.

After earning a political science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1978, Gale was selected by then City Manager, Jim Whitlock to fill an open administrative assistant position. Three years later, he became the city’s first Human Resources Director, responsible for employee recruitment and certification, administration of city-wide training programs, collective bargaining and payroll administration.

Twice, Gale demonstrated his versatility by stepping in as Acting City Manager to give search committees the time they needed to fill this position. Far from being simply a figurehead, he played a key role in initiating the city’s present ambulance subscription service, the LifeRide program and in developing a comprehensive plan to use retiring Vision 2015 sales tax funds to bolster operational and capital projects.

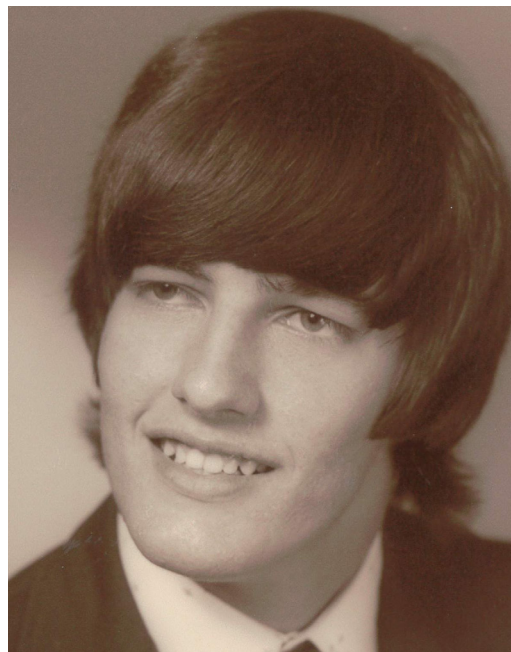
In 2016, Gale’s career took another leap forward when City Manager Michael Spurgeon selected him to serve as

Assistant City Manager Administration with oversight responsibility for the Finance Department, General Services, Human Resources, City Clerk and Information Technology.

Even though colleagues note he often goes well beyond the call of duty while doing everything possible to avoid the spotlight, his contributions of the people of Broken Arrow certainly have not gone unnoticed. During both stints as Acting City Manager, for example, he drew praise from the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Build A Better Broken Arrow Committee. In 1993, he was named Professional of the Year by the Oklahoma Public Personnel Association and in 2015 he received the BA Chamber of Commerce Chairman’s Award.

Away from the office, Gale delights in attending OSU alumni and athletic events, and keeping his yard in showcase condition. He has also been spotted on area golf courses banging around a little white ball.

City Manager Spurgeon summed up the impact Gale continues to make when he said, “His commitment to excellence represents a service to the community that has earned us numerous awards as a safe city and a great place to live.



# Debra WIMPEE

*Class of 1990*

Just about everything Debra Wimpee touches comes up roses – especially an award-winning downtown redevelopment project that’s near and dear to her heart.

This year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1990 moved to BA in the sixth grade. She and her husband, Glenne, graduated from BAHS together and their three children have followed in their parents’ footsteps.

In 2009 Wimpee launched what was destined to become a diverse business resumé when she opened a boutique store on Main Street. That experience, she says, opened her eyes to the potential of what then was a struggling area and kindled within her a flame that made it virtually impossible not to take a hand in rebuilding The Rose District.

During the four years she owned and operated her store, Wimpee got involved in the Broken Arrow Chamber of Commerce and served on that organization’s board of directors. She continues to serve as an advisory board member of the BA Salvation Army. She created “Turn BA Pink,” a cancer awareness program designed as a tribute to her late mother-in-law, Ruth Wimpee. That undertaking was followed by a dazzling array of highly

successful special events, including the ShamRock the Rose Festival, Street Eats on Main, Summer Solstice, Cinco de la Rosa, Holiday Pop Up Shops and Red, White and Brew.

Many people don’t realize Wimpee has a management company through which she oversees two commercial real estate enterprises. What is well known is her election to the City Council in 2017, and her use of that platform to expand on an earlier venture called BA Buzz to spotlight all the good things she believes people need to know about Broken Arrow.

In recognition of her multitude of accomplishments, Wimpee received a Tulsa 40 Under 40 award, and was named Retailer of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. A Rotarian and active member of The Church at Battle Creek, she has also been named a Paul Harris Fellow, received a Community Organization Best of Broken Arrow award, was honored with a Beacon Award for philanthropy and volunteerism and 2019 Woman in Municipal Government of the Year Finalist.

City Manager Michael Spurgeon calls her “Broken Arrow’s best cheerleader” because of her devotion and tireless efforts on behalf of the city.



