



great graduates

BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



2016 HONOREES



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

Kelley KIMBROUGH RASH

Class of 1974

Kelley Kimbrough-Rash considers herself a good follower rather than a good leader. Her record of accomplishments in the worlds of business and community service, however, tell a strikingly different story.

As Chairman of the Board of family-owned AVB Bank, this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1974 holds the reigns of a hallmark financial institution that plays an integral part of the lives of thousands of Broken Arrow residents and businesses.

Rash's great grandfather, G.A. Brown, founded what was then known as Arkansas Valley National Bank in 1905. Her grandfather, Ivan Brown, followed him in the corner office helping clients make their way through some of the nation's



most challenging economic times. Her father, Neely Kimbrough, Brown's son-on-law, continued the tradition of growth through excellence in personal service after joining AVB as president in 1966. Under her leadership, many of the innovations associated with modern banking have been introduced and assets have soared past the \$260 million mark and are still growing.

Outside of her office, Rash continues to apply her management skill and boundless energy to enhance livability of the community she loves. On her resume are leadership roles with the Broken Arrow Centennial Committee, the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center Foundation Board, the Broken Arrow Public Schools Foundation, Partners in Education, Downtown Advisory Board, Arts and Humanities Council, and Broken Arrow Area Chamber of Commerce.

She is also part of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce Small Business Council, LIFE Senior Services, Tulsa Opera Board, Tulsa Community College Signature Symphony Advisory Board, Tulsa Opera Board and both the Oklahoma and National Bankers Associations.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she has is devoted to applying her skill as a painter, exploring art and cultural events and spending as much time as possible with her family. Rash says much has changed in the financial industry since she became part of it some 45 years ago. "But the way we have done business for generations is the way we do business today - with a handshake. This is our bond," she notes with understandable pride.



Michelle SUTTON

Class of 1989



Lois “Michelle” Sutton is a glowing example of the endless possibilities available for those who never give in or give up.

This year’s Great Graduate from the Class of 1989 grew up in what at that time was one of the community’s lowest income and least desirable areas. Despite watching friends and neighbors fall prey to self-destructive temptations, she applied herself at school, earned a degree in political science from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma.

Then, just as things were becoming positive in her life, the dark cloud she thought she had left behind reappeared.

Following graduation from OU, she was attacked when unlocking the door of her apartment. A short time later, her vehicle was stolen and her arm broken during a carjacking.



Tragedy struck again when her mother committed suicide and her business partner died tragically in a single engine plane crash. In 2013, two days after her 42nd birthday, she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Long-time friend Teresa Burkett says she doubts anybody would have blamed Sutton if she wanted to go into hiding and become the “invisible woman.” But that simply was not going to happen. Instead, even while battling cancer, Sutton served as president of the Margaret Hudson Program Board, leading a charge that literally kept that organization afloat. She became an active volunteer for the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma. As an attorney and contract lobbyist, she offers her services at well below market rates to a variety of non-profits and litigation she handled for the American Heart Association is credited for saving two lives.

When the Second Chance Pet Rescue of Grand Lake needed help, Sutton rallied friends and family to donate needed funds and became “mom” to a special needs dog of her own.

Today, she runs a successful lobbying business, teaches American Government and Administrative Law as an adjunct professor, helps raise two nieces and cares for her chronically ill father – all while being a role model for every kid growing up in “the wrong part of town.”

Charles GANN

Class of 1955

The nomination of Charles R. “Charlie” Gann as a Great Graduate from the Class of 1955 gave the Broken Arrow High School Alumni Association a golden opportunity to honor one of its own.

Retired Superintendent Dr. Clarence Oliver remembers the time in the 1970’s when he tried to create an alumni association. Only three people showed up at the first organizing meeting. A year later, that number increased by only a few dedicated people. But with the advent of social media and a growing desire to organize class reunions, the organization was finally launched. Then as now, one of its cornerstones was Charlie Gann,

In a letter to the Selection Committee, Oliver said for many years he observed Gann being the Association’s representative at major community and school events, including being the individual who presented scholarships at the annual Senior Class Awards Program. “It is so obvious he has been involved in all the ‘behind the scenes’ work of managing the investment of endowed funds to make these scholarships possible,” Oliver



noted. “To most of us observers, Charles Gann is ‘the face’ of the Alumni Association.”

After high school, Gann joined the U.S. Navy and began a service career that made him a world traveler. He was stationed on an electronics repair ship in Newport, Rhode Island and went to Gibraltar, Spain, Italy, Crete, Turkey and Sicily as well as Puerto Rico and a number of small islands in the Atlantic Ocean.

Returning home, Gann earned an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Tulsa and was associated with Boeing in Wichita, Kansas; Century Electronics in Tulsa; the FAA in Oklahoma City, and Seismograph Service Corp. in Tulsa before joining the American Airlines Maintenance Center. He retired from there in 1996.

His resume also includes service with the Gann Historical Society and Library, a national organization dedicated to history and genealogy, the local Elks lodge, the Broken Arrow Historical Society, Northside Christian Church and the alumni association which he serves as a director.

He has three children (all BAHS grads), five grandchildren and one great grandson.



Larry PENNINGTON

Class of 1963



When his friends and former classmates say Larry Pennington has a lot on the ball, they mean it in more ways than one.

First, of course, they are referring to the ability this year's Great Graduate from the Class of 1963 exhibits in meeting the demands of his position with Allison & Associates Realtors. Then there is the other "ball," the one symbolic of the Men's Fast Pitch Softball League he helped found and the many kids who knew him as "coach" as he taught the fine points of the game in both little league baseball and girls fast-pitch softball.

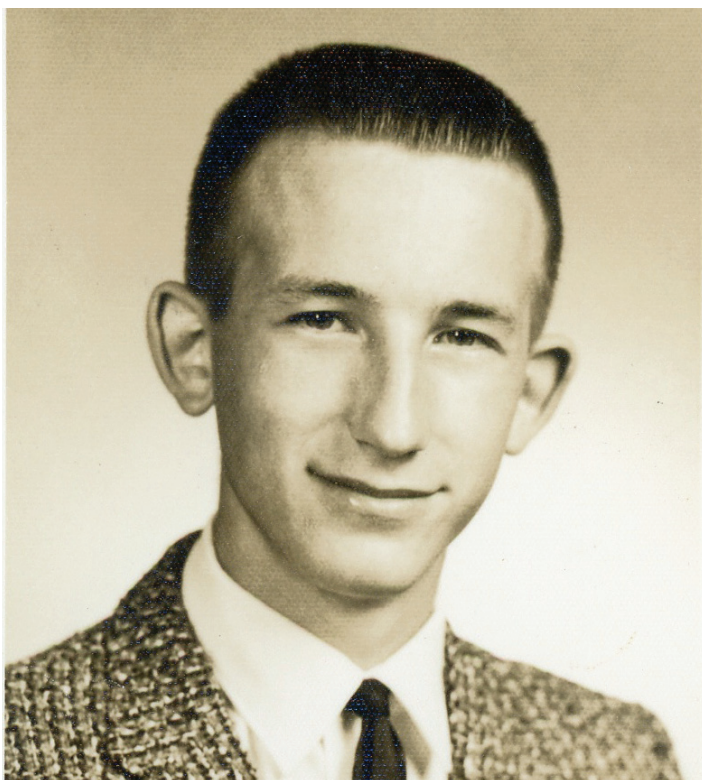
Pennington is a 40-year plus veteran of the real estate industry, serving as a salesman, lender and builder-developer of his own properties in the Tulsa and Broken Arrow areas. As a reflection of his expertise in all these areas, he has been given oversight responsibility for a number of central

downtown properties prompting friends and associates to bestow upon him the unofficial dual titles of "Mayor of Main Street" and "Mr. Rose District."

For nearly three decades, he was a mainstay of the Broken Arrow Jaycees, taking leadership roles in that organization's numerous fund-raising activities. On his list of accomplishments are numerous programs aimed at helping needy children and a campaign that enabled the Broken Arrow Fire Department to purchase its first portable defibrillation machine.

This Great Graduate served his country for six years as a member of the Oklahoma National Guard earning the rank of Staff Sergeant before being discharged in 1972. Today, he is president of the Broken Arrow Historical Society, and continues to assist the Class of 1963 Reunion Committee in planning and conducting class reunions every five years.

Pennington married the former Myrna Monroe (Class of 1964) and they had three children. After her death in 1987, he married Linda Muratet who brought two children of her own to the family. He enjoys spending as much time as possible with them as well as playing golf, fishing, league bowling and tinkering with his model trains.





Broken Arrow High School
Alumni Association
GREAT GRADUATES OF 2016
Recognition Ceremony and Reception

Varsity Club, Broken Arrow High School
Friday, September 23, 2016

Master of Ceremonies

Dusty Dilldine
Broken Arrow Public Schools
Class of 1978

Dinner

Welcome

Dr. Jarod Mendenhall
Superintendent of Schools

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

Charles Gann
Class of 1955

Invocation

Ina Edwards Dilldine
Class of 1956

**Recognition of Former Great Graduates
School Board Members and Special Guests**

**Introduction of Great Graduates
Class of 2016**

Kelley Kimbrough Rash, Class of 1974
Presented by Mark Frie

Michelle Sutton, Class of 1989
Presented by Larry Rice
President of Rogers State University

Charlie Gann, Class of 1955
Presented by Tom Gann
Class of 1959

Larry Pennington, Class of 1963
Presented by Lynn Bertling
Class of 1963

Closing Remarks
Derek Blackburn
Class of 1990

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Felix DeGeyter
Vintage Automobiles for Homecoming Parade

Michelle Lewandowski
BAHS Multi-media Instructor
Program Logo

Great Graduates Escorts
Broken Arrow High School Honor Society
Jada Holliday
Aira De Guzman
Olivia Hernandez
Rachel Wilkins
Danh Truong
Jessica D'Souza
Megan Padgett
Brittan Greenlee

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
Glenne Wimpee, Class of 1990