great graduates
BROKEN ARROW HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2016 HONOREES
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.

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<tr>
<th>Great Graduates 1999</th>
<th>Great Graduates 2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jim Brewer, Class of 1956</td>
<td>Dr. Jack L. Griffin, Class of 1940</td>
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<td>John Hudson, Class of 1966</td>
<td>Maxine Layton Dark, Class of 1944</td>
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<td>Virginia Watts Johnson, Class of 1948</td>
<td>Bob Henry, Class of 1948</td>
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<td>Dr. Alan Keller, Class of 1965</td>
<td>H. Delbert Frieze, Esq., Class of 1961</td>
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<td>Millie Marshall, Class of 1955</td>
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<th>Great Graduates 2000</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ed Cobb Jr., Class of 1943</td>
<td>Paul Hayes, Class of 1940</td>
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<td>Howard Fisher, Class of 1935</td>
<td>Onis Lemon, Class of 1956</td>
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<td>Carl Martin, Class of 1943</td>
<td>Mitchell Wilson, Class of 1970</td>
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<td>Max E. Smith, Class of 1950</td>
<td>Rebecca Righter Bluestone, Class of 1972</td>
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<td>Roy Sturgeon, Class of 1959</td>
<td>Russ McKinnon, Class of 1977</td>
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<th>Great Graduates 2001</th>
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<td>Robert Eskridge, Class of 1944</td>
<td>Bert Kennard, Class of 1940</td>
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<td>Herb Karner, Class of 1934</td>
<td>Nile Clark, Class of 1955</td>
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<td>Doug Lanier, Class of 1968</td>
<td>Elmo Johnston, Class of 1943</td>
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<td>Frances McNeely Leonard, Class of 1953</td>
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<td>Dr. Jeff Lester, Class of 1964</td>
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<th>Great Graduates 2002</th>
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<td>Brad Gahm, Class of 1977</td>
<td>Kristin Chenoweth, Class of 1986</td>
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<td>Richard Gilliland, Class of 1956</td>
<td>Ivan Brown, Class of 1919</td>
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<td>Letha Phillips Nichols, Class of 1931</td>
<td>Nick Aston, Class of 1963</td>
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<td>Floy C. Pepper, Class of 1934</td>
<td>Dr. Amy Sturgis, Class of 1990</td>
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<td>Bill Perry, Class of 1948</td>
<td>Dennis Sagely, Class of 1992</td>
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<td>Max Brissey, Class of 1948</td>
<td>William T. Autry, Class of 1925</td>
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<td>Larry Deonier, Class of 1964</td>
<td>Dr. Robert A. Rosser, Jr., Class of 1959</td>
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<td>Dr. Gary Gerber, Class of 1968</td>
<td>Tim Lynn, Class of 1984</td>
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<td>Janice Worthington Lisko, Class of 1975</td>
<td>Dr. Denise E. Dutton, Class of 1990</td>
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<td>Rick Medlin, Class of 1963</td>
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<td>William C. Chapman, Class of 1938</td>
<td>Archie Pennington, Class of 1922</td>
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<td>Arnold Kunze, Class of 1946</td>
<td>Ina Lynn Dildine, Class of 1956</td>
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<td>William H. (Hank) Miesner, Jr., Class of 1957</td>
<td>Joseph Lester, Class of 1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowdy Williams, Class of 1958</td>
<td>Philip Tucker, Class of 1975</td>
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<td>Johnnie Parks, Class of 1965</td>
<td>John Lindsay, Class of 1979</td>
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<td>Rev. William L. Couch Jr., Class of 1956</td>
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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 reins 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.
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.”

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.

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

GREAT GRADUATES 2016 HONOREES
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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Broken Arrow Public Schools
Dr. Jarod Mendenhall
Superintendent of Schools

BAPS Communications Department
Ken Ellett
Director of Athletic Operations

Bob Lewis
Writer and Editorial Consultant

Adam J. Foreman
Graphic Artist/Publications Specialist

Printing by Royal Printing

Photography by Greg and Ashley Spencer

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