

OAK LEAF

MAGAZINE



FALL/WINTER 2021

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OAK RIDGE
MILITARY ACADEMY

from the office of the PRESIDENT

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year from The Ridge. Because of the generosity of our alumni, last year has been Christmas almost all year.

While it is never good to look in the rear-view mirror, we must never forget where we came from and what we have accomplished with your help. In 2021, we completed a great many improvements due to your devotion to the ORMA legacy. We replaced the roofs of both Cone and Armfield Dormitories. Cone Dormitory, due to the benevolence of both alumni and the Cemala Foundation, has been completely remodeled. The water tower, which has needed renovation for several years, is now standing proud in the middle of our campus, painted, and refurbished from the inside out, all due to an alumnus's very generous gift. Our rappel tower has been sand blasted and painted with "ORMA" on the front, also completed with alumni donations. The roof of Cottrell Hall (the old band room) is being painted to improve the academy's curb appeal for our visitors. Our aviation program has expanded to become part of our school curriculum, funded by both an alumnus and the Tom Davis Foundation. Cyber-security classes are on our students' class schedule and each student has been issued a Chromebook to complete their studies.

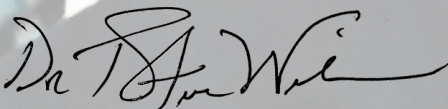
The Bonner Field House renovations are now complete. Bonner has a new roof, new blinds, new LED lights, and a new floor. Our athletic programs have expanded to include volleyball, baseball, softball, a swim club and three basketball teams. We have also added a scuba diving program for the Cadets. Our recruitment numbers continue to climb, with our projected number of students topping 120 by January 2022. The 22% increase in middle school students indicates the improvement and continued success of the academy.

ORMA's rigorous academic program continues to grow and thrive, illustrated by our students receiving numerous scholarship opportunities. Last year, our eleven graduates received \$1.7 million dollars in scholarship offers for college. This year, we have two students accepted into the Citadel by early admission. One Cadet has been awarded a Veteran's scholarship to the school of her choice and yet another has been offered a scholarship to Ole Miss University. Although it is still early, several seniors have submitted applications for admission to various service academies.

All of this, however, could not have been accomplished without your help. Your financial and moral support is always recognized and appreciated. You make a difference in the lives of our Cadets with your unwavering assistance and service to your alma mater.

Thank you again for continuing to be a part of The Ridge.

Reminder: Those with required minimum IRA distributions can avoid being taxed by donating all or part of this amount to the academy.



Dr. Thomas Steve Wilson

PRESIDENT,
OAK RIDGE MILITARY ACADEMY

A HAVEN FROM VIRTUAL LEARNING

*CADET PROFILE:
GINGER HSUEH*

2020 was a year marked by frustration for many high school students across the country. Online learning platforms and "virtual classrooms" deprived many learners of the face-to-face interactions that accompany and support the learning experience.

In late October of 2020, these sorts of frustrations drove Ginger Hsueh to look for other options, and she found Oak Ridge. Although she was initially anxious about the transfer, it took very little time for her to adapt and excel in her academics, military exercises, and leadership abilities.

Now Cadet Staff Sergeant Hsueh is the Battalion S-1. Her bright personality is contagious, bringing a smile to those with whom she's dealing. She participates in Drill Team, and has taken an active role in influencing the lives of younger cadets, motivating them to become better cadets and citizens. However, it's not all military and discipline for Ginger. In her free time, Ginger enjoys playing video games such as Minecraft and League Of Legends. She also enjoys anime and participates in speech and debate.



*FACULTY PROFILE:
TAMARA LEVER*

A FRUITFUL TEACHING CAREER



Though Tamara Lever (English 7, 8, 9) has only been at Oak Ridge for the last 3 years, her teaching career spreads over an impressive two decades!

In her short time at Oak Ridge, she has become a staple among the faculty and a well-loved teacher. She has also become a parental figure to many students by serving as the female dorm parent in Holt Dormitory. Ms. Lever's own students characterize her as showing love and compassion. "She always creates a safe and comfortable environment, both as a teacher and a dorm parent," one student remarked.

She has also taken up the task of reviving the Ragsdale Library, complete with a new cataloging software and new furniture as well. It is now up and running for Cadet use. Ms. Lever came to Oak Ridge because she saw an opportunity, and she now feels that it has been the perfect fit. What is her favorite part of being at ORMA? "My students," Lever confidently answered, "It brings me joy watching them bloom into leaders and learn how to be better citizens."

NEWS FROM THE RIDGE

New Faculty

Oak Ridge Military Academy would like to welcome the following new faculty members into the ORMA family:

-Kenzy Frasier: Middle School Math/Science

-Tim Wallace: American Literature; Speech and Debate; World Literature

-Evan Jaynes: United States History; Middle School Social Studies

-Bob Kelly: Algebra II; Chemistry

-Brian Jones: Information Technology; Cyber Security

ORMA has a unique faculty, with a healthy mixture of new, younger teachers and more experienced, veteran educators. This blend makes for a very welcoming environment for new members of the ORMA faculty.

When asked about their first impressions of Oak Ridge, the newest faculty members noted their fondness for the students. Ms. Frasier noted, "My favorite thing about my life so far is all of the wonderful students and children I have had the chance to impact."



Academic Dean Caroline McKaughan joins Bobby Barbera in giving a campus tour to three of the newest members of the ORMA Faculty: Evan Jaynes (L), Tim Wallace (Back), and Brian Jones (R).

New Recruits

Every ORMA cadet can recall their first days at Oak Ridge. A confusing bustle of drills, schedules, and memorization--it can be a bit intimidating! These are the days of being an ORMA Recruit. And this year's class of recruits shows great promise. With ___ new recruits joining ORMA over the first semester, the corps is continuing to increase in number and strengthen in cadet character as well. Coming from many different walks of life, these recruits are ready to be shaped into ORMA cadets. With help from their Cadre NC5Os these recruits will undergo rigorous training and orientation in order to build their character and confidence, eventually earning the title of "ORMA cadet."



Recondo

Recondo is a voluntary extracurricular activity which seeks to educate cadets on military tactics and land navigation. This fall, new cadets are getting their first taste of the Recondo experience. So far, they have rappelled off sixty to eighty-foot cliffs, braved the on-campus rappel tower, and learned how to escape the "Fatal Funnel" in ORMA's on-campus airsoft course.

Under the leadership of two ORMA TAC Officers, SGM Patrick McKaughan and SGT Paul Hengeveld, these cadets have the opportunity to experience adventures that are fairly unique to the Oak Ridge experience. Recondo is increasingly becoming an integral part of what The Ridge seeks to offer.



DEVELOPMENT

Bonner Field House

Over the years, the playing surface in Bonner Field House had put on quite a bit of mileage. The color of the floor, the tack, the dim lighting, and some roof leaks were all in need of repair. Fortunately, thanks to the efforts of Athletic Director Bobby Allison and the ORMA Administration, each of these issues have been completely fixed and Bonner Field House has received a significant update! From floor to ceiling, it's like a new gymnasium.

The renovation began with some cosmetic changes -- an updated paint job in the foyer, and brand new shades to replace the blinds over the large windows. Then, the old light fixtures were taken out, and in their place were put new, brighter LED fixtures. The roofs and floor were completely updated as well. The events in Bonner Field House seem to be filled with a new excitement and energy, and this is in no small part due to the enhanced environment in which they take place!

ORMA would like to thank Northface Roofing Specialists and Carolina Hardwood for excellent work and for partnering with us in this project.





Cone Dormitory

We previously reported that the project to renovate the Cone Dormitory was fully funded -- we are now pleased to announce that Cone Dorm has been fully renovated!

Each room in Cone Dorm has received brand new floors, beds, wardrobes, vanities, light fixtures, paint schemes, and more! Also, keypad locks and name plates are being added to the rooms, and the floors have been updated in the hallways as well. If you come visit our campus, be sure to see the improvements in Cone!

Outdoor Gymnasium

Since the earliest days of ORMA's history, our school has emphasized the rural beauty of the area in which we are situated. We believe it is important that our young people spend time outdoors and engage in physical exercise. Fortunately, a brand new outdoor gymnasium allows them to do both!

Located behind Cone Dorm, this all-in-one, self-contained exercise apparatus allows cadets to get in some important resistance training while enjoying the fresh air of rural North Carolina.





ORMA SPIRIT WEAR!

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- ★ HATS
- ★ POLOS



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ALUMNI PROFILE



STEVEN ALEX WILSON

class of 1997

Alex Wilson is among ORMA's more accomplished alumni, holding a B.A. from Elon and Master's Degrees from both Clemson University and Union Seminary. Alex also enjoys memberships in prestigious organizations such as the NC Knight Masons, the Scottish Rite Grand Commander's Fellows program, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

Wilson's primary service to the community, however, comes in the form of his individual counseling practice in Greensboro, NC. Alex specializes in assistance with issues like substance abuse, anger management, and grief therapy -- among others.

Alumni like Alex help to preserve the good name of Oak Ridge Military Academy by contributing to their community. We would like to congratulate Alex on his present achievements as we look forward with anticipation to his future accomplishments!

WISHLIST

FLIGHT SIMULATORS -- Our aviation class has been a tremendous success, requiring an advanced Aviation 2 course. Flight simulators offer the student a virtual flying experience without ever leaving the ground. However, Aviation 2 enables the student to fly with our certified instructor and receive credits toward obtaining their pilot license. \$2,500 would enable us to purchase two such simulators.

\$2,500

A/C UNITS -- Holt Dormitory, one of the oldest dorms on campus, has a capacity of 46 female cadets. It is important that we maintain living conditions to continue to attract the growing female corps of Cadets. ORMA continues to fill a national void in the availability of military schooling for girls. Any donation toward an upgrade of these AC units would help us to maintain our high living standards for our female Cadets.

\$10,000

TRAVEL VAN -- We currently have only one 15-passenger van to transport our cadets to events. On many occasions, we must rent an additional van to provide transportation. Our Drill Team, softball, baseball, and basketball teams exceed this capacity. We have already had one alumnus to donate \$10,000 to start this funding. Donations of any amount specified for a travel van and it will be added until our goal has been reached.

\$15,000

SCHOLARSHIPS -- Both our academic and athletic programs are continuing to grow rapidly, and we are thrilled with that growth. However, we have found that there are many who want to attend ORMA, but simply cannot meet the financial requirements. A \$5,000 scholarship would go a long way to opening the door for many young men and women. Also with a scholarship donation, you could specify and direct this scholarship to your choosing.

\$5,000

IRA DISTRIBUTIONS -- Please remember, by donating all or some of your IRA minimum distribution, you will be avoiding being taxed on that amount; and by donating to a non-profit organization, such as our academy, there could possibly be a tax credit involved. You should check with your accountant to see if this would apply to you.

IRAs

DONOR RECOGNITION

Order of the Oak Leaf \$5,000+

Phillip N. Daly and Frances K. Daly
Charitable Lead Unitrust
Dorothy Pegram Culler Estate
Blake & Ashley Mitchell
Urban Contractors LLC

Tom Davis Fund
W.D. Goldston, Jr. (c/o '44)
Oak Ridge Foundation Society
Jonathan Caine (c/o '90)
Worth Mitchell

Battalion Commander Club

\$1,500 - \$2,999

Jason Ralston (c/o '93)
J. Patrick Harman
1SG Sallie McCullough
Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family
Foundation Inc (c/o '60)

Gold Star Platoon Club

\$1,000 - \$1,499

Carlos Garcia
Ike Keener (c/o '66)
Tom Pate (c/o '68)
Bunny Bulluck (c/o '73)
Ken & Cherryl Hartman (c/o '62)
The Dale Jr. Foundation
Giaimo Management (c/o '04)
Henley Scholarship Fund
Triangle Atlantic Casket Company Inc.

NCO Club

\$200 - \$499

Susan Greeson
Charles E. Frye
Indian Motorcycle
of Greensboro

Willard Thigpen, Jr. (c/o '74)
Merry Maids
James Carter (c/o '63)
LTC Charles Williford

Cadet Beret Club

\$100 - \$199

David Blalock
Angela Merrifield (c/o '84)
Michael Helms (c/o '79)
William K. McAllister
Carmen Freeman (c/o '78)
Castlelights, Inc.

Charles Heffner IV (c/o '99)
Richard Whitaker
L&T Small Engine Repair
Maureena Shepherd
Tracy Koch (c/o '81)

JVB Automotive, Inc.
TireMax
Kevin James (c/o '89)
Kim Augsburg
Craig Westergaard
Enduric Plumbing Services, Inc.

CLASS NOTES

Class of 1987

Scott Caviness, Battalion Commander of the 135th Corps of Cadets, has been in need of a liver transplant to aid him in his battle against Non-Alcohol Steatohepatitis. We are pleased to congratulate Scott on recently finding a suitable donor, and we wish him well as he undergoes the surgical procedure and recovery.

Class of 1991

Angela Deiss is an actress who has been recently featured in a recurring principal role on the Hulu original series Dopesick, acting alongside talents like Michael Keaton and Kaitlyn Dever. Angela also owns and operates the Brave Boutique in Ashland, VA, a retail store in which all profits are donated to humanitarian causes. Well done, Angela! Keep up the good work!

Class of 1993

LTC Christopher Hafer retired from the USMC in November 2021 after 25 years of Service. He resides in Hampstead, NC with his wife Jen, sons Austin and Christopher and father Bill. He is currently pursuing a second career in the appraisal industry and enjoys supporting numerous other endeavors through volunteer work.

Class of 2019

Michal Treadwell enlisted in the United States Navy this year. She completed Navy Boot Camp in September and is now in Accession Training ("Navy A School") in Pensacola, FL, studying to be a Cryptologist.





TAPS

Charlie Frye, c/o 1954

Andy Hensley, c/o 1968

Perry Miller, c/o 1979

Mike Radford, c/o 1992

Daniel Austin, c/o 1995

Chris Martz, c/o 1996

Taylor Kempton, c/o 2008

Sandy Brown, former Staff



OAK RIDGE MILITARY ACADEMY

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS