



STILL AT WORK - Craftsmen continue to work on the AMA Alumni House and Museum on the day before the ribbon-cutting. President Goodloe Saunders, '57, says there is still much to be done.

Ribbon cut at AMA Alumni House and Museum, but much is left to do

The AMA Alumni House and Museum is officially open, the museum and offices now have regular hours of operation, yet there is much left to do. That's the message alumni heard at Reunion 2000 the first weekend in May, an event where the ribbon was cut to open the house even as workmen continued to put the finishing touches of the house's exterior.

The official opening of Alumni House was a highlight of a weekend crammed with special events: a reception at White Hall, Founder's Day ceremonies honoring AMA alumni killed in Vietnam, lunch in the gymnasium, a Kentucky Derby party, the awarding of the annual AMA Alumni Medals and the AMA Legacy Scholarships, golf, a tennis match with Fishburne representatives, a sporting clay shoot, an *Ad Astra* 75th anniversary ceremony, and more.

Alumni got to see the pavers they had ordered in place on the walkway leading to AMA's new alumni headquarters. They partied and danced on Saturday night. Some took a special tour to historic Lexington. All renewed old acquaintances and made new friends.

But even as they marvelled at the expert craftsmanship which has brought the Roller-Robinson House new glory, there was the realization of a task not yet completed. Funds still are needed to complete the house, inside and out, and to outfit the museum to tell the AMA story. As you read in this issue of *The Bayonet* about what has been accomplished by our energetic and dedicated alumni, ask yourself: *What else can I do to help?* The journey is not over, and now is not the time to rest.

**SIMMONS, NICHOLSON,
GORDON, BRADFORD
ARE 2000 MEDALISTS**

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**Studer appointed
Alumni House
Manager**

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SCHOLARSHIPS**

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Augusta Military Academy
Alumni Association, Inc.



Summer 2000

Dear Fellow Alumnus:

We have just had the most satisfying reunion that I have ever attended. Reunion 2000 proved that things done with effort and pride, dreams followed boldly, and hopes kept alive can bring astonishing results. When the school closed, we had tears and heartache. We failed to find a way to reopen it, but we tried. Now the tears of yesterday have been replaced with good times and new laugh lines on our otherwise weathered faces!

If you saw the Roller-Robinson House a year ago, or 20 years ago, you could never have imagined that it could be converted from the neglected ugly duckling that it was to the most beautiful swan on the lake. You owe it to yourself to visit *your* AMA Alumni House and Museum, if you have not already done so.

With all the joy of the moment, we need to recognize that our work is not yet done. The museum truly is a work in progress. Our alumni house will need many things and much attention in the months and years to come. We are tired of asking for money and our guys are tired of *being* asked for money. But I would not be honest with you unless I say emphatically that the need is still there. We are hoping that each person who reads this letter can send something now - while you have *The Bayonet* in your hand - to help us finish the work so nobly begun. We thank you, and generations of people who will visit the AMA Museum will thank you too!

Goodloe Saunders, '57

President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



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The *Bayonet* welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission. Clear, correctly exposed photos are welcome.

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Letter from Garry Granger, '71, that seems to say it all

Whether or not you attended Reunion 2000, this letter from Garry Granger, '71, sums it up precisely:

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Another great reunion! The AMA Alumni House is *incredible!* Sixteen years after closing the school, we have a place we can call home. The house is so special and so many folks did so much to make it a reality. Times are terrific for AMA alumni. We are so fortunate to have the opportunity, and privileged to have the drive, to secure the spirit of AMA life and preserve it for all to enjoy.

It was great seeing **George Harris, '70**. He and I were roommates his senior year and this was his first time back at a reunion - his 30th.

The golf tournament was outstanding. We had 34 golfers (up from 27 last year) and raised \$1,000 for AMA's Alumni House. Special thanks

to Jorge Roviroso, '70, Al Zayas, '72, Bob Bradford, '50, Walter Anderson, '59, John Henderson, '69, Mickey Toms, '67, Luke Snyder, '60, Frank Williamson, '60, and Lewie Kennett, '72.

Golf -- socializing at White Hall -- the ribbon cutting at our alumni house -- the awards banquet -- handing out those AMA funded scholarships -- lunch in the old gym -- Founder's Day -- the Kentucky Derby party -- the PX -- dinner and dancing -- the silent auction -- services at the Old Stone Church. All this to the accompaniment of belly laughs with friends old and new. It just doesn't get any better than this!

The Class of 1971 will celebrate our 30th anniversary next year. We hope to get 30+ 1971 alumni back for next year's reunion. So, if you're a '71 graduate or know someone who is, get the message to them. **1971 ROCKS!!**

Garry Granger, '71
Double Oak, TX

Alumni House ribbon cut as fund drive continues

The AMA Alumni House and Museum opened officially on Saturday 6 May when a ribbon across the top step of the Roller-Robinson House was ceremonially cut by two alumni from the Class of 1935. **Julian Quarles** and **Colonel Will Parkins** parted the red, white and blue streamer and welcomed the 400 people gathered on the house lawn to tour the museum.

The Staunton Ovation had sung the National Anthem just before the ribbon was cut.

Many in the crowd inspected the old house. The first thing they came upon was a table in the front hall with items discovered while the house was being remodeled. There was a cadet cap, a board on which **General Roller** had carved his name near the end of the 19th Century, a white glove, and an empty beer can.

A left turn took you into Maggie Belle's parlor which has been restored to the way it would have looked in the late 1800's. (The house was constructed about 1870.) A mock up of a classroom and a cadet room are featured together with pictures, displays, uniforms from different periods, and the plaques from the front arch of Big Barracks.

Impressive restoration

Few were not impressed. Those who had last seen the place during the 1999 reunion could hardly believe what wonders had been wrought. The house, which had stood empty for some 15 years, had suffered water damage and general neglect. The restoration team saved what they could and faithfully replicated the rest.

It all has cost money, and the AMA Alumni Association is not through paying bills. *"We still need display cases and the like to complete the job,"* says **Duke Fancher, '58**, AMA Alumni Association Treasurer and Chairman of the Museum Committee. *"We are hoping that our alumni and other friends will continue their contributions so we will not be looking over our shoulder as we go forward with our ambitious plans."*

Three alumni have "purchased" rooms in the house, underwriting the cost of remodeling. **John Jansing, '43**, **Bob Plecker, '40**, and **Bob Bradford, '50**, each has contributed at least \$10,000 toward the project. A drive is underway to "sell" other rooms to alumni and AMA friends.

There are more than 80 members of the President's Council, a group composed of those who have given at least \$1,000 toward the project.

Funds are still needed

AMA Alumni President **Goodloe Saunders, '57**, says, *"We'd love to get to the place where we don't have to ask for any more money. We are tired of asking and our*

alumni are tired of being asked. Still, we have to honestly say that we can't relax until we have paid all our bills, outfitted the museum as planned, and established ongoing support to pay for the operation of the museum and other alumni activities."



The Color Guard from the 29th Infantry takes part in the ribbon cutting ceremony for AMA Alumni House.

The association has hired **Don Studer** to manage the museum and alumni house. (story on page 5) Studer was twice sent to AMA as a military instructor, then came back as assistant commandant after he retired from the US Army. *"We need someone who knows the history of AMA and who cares about what we are about,"* Saunders says. *"We certainly have that in the person of Don Studer who is known to so many of our fellow cadets."*

The museum will have operating hours on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 AM until 5 PM between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

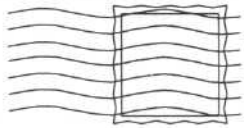
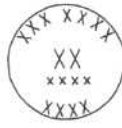
Will you buy a room?

Three AMA alumni have "bought" a room in the new AMA Alumni House and Museum - **Bob Plecker, '40**; **John Jansing, '43**; and **Bob Bradford, '50**. Each gave at least \$10,000 to have one of the rooms renovated. Plecker is sponsoring **Colonel Hoover's** classroom; Jansing the cadet room; and Bradford, the front parlor.

Can you do as much? The room can be dedicated to anyone, living or dead, who has made a difference in your life. If you are able to sponsor a room, please call the AMA Alumni Association at 540/248-3007.

We need your help. Thank you.

Letters to the Editor



First time back in 30 years

Reunion 2000 was great! It was my first time back in 30 years. I played golf, went to meetings, watched the ribbon cutting, had lunch in the gym and went to Founder's Day. It was really special to set foot in the old gym; it brought back many memories from the State Championship team of 1970. But 30 years later, I don't believe I can dunk the ball!

**Ray Snapp, '70
Mathias, WV**

Working on classmates to attend

Frances and I just attended our 5th AMA Reunion in 5 years! The highlight of Reunion 2000 was the wonderful job being done on the AMA Alumni House and Museum. You must see it to believe it. **Maggie Belle** wouldn't recognize the place! It's a shame that our other classmates don't come. They are missing so much. I am going to start now working on my classmates to attend the 2001 reunion.

**Bill Harris, '48
Round Top, TX**

Thanks for reunion

The reunion this year was great! My congratulations to the committee for a job very well done. This makes 3 reunions in a row for me and they have only gotten better each year. My wife, Sara, is so impressed that a school which no longer exists can have such a brotherhood of alumni.

**Al Zayas, '72
Miami, FL**

Golf was much fun

Had a great time at the reunion and made some new friends as well as seeing old buddies. I talked with people I haven't seen since 1974. **Garry Granger** and **Lewie Kennett** did a terrific job in planning the golf tournament!

**Chris Hart, '73
Rockville, MD**

Son won scholarship

I attended the Awards Banquet on Friday night of Reunion 2000 where my son was fortunate enough to earn one of the AMA Legacy Scholarships for 2000.

It was a great experience for me and I saw some guys from my era who I had not seen in years.

**Paul Taliaferro, '62
Winchester, VA**

Lots to do around Staunton

We had a wonderful time at the reunion. We stayed in

a B&B, walked through Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton, attended Sunday services at the Stone Church, heard some live jazz at the Mill Street Grill, and had root beer floats at the Staunton train station. Staunton is a hidden paradise and those coming to the 2001 reunion should plan some time to look the place over. It surely isn't how I remembered it!

**B. J. d'Orsay, '70
Lubbock, TX**

Thanks for the hard work

Just a note to tell you that the reunion went off beautifully! You all did a great job and I want to thank you. I also really appreciate all the work that has gone into getting the AMA Museum up and running.

**Luke Snyder, '60
Charlotte, NC**

First time back in 40 years

Millie and I were so excited to be returning to AMA for the first time in 40 years! The Alumni House is truly beautiful and it was good to see so many AMA boys again.

**Bill McVey, '60
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX**

Can never repay

My contribution can never repay what George Munger, Coach of the University of Pennsylvania (1938-53), did by sending me to AMA for a year prior to entering Penn. **Coach Buck Chapman** and many others at AMA gave me a foundation for the future.

**Bill Deuber, '49
Villanova, PA**

An eerie feeling

Many thanks for all the hard work on the reunion. It was super! The guys and gals who planned the golf tournament did a fantastic job!

I must say that pulling into the Clay Bowl gave me an eerie feeling. All those cars parked on the field. I haven't seen that since my own graduation day. Great memories!

**Mickey Toms, '67
Charlottesville, VA**

An incredible transformation

Everything I had heard about the Roller-Robinson AMA Museum and Alumni House was absolutely true. What an incredible transformation has taken place since I was last there last September.

The builder has done an excellent job on what we called "The Old House." The layouts and exhibits of Hoover's classroom (with his famous quote on the blackboard: "Close the windows or you will freeze the vegetables") were impressive and emotional.

**Jorge Rovirosa, '70
Miami, FL**



