



aoshs QUARTERLY



704 W Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67203



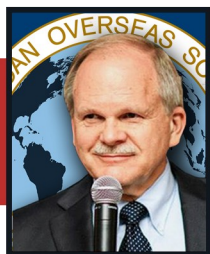
316-265-6837



office@aoshs.org



aoshs.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

FRANK ROEHL

Calling All BRATS

For the past several years, AOSHS has proudly awarded academic scholarships to incredible seniors attending small high schools across the **DoD school system**. These awards are funded solely through the generosity of our dedicated members, our social media community, and the proceeds raised during the **DODDS reunions**.

As we look at our growing community, we noticed a striking discrepancy. Our retired **DoDDS** educators and employees, who represent our smallest group of supporters, currently contribute the bulk of our scholarship funds. The global network of **Brats** is vast, yet many have not yet connected with this program.

We often wonder if this is simply due to a lack of awareness, or perhaps a feeling that a small donation cannot make a real difference. We want to emphasize that no contribution is too small. When thousands of Brats join together, even the smallest

gifts combine to create massive opportunities for our youth.

If your time in the overseas school system shaped who you are today, please consider giving back to the younger generation. You can easily make a tax-deductible donation online at the **AOSHS Donation Page**. (<https://aoshs.org/donate/>)

Thank you for your time, your dedication, and your shared commitment to preserving our unique legacy.



AOSHS Financial Summary Report

Ron Harrison

	Mar. 2026
AOSHS Assets (Not including building and furnishings)	\$1,106,470
Reserved Operating Funds (Reserved for contractors, 80% of non-personnel costs,	\$997,620
Non-Reserved Assets (Available for operations & unpaid obligations)	\$108,850
Unpaid Obligations	\$12,500
Non-Reserved Assets (After obligations are paid)	\$96,350

Membership Update- Self Service Portal

Jamey Hansen

Not sure when your membership is up for renewal? We have a new website feature that allows you to look it up. The new self service portal allows you to check on the status of your membership, and it also provides a list of your past contributions. If you need a receipt, you can print it out from the portal. If your email or other contact information has changed, you can update in the portal, too.

Here's how it works:

Go to: <https://aoshs.org/self-service-portal/>

Enter your email address. Use the same address that you used when you registered your membership. Not sure which one? Look for any recent message from **AOSHS** in your inbox—that's likely to be the right address.

Once you submit your address, the system will send a temporary secure link to that email address. So go to your email and within a few minutes you should get a new message from AOSHS.

Click on the included link and you'll be taken right to the portal to see or change your information.

If it's time to renew, click the link to the **Membership Form**.

Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for being a member and supporter of AOSHS!

Welcome, Jamey!

Thank you for supporting AOSHS.

Please use this page to help us keep your information up to date.

WelcomeContributionsContact Info

Membership Status

- Name: **Jamey Hansen**
- Level: **Standard Member**
- Status: **Active**
- Expiration date: 07/15/2026

Go to our [membership form](#) to renew.

Contributions

Manage your active recurring donations and view your contribution history.

Manage Contributions

Contact Info

Keep your contact info up to date.

Manage Contact Info

2026 AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship Award

Recipients

DeVee Dietz



Maame Akua Sarpong
Zama Middle High School

Attending: Wheaton College,
Norton, Massachusetts.

Career Field of Interest:
Economics and Psychology
(Mental Health and Social Work)

Maame Akua states, “I need to be fully present in my education. Mentally, emotionally, and physically. That is where this scholarship would make a difference. My extended family relocated from Massachusetts, leaving me without a local support system to fall back on, so living on campus is a necessity. The financial burden of on-campus housing, on top of tuition and the weight of student loans, creates a level of stress that would compromise my ability to focus. This scholarship would help cover my housing costs, reducing a significant financial obstacle standing between me and my future... The kind of student I want to be is one able to show up fully, engage deeply, and graduate

ready to serve. Dr. Drysdale devoted his life to preserving legacies and ensuring that the stories of students were not forgotten. I hope to honor that spirit by building a legacy of my own.” ...To me, being a Military Brat is a privilege. I've gotten to meet people I never would have crossed paths with, see places my family never would have traveled to on our own, and build a resilience to pain that comes with leaving the people you've grown to love. For a long time, I struggled to claim the title because I hadn't grown up in it from the start. But I've come to understand that a Military Brat isn't defined by how many bases someone has lived on or how many times they've moved schools. Rather, it's the willingness to adapt, start over, and to find home in people rather than places. That is the lesson I carry with me, and it is something I really am proud to call my own.”

Maames' reference explained, “What sets Akua apart is not just what she does, but how she does it. She leads with kindness and respect, creating an environment where others feel welcome and valued. Her peers trust her leadership because she listens, collaborates, and leads by example. She is the type of leader who quietly steps forward when something needs to be done and ensures the work is completed thoughtfully and thoroughly... I am confident that she will continue to excel in college and beyond, and that she will bring the same dedication, curiosity, and compassion to every opportunity she pursues..”



Bella Hunter
Zama Middle High School

Attending: Brigham Young
University, Provo, Utah

Career Field of Interest: Exercise
and Wellness, Doctor of Physical
Therapy

Bella expressed, “I plan on majoring in Exercise and Wellness that will lead to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program to become a licensed physical therapist. Through this scholarship, not only will I be able to accomplish my goal as a lifelong learner, but I can apply that learning by improving the health of patients as they work through recovery... My military brat life has taken me to nine places I call home, and eight different schools. You might think I would feel ungrounded, but the opposite is true. These places have made me confident and adaptable. I am

Continued on Page 4

2026 AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship - Continued

grateful for the changes, the personal independence, and the different perspectives I've experienced. With the ups and downs, I am stronger knowing that even things that seem scary or hard can be accomplished and overcome. I'm proud to be a "military brat"-- I wouldn't want life any other way."

Bella's teacher stated, "Beyond the classroom, Bella has experienced numerous opportunities in leadership and service. As Senior Class President, Keystone Vice President, and an officer in the Spanish Honor Society, she has shown her ability to lead with vision, empathy, and responsibility. She has also served her broader community as an active member of the Pacific Teen Panel, where she collaborated with peers from various military installations to address important issues facing youth and families."

Her math teacher informs, "It has been my pleasure in teaching Bella AP Precalculus and AP Calculus AB, and I can confidently attest to her superb intelligence, collaborative skills, and never-ending energy. Bella excels as one of my top students due to her constantly challenging herself and setting the bar higher and higher for herself."



Jenna Mathurin
Rota Middle High School

Attending: Cornell University,
Ithaca, New York

Career Field of Interest:
Corporate and Tax Law

Jenna states, "As a hopeful recipient of this prestigious scholarship, I plan on using the scholarship not to benefit myself, but to help others. While this scholarship may be used on my college expenses, the knowledge and experiences gained with the help of this scholarship will be used to benefit those in my community; from donating to AOSHS to help future recipients of this scholarship to creating initiatives regarding financial literacy among our youth."

Jenna's science teacher wrote, "Beyond the classroom, Jenna is a "Third Culture Kid" whose resilience is forged by the unique challenges of military life. Moving between the U.S., Japan, and Europe, she has mastered the art of adaptability, seamlessly navigating the intersection of military culture, diverse international environments, and her own proud Haitian heritage. This global perspective gives her a

level of cultural intelligence and empathy that is rare among her peers. She does not just exist in these spaces; she leads them. As Student Council President and an officer for the National Honor Society, she works tirelessly to improve our school community.... With her sights set on a career in law, Jenna has already demonstrated the advocacy and leadership skills necessary for success through her participation in Model UN and Model US Senate. She is a student of high aspirations and even higher character. I recommend her with the utmost enthusiasm and have no doubt she will be a transformative force wherever she goes."



Yerianys Padin Caro
Zama Middle High School

Attending: Miami Dade College,
Miami, Florida

Career Field of Interest: Fashion
Merchandising (Fashion Marketing)

Yerianys mentions, "Overall, this scholarship would not only help me financially, but it would also give me the freedom to concentrate on my education, stay motivated, and work toward my long-term goals. It



2026 AOSHS Drysdale Memorial Scholarship - Continued

would support my future goals and help me move closer to becoming a successful professional in the fashion industry...Being a military brat also means understanding sacrifice. I have watched my dad deploy and leave for training for months at a time. There were moments when he missed birthdays, Thanksgiving, and other important family events. Those times were not easy, but they helped me understand the reality of military life. My mom always made sure we stayed strong and reminded us that this was a sacrifice our

whole family was making for our country and for each other...Being a military brat also comes with a deep sense of pride. I have seen how much dedication and commitment military service takes, and it has inspired me to work hard and stay determined in my own life."

Yerianys' Principal wrote, "One of Yerianys's most impressive accomplishments is her initiative and creativity. As a senior, she founded and served as Creative Director of the Fashion Club, demonstrating entrepreneurial

thinking, vision, and confidence to bring a new idea to life for students. This endeavor reflects her ability to identify unmet needs, organize peers, and create inclusive spaces where students can express themselves authentically... In short, Yerianys Padin Caro is a remarkable student whose intellect, leadership, creativity, and character set her apart. She is self-motivated, resilient, and purposeful—qualities that will undoubtedly allow her to thrive in higher education and beyond. I am confident she will make meaningful contributions wherever her path leads.'

AOSHS Scholarship Raffle

The next AOSHS Scholarship Raffle will be at the DoDDS Reunion XXXVIII in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 13-17.

How can you be a part of this event? First, you must attend the **DoDDS Reunion**. (Check out the information at DoDDS Reunion 2026) <https://www.mydoddsreunion.com>

Next you can donate items to the raffle. Last year we had more than eighty items donated, and we raised over **\$2250**. The proceeds support the **AOSHS Scholarship Fund**.

If you want to donate an item, just bring it to the **AOSHS** tables in the hospitality room at the Reunion. We are looking for treasures that appeal to a large audience and can be easily transported since many attendees fly to the reunion.

Anyone can purchase a raffle ticket, whether you donate an item or not. Each item is individually raffled; if duplicates are donated, we have two winners.

Winning ticket numbers are posted outside the banquet room on the last night of the reunion.

Over the years, donated items have included Lladros, Hummels, David Winter cottages, jewelry, art work, Asian treasures, Maine lobsters, Maryland crab cakes, handmade materials, and we have even had a quilt or two in the past.

If you are thinking about downsizing or just know it's time to part with a few treasures, consider bringing them to the reunion and donating them.

Of course, we need to have items that are in excellent condition. We also accept new items. We look forward to seeing you at the Reunion and hope to have at least one hundred items this year.

Questions? Email **Margy Roehl** at margy.roehl@gmail.com



Curator's Corner

by Adam Gossman



Reunions: Remembering the Remembering

Reunion season is in full-swing.

When I first started at the AOSHS I was thrust into reunion-land. They were everywhere. **DoDDS Teachers** reunions, **Brat** reunions, materials about reunions from the past. Everyone was so excited!

One of the busiest weeks in my work year is the **All DoDDS Reunion**, mainly directed towards retired teachers, www.mydoddsreunion.com. For years, I have had such a great time getting to know some of the great people I meet there. In fact, as with all reunions, the sad part is not so much seeing people get older, but not seeing them.



Rochefort High School Reunion 1993

Frequently I talk with brats who are organizing reunions. I am very curious about how much of a resource I can be for these brat reunions around the country and the world. One day I would like to utilize technology and Zoom into a program or have a sort of digital presence at some of these schools that I have become so fond of.

I was asked recently, what lessons could be learned from our materials at AOSHS. My answer to this excellent question just dripped out of my mouth. It is what I deal with every single day. I work with things from kids. Most of these kids are now older than I am. But they are the kids, and always will be the kids. Time is much more fluid than we think.

Just because our backs hurt doesn't mean we are different people.

Reunions are remembering. Remembering old reunions is remembering remembering. I don't think that is redundant because remembering is that important. It connects us with the way things really are. Our crusty old bodies distract us from these crazy kids who went to school all around the world – or those young people who set out to teach across the world. How cool was that?

It still is.

Goodness resides in remembering and remembering the remembering.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO

DONATE

TO AOSHS

AOSHS wishes to recognize this quarter's donors who support the Museum and Archives and our operating fund. While membership fees are definitely the backbone of our funding, member donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the Society.

The annual recognition program runs from the current **DoDDS Reunion** (Reunion XXXVI in Reno, NV, July 12, 2025) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXVII).

Donors within the Support Levels have their names published in the *AOSHS Quarterly* the quarter that their donation was received, or if missed, the following newsletter. Please let us know if we missed including your donation so we can correct that error. **All donors for the year will be recognized for the final time in each Fall issue**, and to all of you who found it in your hearts and pocketbooks to support the AOSHS mission, ***WE THANK YOU!***



DONOR SUPPORT LEVELS

Supporters

Those who donate from \$25 to \$99

Friends

Those who donate from \$100 to \$249

Pacesetters

Those who donate from \$250 to \$499

Sponsors

Those who donate from \$500 to \$999

Patrons

Those who donate from \$1,000 to \$1,999

Benefactors

Those who donate \$2,000 or more

SUPPORTERS

Kenneth Goldstein
Jane Hansen
Martina Heyden
Linda Kresser

FRIENDS

Janet Acker
Chantel Carriker
Michael & Marilyn Fitzgerald
Robert Gahagan

BENEFACTORS

Joyce Y. Holland Estate

We Thank You!



IN MEMORIAM

If you would like to contribute to these funds or start a new Memorial Virtual Remembrance to honor someone, please visit aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/.

Below are the latest notices we have received of those recently deceased. While we are pleased to provide this service to our membership, we realize that we may not know of other colleagues who have passed. You can help us by informing the AOSHS office when you learn of the passing of others. If you would like to purchase a Memorial Virtual Remembrance in honor of one of these or other colleagues, go to aoshs.org/virtual-remembrances/.

In Memory

MIKE CONNELLY

October 30, 1950– December 27, 2025

LES BURCH

SHARON EVERETT

June 10, 1944 – December 15, 2025

JUDY LEE LAIRD

May 21, 1941 – April 11, 2026



IN MEMORIAM

-continued

In Memory

WINIFRED “WINNIE” WALTER

July 11, 1952 – April 8, 2026

PATRICIA LAWTON PICKENS

January 12, 1941 – January 12, 2026

MARK COFFIN

June 21, 1942 – February 13, 2025

PHILLIPP SCHMOLL

May 27, 1946 – November 9, 2025

ROSS CALVERT III

March 27, 1947 – September 7, 2025

GWENDOLYN CURRAN

September 25, 1932 – January 29, 2026

JOYCE HOLLAND

March 30, 1936 – December 9, 2023

PEGGY VAGASKY

_____ – May 9, 2026

CHRIS EICHNER

September 8, 1940– May 12, 2026

CLINTON “RICH” CARROLL

March 7, 1948 – January 5, 2026

KATHY MITCHELL

May 5, 1946,– January 5, 2026

aoshs **DIRECTORY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025

Frank Roehl	President	frank@aoshs.org
Jamey Hansen	Vice President	jamey.h@aoshs.org
Ron Harrison	Treasurer	ron@aoshs.org
Julie Wittenberg	Secretary	julie@aoshs.org
Mary VanDeventer	<i>AOSHS Quarterly Publication</i>	mary@aoshs.org
DeVee Dietz	Scholarships/BRAT Rep.	devee@aoshs.org
Mary Leonhart	Historian	mary.l@aoshs.org

STAFF, CONTRACTORS and ASSISTANCE

Jaime Zajac	Office Manager
Adam Gossman	Contracted Curator
Kevin Frutiger	Contracted Digitization / Webmaster
Elizabeth Brace	Photographer
Monica Lange	CISR
Lesley McLeary	CPA/
(with Walter Pikul)	Personnel Accountant

VOLUNTEERS

Gayle Vaughn-Wiles	Past President
Winanne Murray	
& Susan Nordell	Donor Recognitions \$100-\$499
Myrna L. Margraf	Wichita Archive Volunteer
Chrystie Limes	Wichita Volunteer
Monique Margraf	Wichita Digitization Volunteer

FOUNDER EMERITUS

Thomas T. Drysdale, May 4, 1921 – February 28, 2013

The AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)

AOSHS is a Kansas non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves, exhibits, and provides research opportunity about historical memorabilia of the American overseas schools. Members promote global knowledge and understanding of this unique endeavor, thus adding a critical chapter to the history of American education.

This *AOSHS Quarterly* is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually, two years for \$45.00, or five years for \$100.00. To join, visit our website at www.aoshs.org/membership/ where you can submit a membership form and payment online or download a membership form to send by mail.

DONATIONS to help preserve the AOSHS Museum and Archives for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to **AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203.**

READERS are **ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT** short, factual **ARTICLES** of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of AOSHS. Please submit articles preferably by e-mail to office@aoshs.org, or by postal mail to: **AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203.**

The AOSHS Policy

The Directors realize that to obtain all AOSHS objectives:

- 1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized;
- 2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will neither recommend nor encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company; and,
- 3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADDRESSES

Office Manager

Website
Memorabilia
Contact the President
Membership
Remembrance Program
Email & Change of Address

AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837
aoshs.org
 AOSHS Archives, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
 President, office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837
 AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
 AOSHS Virtual Remembrance Program, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
office@aoshs.org Phone (316) 265-6837