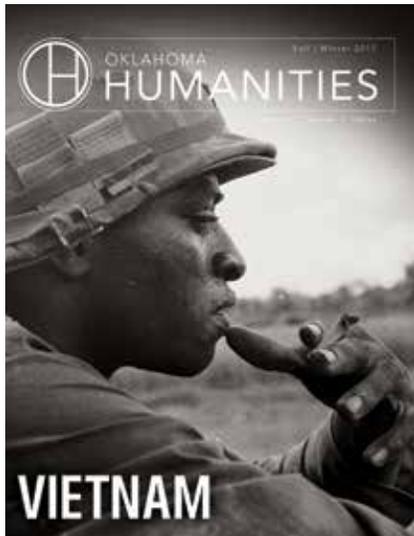


Reader Feedback



Thank you for the copy of the *Oklahoma Humanities* Vietnam issue. I found the article written by Thom Nickels [a conscientious objector] to be particularly interesting as I never knew anyone who chose that path. While I did not agree with his argument, it did cause me to better understand the mindset of those that refused to serve in the military. I admired the fact that he was willing to stand by his principles and risk jail [rather] than desert to Canada.

—Sam Jackson, Oklahoma City

The Fall/Winter 2017 issue of *Oklahoma Humanities* devoted to the Vietnam War is outstanding. Each article has enlightened me and has moved me in ways I had thought I was beyond being emotionally affected by. The series of articles has helped me internalize the PBS documentary series on the Vietnam War. Thank you for the professional effort and the loving care with which this issue was put together.

—Frantzie Couch, Lawton

I am a longtime reader of your magazine and have thoroughly enjoyed them. However, I must tell you that this issue on Vietnam is the first that has made me feel compelled to write to the editor. It made me realize how little I knew about the war, even though I was an adult during that time.

My dad served in the U.S. Army during WWI, my oldest brother served in the Army during WWII, and I served in the U.S. Navy prior to the Vietnam War. I was patriotic enough that I just automatically accepted what my president and other leaders were telling us about our reasons for sending troops to Vietnam: to prevent the spread of communism to other countries. I thought that the protesters were just a bunch of cowardly potheads.

Thanks to this magazine, I've taken a long, hard look at myself. On major issues facing our nation, I will no longer accept at face value the information provided by "The Establishment." I will research and look at both sides with an open mind before deciding where I stand. I also feel our leaders should look at the lessons learned in Vietnam and ask if we are not repeating the same mistakes in Afghanistan. Still, knowing what I know today, if my country had recalled me for military duty in the Vietnam era I would have gladly served out of love for my country.

—D.W. Morgan, Oklahoma City

Another exceptional issue of *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine, Fall/Winter 2017 on Vietnam. Congratulations!

—Humanities Nebraska via Facebook

I just saw the *Oklahoma Humanities* Vietnam issue. It is stunning. As a child of that era I can see myself reading it cover to cover over the next few weeks. I watched many of my cohorts go to war and would have myself in May 1976 (with a draft lottery number of 9/365) had Nixon not ended the war in an election year move. Again, congratulations.

—Philip Patterson, Oklahoma City

Exceptional writing on Vietnam.

—Judith O'Connor, Oklahoma City

Thank you for sponsoring the Ken Burns Vietnam War series. My husband, a Vietnam-era vet, and I are watching every one.

—Christina Rich-Splawn, Ponca City

[Editor's note: Oklahoma Humanities was one of three major underwriters for the OETA public television broadcast of the Ken Burns and Lynn Novick film series, *The Vietnam War*.]

Just received the latest *Oklahoma Humanities* issue, Vietnam. The mix of contextual and personal, plus the timeline and statistical pages, make it a "keeper." Especially glad to see some pieces from the Vietnamese perspective. I think, however, the cutline on page 42 has an error. As I remember, either the girl or the victim in the picture was not a student at Kent State, which in no way detracts from the significance of the photo. All in all, a fine issue, one you can be justly proud of.

—Bill Hagen, Shawnee

[Editor's note: We printed the cutline provided by license holder Getty Images, courtesy PBS. At Mr. Hagen's suggestion, we researched the image and learned that, at the time, Mary Ann Vecchio was a 14-year-old runaway who had befriended students on the Kent State campus.]

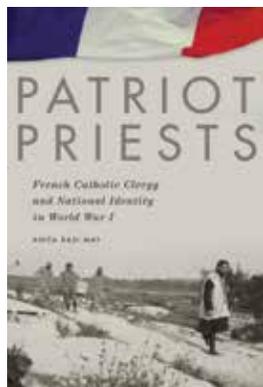
I've been trying to put together a response to the Vietnam issue. I certainly learned a great deal, perhaps more than from any previous issue. *Oklahoma Humanities* magazine almost always will cause me to think and question and wonder and maybe look for more and Vietnam did all of this.

It seems there are only two big stories connected to the Vietnam War: one, the duplicity-ignorance-arrogance-incompetence of the government and military leaders; the other, the human tragedy of U.S. servicemen who served in that war. The OH Vietnam issue did an excellent job with the first story. The men who served,

[continued p. 46]

SEND YOUR IDEAS, opinions, and suggestions. Email the editor, carla@okhumanities.org, or comment via Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

CORRECTION: The timeline in our Vietnam issue incorrectly designated Ron Beer as a veteran. He was a graduate student and assistant to the president at Kent State at the time of the shootings. We deeply regret the error.



A NEW BOOK BY ANITA MAY

The Oklahoma Humanities Board of Trustees congratulates former Executive Director Anita May, whose tenure with this organization spanned thirty years, on the publication of her book *Patriot Priests: French Catholic Clergy and National Identity in World War I* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2018). The book reveals a new perspective of the Great War.

At the time of WWI, French law had opened the clergy's ranks to conscription, removing their exemption from combat. Using letters and diaries of priests who served in battle, Dr. May documents how clergymen used religious values of sacrifice to define the meaning of the war, even as the discipline of military life effectively transformed them from missionaries into soldiers. Their courage and solicitous care for their fellow soldiers won them new respect and earned the Church renewed esteem in postwar French society. Available in bookstores and online at oupres.com

[continued from p. 4]

in my opinion, were not treated fairly; but they, of course, are used to it. Almost 60,000 men died. Many of those deaths were heroic—of which little mention was made. And men are still dying from effects directly traceable to their service in Vietnam. The good soldiers deserved more than just a couple of cameos and a few philosophical meanderings based on fictionalized accounts of the war. Room should have been found for stories of those who fought honestly, bravely, and heroically. I hope you get a lot of comments from veterans. Those would be much more valid than mine.

This issue of OH Magazine is strong, powerful, thought-provoking and, obviously, controversial. How could the topic of Vietnam be anything else? It will be remembered as one of your best. You would probably be surprised how often I am reminded of issues of your magazine. This morning I was reminded of three: WWI, Vietnam, and Poetry. Every morning I try to read a poem, which is directly attributable to your Poetry issue. The issues of *Oklahoma Humanities* continue to resonate over the years.

—Bill Woodard, Bartlesville

NOTEWORTHY

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ken Fergeson, Chair



We're pleased to welcome five new Oklahoma Humanities Trustees, who have committed to serve as volunteer board members. Their activities include approving grant applications, fundraising, governing, serving as ambassadors in their local communities, and helping to plan the direction of our work. The Board of Trustees is comprised of active community members, faculty members of colleges and universities, and six gubernatorial appointees whose terms are coterminous with the Governor of Oklahoma.

If you have a passion for the humanities, we'd like to hear from you. You can complete the nomination information any time before May 31st to be considered for the next vacancies. It's not hard to do, just go to: okhumanities.org/board-nominations. If you know individuals who would be a good fit, encourage them to apply or let us know and we will contact them. As many of our board members say, this is an organization that does good work and has fun doing it!

OH BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS

Oklahoma Humanities is always looking for talented, dedicated individuals to serve on our volunteer board of twenty-four members, who serve terms of three years. We seek enthusiastic individuals who are active in their communities, have a passion for the humanities, and can dedicate time to attend board meetings three times per year.

Board members govern our organization; participate in strategic planning; attend OH-sponsored programs; serve on committees; advocate on behalf of the National Endowment for the Humanities, our largest funder; and help identify additional funding sources for our programs. They also approve grant applications from other nonprofits to support humanities programs in communities across the state. Read more on our website (okhumanities.org) and consider submitting a nomination. We'd love to have you join us!