

Distinguished Alumni

AWARDS

Friday, May 7, 2021



*Lamar University
Alma Mater*

**Lamar, to thee we're singing,
Voices raised on high.**

**We will forever love thee,
Laud thee to the sky.**

**We will ever need thee
As our guiding star.**

**To us, you'll always be
Our glorious Lamar.**

*Gilbert Rhodes Smartt, professor of mathematics
at Lamar College from 1945 until 1951,
wrote the words and composed the music
to the alma mater in 1951
to celebrate Lamar College becoming a senior college.*

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Distinguished Alumni Awards
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Special Recognition.....Juan J. Zabala '07

Vice President for University Advancement

Lamar University Update Dr. Kenneth R. Evans

President

Presentation of 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards

Shannon Pier Allen '01, '13 Dr. Brenda Nichols

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Christopher L. Bates '08 Dr. Lynn Maurer

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Keith F. Giblin '86 Dr. Bob Spina

Dean, College of Education and Human Development

Larry D. Norwood '73 Dr. Brian Craig

Dean, College of Engineering

Closing Remarks Shannon Copeland Figueroa '02, '03, '07

Alma Mater Faith Singh

Voice of Lamar Scholarship Recipient



*Shannon Pier
Allen*

Dr. Shannon (Pier) Allen is the superintendent of the Beaumont Independent School District. A Beaumont native, Allen has worked for the past 24 years as an educator, although she originally planned to pursue medicine.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in chemistry from Prairie View A&M University in 1996 with the intention of becoming a medical doctor, Allen substitute taught for a year and found her niche - educating children.

She began her educational career as a biology teacher at Clifton J. Ozen Magnet High School where she taught for five years and 98% of her

students passed the biology end of course assessment. In 2002, the A&M Club gave Allen the recognition of Outstanding Classroom Teacher; the same year, she was the recipient of the Good Apple Award as an outstanding teacher.

In 2001, Allen obtained a Master of Education degree from Lamar University, and afterward served as an elementary school curriculum coordinator, an assistant principal and a principal. She found she loved leading campuses and was extremely proud when Marshall Middle School, the campus where she served as principal, became the first exemplary rated middle school campus in Beaumont ISD. This accomplishment was her focus going into the position and was attained three years after she became the campus leader. During her tenure as principal, Allen was the recipient of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals Region V Outstanding Principal award. Allen again returned to LU and in 2013 earned a doctorate in education degree. During her tenure as a doctoral student, Allen was recognized as one of the university's outstanding doctoral students and worked at LU as a field supervisor in the teacher education department.

In 2015, Allen was promoted to assistant superintendent for secondary administration in Beaumont ISD and two years later, promoted to associate superintendent. She made history on April 17, 2019, when she was named the first female superintendent in the district.

As superintendent of schools, Allen is an advocate for 17,000 students in Beaumont ISD. It is her mission to change the trajectory of students' lives so they become the next generation of educators, innovators, business owners and community leaders. She seeks to improve the entire community by breaking the cycle of poverty and providing an exemplary education for every student.

Allen strives to be a transformational leader changing how the work of the district is executed. She launched the "Every Moment Matters" campaign that incites continuous improvement in all facets of the organization in hopes of increasing reading performance, student attendance and to attract families back to BISD.

Allen is a member of the board of directors for the Southeast Texas Workforce Commission, the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, the advisory board for the Art Museum of Southeast Texas and a member of the Rotary Club of Beaumont. She was recognized by Pioneering Women in 2019, named as the 100 Plus Black Women Coalition's Woman of the Year for 2020 and recognized by the Black Business Professionals of Southeast Texas.

Allen is involved at Lamar University as much as her schedule allows. She mentors aspiring educators attending Lamar University. She served as an August 2020 Virtual Commencement Speaker at LU and was a featured speaker for the Lamar University Virtual Change Makers Town Hall in June 2020 to discuss ways young people can participate in positive actions to support sustainable change.

Allen is married to LU graduate, artist and retired educator, Red Allen.



Christopher L. Bates

In January 2021, Christopher Lynn Bates was sworn into his third, four-year term as constable of Precinct 2 in Jefferson County.

Bates, a Port Arthur native, graduated cum laude in the first graduating class of Memorial High School. He went on to receive a music scholarship to attend Lamar University and was a member of the prestigious LU A Cappella Choir and Psalm 150 Gospel Chorus.

While pursuing his bachelor's degree at LU, Bates also attended Lamar Institute of Technology Regional Police Academy. In May 2008, he graduated from LIT with a certificate in law enforcement, was licensed as a Texas Peace Officer and received a bachelor's degree in general studies, graduating with a 3.4 GPA from LU.

Bates immediately joined the Port Arthur Police Department as a patrol officer. He also worked as a Deputy Constable for Precinct 8 and as a bailiff for Justice of the Peace Precinct 8 Court. In September 2010, Bates joined the Port Arthur ISD Police Department and realized a need to do more to help youth. It was at this time he decided to run for Jefferson County constable of Precinct 2.

On May 29, 2012, 26-year-old Bates won the Democratic primary. In November of that year, he won the general election and was sworn into office in January 2013, becoming the second youngest constable in the history of Texas, the youngest elected official ever in Jefferson County and the first African American constable of Precinct 2.

Bates has served Jefferson County in more ways than through law enforcement. He is a member of the Young Men ~N~ Christ gospel singing group and is the minister of music at New Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, where he plays the organ, sings and directs all choirs. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, where he serves as chapter president of the Gamma Tau Lambda Chapter for the Golden Triangle. Bates is a Master Mason by the way of Prince Hall Lakeshore Lodge #256, past president of the Lamar University Alumni Advisory Board, a member of the Constable's Education Committee for the State, the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association District 10 director and currently serves as 3rd vice president for the Justices of the Peace and Constables Association of Texas. Bates is also the vice president for Linda's Lighthouse, a nonprofit dedicated to serving young people and the elderly.

For his outstanding community service and dedication to progress, Bates has received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Support Group "Man of the Year" Award; the Southeast Texas "40 Under 40" recognition; Port Arthur News Blue Ribbon Award for "Best Law Enforcement Officer and Best Politician;" ExxonMobil Black History Month "Living Legends Honor;" and "Constable of the Year" for the State of Texas. Bates has also received the State and Regional Humanitarian Award for Alpha Phi Alpha Inc. In 2017, Bates received his master's degree from Texas Southern University in public administration and is as an adjunct government instructor at LIT.

In 2015, Bates established the "Constable Christopher Bates Criminal Justice Scholarship" and to date, has awarded more than \$12,000 in scholarships to high school seniors. Bates also started the "Christmas with the Constable" toy drive and Christmas program benefiting the local Salvation Army. In 2017, Bates held the first "Constable Bates Junior Deputy Summer Camp" in partnership with Linda's Lighthouse to enhance the relationship between law enforcement, communities and young people.

Bates, his wife Ariana, and two daughters Cameryn and Casie reside in Port Arthur.



Keith F. Giblin

Judge Keith F. Giblin is a United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. He originally took his oath of office October 2004 and was re-appointed for his third term October 2020. In addition to presiding over criminal cases and general civil cases, Giblin has handled a large number of intellectual property cases. He has been a presenter in numerous legal seminars and has spoken extensively on topics including federal practice, criminal law and patent litigation.

Giblin is a Beaumont native who attended French High School and worked shift work at the Goodyear Chemical Plant while attending Lamar University part-time.

He earned his Bachelor of Science in physics in 1986 and his jurisprudence degree from South Texas College of Law in 1989.

After graduation from law school, Giblin was appointed as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas. In this role, he investigated and prosecuted hundreds of federal criminal cases involving a wide range of matters including narcotics violations, child pornography crimes, firearms violations, mail fraud, money laundering, bribery and public corruption. He was assigned to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and supervised criminal investigations of large drug trafficking organizations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and other federal law enforcement agencies. He has extensive trial experience and argued numerous cases before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Giblin served as attorney-in-charge of the Beaumont Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office. In addition, he taught trial advocacy at the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina and received the Director's Award for Superior Performance as an assistant United States attorney presented by the Executive Office for United States Attorneys in Washington, D.C.

While on the bench, Giblin recognized the need to gain expertise in intellectual property law because of the large number of patent cases pending in the Eastern District of Texas. Therefore, while serving on the bench, he attended the University of Houston Law Center at night and received his Master of Law degree in intellectual property law in May 2010.

Giblin is a past president of the Jefferson County Bar Association and has been a recipient of the Cris Quinn Award for Community Service and the Kenneth Lewis Professionalism Award. In addition, he is an adjunct professor of criminal law at Lamar University, serves on Lamar University's College of Arts and Science's Advisory Board and was honored to be chosen as the commencement speaker at graduation for the College of Education and Human Development in May 2019.

Giblin is also an ordained Episcopal priest and volunteers as an unpaid priest serving smaller churches in the area, most recently at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Orange. He has also taught religion at All Saints' Episcopal School. Giblin is married and has four sons and three grandchildren.



Larry D. Norwood

After graduating from his hometown's high school, Liberty High School, Larry Norwood set his sights on Lamar University's engineering school with its strong ties to industry and a good cooperative education program.

Norwood became a member of Tau Beta Pi, a national engineering honor society and Omega Chi Epsilon, a chemical engineering honor society. He also worked as a cooperative education student for The Lubrizol Corporation. Norwood enjoyed his work with Lubrizol, a specialty chemical company founded in 1928 and headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. When he graduated from LU in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering, he went to work full time for Lubrizol, a company that supplies innovative products used in transportation, automotive and industrial lubricants, fuels, home care, personal care,

industrial coatings and construction.

Although the company had facilities in 27 countries, Norwood started work at Lubrizol's Texas Operation, the company's largest manufacturing facility, and moved through successive roles of responsibility for operations and technology. In 1998, Norwood was named general manager for Lubrizol's Texas Operation. In 2003, Norwood was named vice president of operations for Lubrizol's Additives Division with global responsibilities for operations, procurement and logistics. He was also a member of Lubrizol Additives Executive Council. In 2008, Norwood was named corporate vice president of operations with global responsibility for operations, procurement and logistics for both Lubrizol Additives Division and Lubrizol Advanced Materials Division and became a member of Lubrizol's Executive Council.

Lubrizol has long had a business and manufacturing presence in Asia Pacific. In 2010, the company announced plans for a grassroots Lubrizol Additives plant to be built in Zhuhai, China. It was one of Lubrizol's largest grassroots investments. Norwood was the Lubrizol executive responsible for the design and construction of the Zhuhai, China plant. Before the plant was successfully commissioned in 2013, Lubrizol was acquired by Berkshire Hathaway in 2011. Lubrizol's Zhuhai Plant received China's Luban award, which is China's highest recognition award for engineering and construction.

Throughout his career, Norwood was active with the Texas chemical industry and local communities serving on the board of the Texas Chemical Council, East Harris County Manufacturers Association, where he was chairman in 2002 and Houston Regional Monitoring. He was also active with two local citizen advisory councils, the chamber of commerce and high school education foundations.

When Norwood retired in 2013, he ended a 39-year career with Lubrizol that began when he was a cooperative education student at Lamar University.

Since graduating from LU, Norwood has remained active with Lamar University. He is a trustee of the Lamar University Foundation serving on the investment committee and a member of the College of Engineering Advisory Council, currently serving as its chairman. Norwood and his wife, Cynthia, are members of Lamar University's Spindletop Society and President's Circle. The couple established the Larry and Cynthia Norwood Chemical Engineering Scholarship in 2012. To date there have been more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students who have received scholarships. One of their favorite LU events is the scholarship dinner where they have an opportunity to meet some of the scholarship students. Norwood has also contributed to faculty support through the Norwood Faculty Research Fellowship.

Lamar University is a family affair for the Norwoods. Cynthia is a 1972 honors graduate of LU with a Bachelor of Arts in history and English. Larry and Cynthia were married while students at LU and this year they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The retired couple spends time between their homes in Austin and Colorado, enjoy international travel, gardening and outdoor activities. Norwood enjoys skiing, fly fishing and woodworking.

Past Recipients

Gilbert T. Adams	Charles L. Garrett	Sina K. Nejad
Patricia A. Adams	Anthony D. George	Thomas H. Odiorne
Mike Aldredge	Jack M. Gill	Paula Tate O'Neal
John E. Alexander	Jim Gilligan	J. Pat Parsons
Larry Beaulieu	H. Stephen Grace, Jr.	Roosevelt Petry, Jr.
David J. Beck	John E. Gray	J. Pike Powers, Jr.
James E. Bell, Jr.	Mary Honea Gray	Don Pumphrey
Norman J. Bellard	Andrew Green	Jorge Quijano
David E. Bernsen	Dan S. Hallmark	Charles C. Ramsey
E. Randolph "Randy" Best	Ann Die Hasselmo	Wayne A. Reaud
J. Angela Blanchard	Marvin E. Hayes	Jerry Reese III
Brent W. Bost	Madelyn Davis Hunt	Anita L. Riddle
Merlin P. Breaux	Robert "Bob" S. Jones	Ellen Walker Rienstra
Jack B. Brooks	Sarah Pickens Joseph	Clarence L. Ross, Jr.
Keith D. Carter	M. Celeste Kitchen	Lawrence L. Schkade
Gilbert A. Castro	Nicholas V. Lampson	Charles L. Schmucker
Tamerla D. Chavis	Bob Q. Lanier	William "Bill" F. Scott
William "Bill" C. Childs	Larry W. Lawson	Don S. Shaver
Rena F. Clark	Alvin L. LeBlanc	Elaine Norman Shellenberger
Sandra French Clark	W. S. "Bud" Leonard	Mary Frances Sherlock
M. Herring Coe	Joan A. LeTulle	J. "Bart" Simmons
C. W. Conn	John H. Long	Hyattye O. Simmons
Yolanda Lee Conyers	Allen J. Louviere	Susan Williams Simmons
Clara Brown Cooper	Don M. Lyle	James P. Singletary
Carolyn Honea Crawford	William "Bill" F. Macatee	Dan F. Smith
Charles R. Cutler	Debra S. Maffett	Michele Yennie Smith
Will D. Davis	Becky Dickson Mason	Bette A. Stead
M. Bonner Denton	Charles "Chuck" E. Mason, Jr.	Robert A. Swerdlow
Joseph D. Deshotel	Elvis L. Mason	Joseph V. Tortorice, Jr.
George A. Dishman, Jr.	Douglas W. Matthews	Billy D. Tubbs
Joseph F. Domino	Susan Conn McCurry	Homer L. Wallis
Phillip M. Drayer	Robert "Bob" L. McDill	J. Donald Warren
Vernon G. Durden	William "Bill" B. Mitchell	William "Pat" P. Weber
Byron F. Dyer, Jr.	Jack W. Moncrief	Milton S. Wing
Grace Davis England	Ray M. Moore	Robert "Bob" J. Wortham
Wilford Flowers	Stephen "Steve" F. Moore	F. Randolph Yost
Mary Jo Lampson Ford	Glen W. Morgan	
Paul D. Fregia	Dewey F. Mosby	



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