

*The Arlington Police Department and
The Police Foundation-Arlington, Texas proudly present
The John V. & Jeri McMillan Memorial*

ARLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2011 ANNUAL AWARDS



*Thursday, March 8, 2012
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm
1010 Collins Entertainment Center
1010 North Collins*

Citizens Community Award

Nominees: Cynthia Delanoy-Summerwood CWG, Claudria Gromatzky, Gayle Hatala, Rhonda Jimmerson and Paula Cox



Cynthia Delanoy is the Community Watch Group Coordinator for the Summerwood Community Group who joined the APD family in 2008. Comprised of approximately 215 homes, the Summerwood Community Group has remained one of the most active groups in the South District. Cynthia has consistently been a leader within her community, serving as a Code Ranger and an active member of the Citizens On Patrol program. She is always seeking out new opportunities to become involved with the Arlington Police Department despite her busy work schedule. It is not uncommon for a Community Watch Group to lose participation after a few months. One of the ways that Cynthia keeps her neighborhood engaged is through monthly newsletters that she distributes electronically to her neighbors. It includes crime statistics as well as other helpful information, and includes a "Yard of the Month Beautification Program." Cynthia is truly "Community Policing" in action.

Business Partnership Award

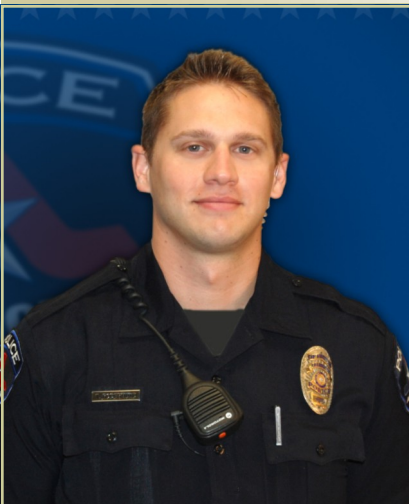
Nominees: Cowboys Stadium LP, Nuts and Bolts, The Parks Mall/Valor Security and UTA School of Social Work



Lorie Lisius is the General Manager for the **Parks Mall** and C. D. Fisher is the Security Director for **Valor Security**. Both have demonstrated their commitment to the safety of citizens who visit the Parks Mall, the largest retail destination in the City of Arlington. A state-of-the-art surveillance system at the Parks Mall has been used in the apprehension of numerous criminals involved in a range of crimes and has been beneficial to the investigation of crimes not only at the mall but in other parts of the city. Valor Security is a contract security company that handles all security issues with the Parks Mall. They work hand-in-hand with Arlington Police officers and display professionalism and a great deal of appreciation and concern for them. Due to their contributions and the strength of our working relationship with the Parks Mall and Valor Security, there has been a significant decrease in crime in the area.

Rookie Officer of the Year

Nominees: Ben Baskin, Joel Brown, Danielle Cuesta, Kellen Garrett, Stan Henry and Travis Rodermund



After field training, **Officer Travis Rodermund** was assigned to the West District. From day one, he made an immediate impact and has not slowed down. Officer Rodermund has continued to learn and take on whatever assignment he is given with enthusiasm and dedication, whether it is enforcement or community projects. He has had some of the highest levels of self-initiated activity on his shift, making 108 arrests and issuing 413 citations. Many of these arrests have been felony suspects who were in possession of guns, drugs and stolen contraband. He also worked a total of 1375 calls for service and assisted on over 1100 calls. Officer Rodermund has demonstrated excellent investigative skills, a strong sense of teamwork, enthusiasm for his job and a quality work product, making him a consummate professional.

Detective of the Year

Nominees: Paul Balson, Justin Leathers, Marjaina Perez, Jared Ross, Thomas Stellato, Alison Turner and Robert Walsh

Throughout his years of service, **Detective Paul Balson** has shown a passion and love for his job. Known for his tenacious attitude toward combating crime, Detective Balson epitomizes the characteristics of a true Peace Officer. Recently, he demonstrated his caring attitude towards a gang member who was trying to make a change in his lifestyle. Detective Balson communicated with the young man on a regular basis, contacted several businesses to help him find a job, and assisted in helping him and his wife with needed items when he learned they were expecting their first child. Detective Balson has the ability to reach out to people and to make positive things occur, leading through his actions rather than words. As a detective in the Gang Unit, Detective Balson is frequently called on to give Gang presentations to organizations, civic events and community groups.



Operations Officer of the Year

Nominees: Jason Belz, Brian Garcia, Kristi King, Jesse Manning, Jessica Rodriguez, Byron Stewart and Clint Weil

Officer Jason Belz is a Traffic Enforcement Officer and has taken on the responsibility for overseeing the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Program. The program is designed to monitor the roadways within the city limits of Arlington for trucks that pose both safety and hazardous conditions to all vehicular traffic. Officer Belz has taken a ten-year-old program and completely restructured it from having a handful of APD officers to officers trained throughout the Tarrant County region. He has re-engineered this program into a viable asset that has rejuvenated a new interest in traffic enforcement. His hard work has placed Arlington in the forefront in traffic enforcement and earned him the reputation as an expert in the field. Officer Belz is a leader who needs no direction and takes his responsibilities seriously. He has enhanced the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Program and the effects of his efforts are now being recognized as a quality program that is yielding positive results.



Community Support Officer of the Year

Nominees: Karen Donahue, Kimberly Fretwell, Sheila Griffith, Jeff Holloway and Jason Rash

Officer Kimberly Fretwell joined the Crime Prevention Unit in 2009 and hit the ground running. She is well informed on crime trends and issues affecting the North District and actively seeks out ways to increase the communication between citizen groups and officers, attending staff meetings and providing valuable information to supervisors. Due to her diligence, five new community watch groups have been added to the North District. Officer Fretwell was tasked with implementing the Arlington Clergy And Police Partnership program. She was able to take Chief Bowman's vision of ACAPP and turn it into a reality that is well organized and highly respected. Officer Fretwell's loyalty to the Department, its mission, the District needs, and our residents/visitors is unmatched. She eagerly accepts challenges and welcomes each opportunity to engage the community, actively seeking innovative ways to improve the quality of life in each area of the District.



Professional Employee of the Year/Administrative

Nominees: Ada Aguilar, Tiffaney Johnson, Verna Matthews and Betty Williams



Verna Matthews is assigned to the Auto Theft Unit and is an exceptional administrative assistant. She is tasked with numerous responsibilities and does her job with a positive attitude and can always be counted on to accomplish her assignments in a timely manner. She has a unique position, handling many administrative duties and assisting with Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (UUMV) investigations and other miscellaneous issues. Verna is responsible for the unit's time and payroll entries and budget requests. In addition, she was assigned over 250 cases for investigation and follow-up in 2011. Most of the tasks that Verna does on a daily basis are part of the "other duties" in her job description. The third floor employee break room was outdated and in desperate need of an upgrade. Thanks to Verna's efforts, this area is now a comfortable place for employees to eat and take breaks. Verna tackles each assignment with a smile and without hesitation.

Professional Employee of the Year/Exempt or Technical

Nominees: Nita Garmon, Mary Jo Giordano, Sharon Jones, Robin Kasson, Tarik Muslimovic, Tiara Richard, Matt Riddle, Nikki Rosenboom and Marc Saunders



Tiara Richard is assigned to the Office of Communication and is a true professional in every sense of the word. She has set the bar extremely high with her professional network and associations that she has formulated with media outlets. It is integral for our agency to maintain these relationships since we rely on them to push our message out to the public on a regular basis. Tiara constantly strives to correctly brand and positively market the image of the Arlington Police Department. She approaches each news story and request for information with the Department's goals and needs in mind. Tiara often works late and on weekends consistently responding to after-hours incidents. She wears many hats in the Department and is routinely tasked with writing newsletters and publications. Evident in her work product and attitude, she truly cares about the organization and takes pride in any project she manages.

North District Officer of the Year

Nominees: Elise Bowden-Norman, Juan Rodriguez and Cameron Walker



Officer Juan Rodriguez is a Beat Officer who is extremely aware of the challenges within his beat. This area is home to both residential and commercial properties and he does an excellent job of balancing the issues for both. He works tirelessly to combat the crime in his beat and is a wealth of knowledge which benefits everyone on his shift. Officer Rodriguez is proactive in addressing the criminal element in his area which was evident in his constructing a thoroughly detailed Burglary of a Motor Vehicle (BMV) Operations Plan. Officer Rodriguez is consistently one of the top producers for citations and arrests every month, is always productive, and completes all tasks assigned with very little supervision. Officer Rodriguez brings a good attitude with him to work every day and is very dependable and task oriented. He has the uncanny ability to make good decisions in the field and has quickly matured to the level of a veteran officer.

East District Officer of the Year

Nominees: Foot Patrol (John Henry, Jeremy Houchin, Frank King and John Millstead), Damien Gary, Phan Nguyen, Hugh Trinh and Phillip Williams

Officer Damien Gary takes his profession very seriously, always representing the department in a positive light. He consistently does the right thing at the right time for the right reason. During the past year, Officer Gary arrested more suspects for drugs, weapons and illegal money, and obtained more confessions than any other patrol officer on the East evening shift. He investigates calls fully, leaving nothing for interpretation and frequently sees beyond the arrest, investigating further. Officer Gary frequently assists officers in answering calls for service, can be counted on to produce results, and to provide intelligence to the HEAT Unit, the Gang Unit, the Foot Patrol Unit and the Narcotics Unit. He takes pride in his work, is committed to quality and leads by example.



West District Officer of the Year

Nominees: Jack Gariota, Brad Norman, Jay Robinson and Michael Smith

Officer Jay Robinson has worked in the West District since he joined the department in 2006. He has become a leader on the evening shift and sets an example for all officers to follow, acting as a mentor and coach to new officers. Officer Robinson takes on every assignment with enthusiasm, creativity and passion. He knows the citizens and criminals alike in his sector and truly defines what a beat officer should be. An apartment complex in his beat was an open-air drug market frequented by gang members, drug dealers and drug users. Officer Robinson teamed with other officers to complete foot patrols, surveillance details, traffic enforcement, and general enforcement in and around the complex. Taking the lead on most of these activities, Officer Robinson worked with apartment management to establish an open line of communication which resulted in evictions and property clean up by Code Compliance Services. After six months, the complex had a 68% reduction in calls for service and became a better place for residents to live.



South District Officer of the Year

Nominees: James Garrow and Carla Strauser

Officer Carla Strauser is described as a go-getter who requires little supervision and has a true desire to serve the citizens in her beat. She stays connected to her Community Watch Groups and is in contact with one or more on a daily basis, providing them with information and receiving feedback from them weekly. Officer Strauser utilizes her excellent investigative skills, even when she has not been dispatched to a call, relaying information over the radio on suspects, vehicles and call locations so other officers on the call know the history of the location and people involved. Officer Strauser has been associated with the Santa Cops Program for seven years and currently serves on the board. She always goes beyond what's expected and tries to learn which families in her beat are in need of help and goes out of her way to assist those families at Christmas through the Santa Cops Program. Her determination, tenacity, intuition and self initiative make her a valuable asset to the South District.



Officer of the Year

Selected from all officer nominees



Corporal James Garrow is assigned to the South District and makes significant contributions to the overall effectiveness of the Arlington Police Department. He regularly assists with and organizes directed patrols for traffic, foot patrols, and other types of patrols to deal with issues in his beat and sector. Corporal Garrow has a proactive approach, making other officers and sergeants aware of issues, so they can be dealt with before they become problems. He makes positive contacts with citizens and is a leader on his shift. He routinely volunteers for additional duties including maintenance and inventory of patrol vehicles while effectively handling any beat concerns. Corporal Garrow is always willing to accept responsibilities and regularly makes timely and accurate decisions with little or no supervision. He is an excellent Police Training Officer and a resource for other officers while consistently remaining one of the highest activity producers on his shift. Corporal Garrow is highly respected by other officers and citizens

alike and his initiative, leadership, dependability, dedication and attitude are an inspiration.

Supervisor of the Year

Nominees: Tracie Baker, Kyle Dishko, Wayne Isbell, Paul Long, Brett McDonnell, Tarrick McGuire, Tim Pinckney, Carol Riddle, Leland Strickland, Greg Waldron, Steve Winchester and Anthony Wright



In 2011, **Lieutenant Leland Strickland** supervised the Homeland Security Special Events Unit, planning and managing over 150 major and minor events. Handling his assignments with poise and professionalism, his actions have had a significant impact improving Department-wide operations. He has been a leader in developing and maintaining relationships with other law enforcement agencies.

The largest of the events Lieutenant Strickland managed while serving as the Commander for Homeland Security Special Events Units was Super Bowl XLV. Many people were involved in the planning, but Lieutenant Strickland was responsible for any issues related to unforeseen events, such as weather or protests, and ensured the high level of security was never compromised. Event management of the public safety compound and other aspects began well in advance of Super Bowl Sunday. His skill and dedication ensured that media coverage did not revolve around security lapses or concerns, thus

enhancing the Department's stature both internally and externally. Lieutenant Strickland was also responsible for planning over a hundred large events including three World Series games, the Cotton Bowl, multiple regular season football and baseball games, college football games, concerts and more.

Lieutenant Strickland constantly looks for ways to improve his operations and the service his unit provides to the Department. His use of Microsoft SharePoint and other software to improve efficiency has set the standard for the rest of the Department. As a result of these improvements, Lieutenant Strickland's vision for the off-duty staffing process was recognized with the 2011 Best in Texas Award for Innovation.

Department Awards and Accomplishments



- The department received the prestigious CALEA Advanced Accreditation with Excellence Award and the Meritorious Award for re-accreditation for fifteen or more consecutive years.
- Crime Scene Unit received the American Society of Crime Lab Directors (ASCLD) Re-Accreditation.
- The department was selected for the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) International Citylinks Program with Panama City.
- The department's branding committee led by Lieutenant Chad Gann received a first place honor from the 2011 International Police Vehicle Design contest.
- The Crime Prevention Unit led Arlington to achieve its highest National Night Out Award, ranking sixth in the nation for cities over 300,000 population for excellence and high participation levels.
- The Online Police Museum was created.
- Applications Developer Matthew Loughran was honored with a 2011 Best in Texas Award from the Center for Digital Government for his Off-Duty Scheduling System Application, used for complex scheduling tasks during major events at the Stadium and the Ballpark.
- Officer Tyler Farrell was awarded the Certificate of Merit from the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators for his work in the highly successful COBRA Task Force bait car program.
- Deputy Chief Laurretta Hill was the recipient of the 2011 Outstanding African-American Alumni Award by the University of Texas at Arlington African-American Alumni Chapter.
- Officer Jillian M. Smith was awarded the Medal of Valor (posthumously) from both the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) and the International Association of Women Police (IAWP).

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Medal of Honor	Jillian Smith (Posthumously)
Medal of Valor	Charles Lodatto and John Marsh
Distinguished Service Award	Kris Caldwell, Tim Canas, Wade Hardin, Jerry Hataway, Susan Hataway, Jill Hummel, Josh Jefferson, Troy Medina, Bobby Muguerza, Vince Ramsour, Dana Richerson, Carol Riddle, Frank Vacante, Kendra Warr and Jacqueline Zee
Medal of Merit	Mandy Baker, Kimberly Fretwell and Jesse Minton
Police Officer's Award	Heather Gibson, Barbara Kerrane, Jonlee Martinez, Brett McDonnell, Tom Pfefferkorn, Andres Pina, Sidney Rhodes, Mike Skarbek and Dace Warren
Life Saving Award	Scott Burnett, Kyle Eagleton, Stephen Lawson, John Marsh, Brett McDonnell, Mike Skarbek and David Szatkowski
Community Service Award	Stacie Brown and Jim McRobbie

ACADEMY CLASSES OF 2011

Class #43—Jesse Blanco, Jacob Cannon, Jessica Capra, Eric Garcia, Aeron Hill, James Jackson, Jonathan Kishanuk, Rebecca Martin, Jonlee Martinez, Johnny McGee, Jr., Jim Ortiz, JaNae Powell, Chad Roberts, Benjamin St. John, Joe Shipp, Tiffany Vanzant

Class #44—Jessica Adams, Brendan Banks, Jaclyn Chambers, Charles Cisneros, Andrei Ciurca, Morgan Dibert-Lacey, SaCarol Ford, Darrell Gordon, Jr., Jace Huntley, Scott Karaman, Sajit Koshy, Amy Peschke, Dane Ritcheson, Emilio Rivera, Rafael Robles, Ryan Tarver, Alexandra Vara, John Winner VII

GENEROUS CONTIBUTORS



The Man's
Shop



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Command Staff

Police Chief Theron L. Bowman, Ph.D.

Assistant Chiefs—Jaime Ayala, James Hawthorne and Will Johnson; Management Services Director—Steve Evans
Deputy Chiefs—Carolyn Allen, Lauretta Hill, Barry Hines, Kim Lemaux, Blake Miller, Jeff Petty and Jennifer White

Employee Relations Board

Chair: Chavela Hampton, Mandy Baker, Singh Boulom, Diane Brown, Os Flores, Amy Gutierrez, Becky Hixson, Craig Leondike, Rico Lucero, Paul Rodriguez, Alex Simmons, Julie Spann, Michelle Stellato, Anita Tye, Robert Vorpahl,
LaTasha Watson

Awards Ceremony Planning Committee

Chair: Jeff Pugh, Shelly Bateman, Cheryel Carpenter, Amy Gutierrez, Becky Hixson, Sharon Jones, Dana Jons,
Tarrick McGuire, Amanda Moss, Curtis Petties, Tiara Richard, Julie Spann, Beth Troy, Anita Tye