

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

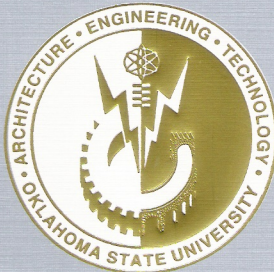
**College of Engineering, Architecture & Technology  
2011**

# HALL OF FAME

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For Fidelity  
to  
Nation, State & Profession

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College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

# HALL OF FAME

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

is proud to honor

*Jeffrey A. Fisher*  
*Lakshmaiah Ponnala*

for fidelity to  
their nation, state and profession



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**T**he Government of Andhra Pradesh aspires to transform the State into a knowledge-based society, making available the benefits of Information Technology to all citizens. The Honorable Minister Lakshmaiah Ponnala, a technocrat with a strong technical and academic background, has contributed greatly through his political persona to the growth of Andhra Pradesh as one of the top five States in the Indian Union.

An engineer by profession but a humanitarian and public servant by choice, Minister Ponnala relinquished a lucrative engineering job in the United States in 1978 to return to his birthplace, where he focused on serving public life in rural communities. His vision of promoting the welfare of the people has and continues to elevate the standard of living for untold thousands of Indian citizens. He strongly believes that rural and social inclusion should be the hallmark of government policies and political leadership for all times to come.

While Cabinet Minister for Major Irrigation, he helped pave the way for irrigating hundreds of thousands of acres of under-cultivated lands resulting in crop-yielding arable lands. Those irrigation projects, Jala Yagnam—meaning massive water endeavors—will create over 100,000 jobs, directly affecting 60 million lives. The massive Jala Yagnam effort coupled with better water management systems and farmer-friendly governmental policies, contributed significantly to the growth in food production in the State of Andhra Pradesh. (13.7 Million tonnes in the FY 2003-04 rose to 19.9 Million tonnes in FY 2008-09.)

As Cabinet Minister for Aqua-culture and Fisheries, he was instrumental in acquiring World Bank funds to develop the fishing community and expand export opportunities. He developed fish marketing facilities and regularized freshwater aqua culture. Under his administration Fisher-women Cooperative Societies were established for marketing fish products in rural areas. His mission to serve all citizens of India has led the way for women's empowerment.

Born in a remote South Indian village to an economically backward family, he praises his widowed mother, Radhamma Ponnala, for her admirable influence on his character and for teaching him honesty and resilience as well as how to be a fighter in life. He credits her for having an immense influence on his career and his vision—to lift citizens of his country out of poverty. Referring to his three decades in politics, Minister Ponnala says, “God lifted me and gave me every opportunity I never could dream of. It is my time to give it back to the world and politics is my chosen vehicle.”

Minister Lakshmaiah Ponnala acknowledges that as a student, Oklahoma State University presented a new dimension to his life, and says “it created a strong foundation and contributed significantly to what I am today.” Mr. Burns Hargis, the 18th President of Oklahoma State University, wrote “... Mr. Ponnala was one of the finest graduates in the history of Oklahoma State University.” Oklahoma State University is proud to list among its distinguished graduates and world leaders: The Honorable Minister Lakshmaiah Ponnala.

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#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND, AWARDS, AND DELEGATIONS

*2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, Member—Legislative Assembly (Five-year terms)*  
*2006 Chairman of the Protocol Committee—82nd All India Congress Committee Plenary Session*  
*2002 Member—Public Accounts Committee*  
*2002 Member—Constituency Re-organization (Delimitation Committee)*  
*1999-Present—All India Congress Committee*  
*1999 Executive Committee Member—Congress Legislature Party*  
*1999 Member—Pradesh Election Committee for Parliament and Assembly Elections*  
*1991-1992 Minister of State—State Cabinet*

*2007—Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award for outstanding contributions as Minister for Irrigation*  
*1992—Delegate to SAARC Conference on Culture at New Delhi, representing the State of Andhra Pradesh*  
*1991—National Delegate to Asia Pacific Region Countries to: 1. Study new avenues and mechanisms to establish indigenous Aqua Culture, and 2. Assist in launching the World Bank Aided Projects for Aqua Culture in Andhra Pradesh*  
*1968—Nizam's Charitable Trust Scholarship for Meritorious Students to Study Abroad*

**Oklahoma State University - Hall of Fame Induction - October 13, 2011**



*Releasing water from  
Srisailem Irrigation Dam*



*Minister for Information Technology  
and Communications at work*



*Aruna Devi and Lakshmaiah Ponnala with  
their sons and daughters-in-law, from left,  
Ramakrishna, Uma, Vaishali, and  
Muralikrishna*

- Government of State of Andhra Pradesh, India  
Cabinet Minister for Information Technology & Communications  
with additional charge of Endowments, 2010-Present  
Cabinet Minister for Major & Medium Irrigation  
Water Development Board, 2004-2010  
Cabinet Minister for Aqua-culture & Fisheries, 1991-1992
- Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India
- Oklahoma State University  
M.S. degree, Mechanical Engineering, 1969  
Osmania University, Hyderabad, India  
B.E. degree, Mechanical Engineering, 1968

## *Lakshmaiah Ponnala*

*College of Engineering, Architecture & Technology  
Hall of Fame: 2011*

Oklahoma State University



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# CEAT HALL OF FAME

## MEMBERS 1954 - 2010

The following distinguished  
engineers, architects and technologists  
have been inducted into the  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNOLOGY  
HALL OF FAME  
in past years.

They have been chosen for fidelity  
to their nation, state and profession.

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1954 Laurence L. Dresser	1977 John S. Zink
1955 Gerald W. McCullough	1978 Sidney E. Scisson
1956 Richard K. Lane	1979 John L. Hatheway
1957 Thomas M. Lumly Jr.	1979 Eason H. Leonard
1958 Guy H. James	1979 Nicholas B. Mavris
1959 Francis J. Wilson	1980 John B. Jones Jr.
1960 Morrison B. Cunningham	1981 William J. Collins Jr.
1961 Lloyd E. Elkins	1982 Floyd M. Bartlett
1962 Don McBride	1982 H. H. McClure
1963 B. Harris Bateman	1983 Bill N. Lacy
1964 William W. Caudill	1983 George H. Lawrence
1965 Myron A. Wright	1984 Edward C. Joulilian III
1966 Charles Edwin Malzahn	1984 Glenn E. Penisten
1967 Eugene L. Miller	1985 Frank A. McPherson
1968 David G. Murray	1986 James E. Barnes
1969 Melvin A. Ellsworth	1986 Martin E. Fate
1970 Veldo H. Brewer	1987 Raymond A. Porter
1971 Ralph M. Ball	1987 James D. Cobb
1972 Richard O. Newman	1988 Choong-Shik Cho
1973 David B. Benham	1988 Robert M. Penn
1974 Carl G. Herrington	1989 W. P. "Bill" Schmoe
1975 James J. Kelly	1989 Neal A. McCaleb
1975 Gus L. Maciula	1991 Jim E. Shamas
1976 Donald E. Adams	1991 David J. Tippeconnic
1976 James C. Phelps	1992 W. Wayne Allen
1976 Fred H. Ramseur Jr.	1992 Robert M. Lawrence

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1993	Keith E. Bailey	2002	Frank W. Chitwood
1993	Kenneth J. Richards	2003	James R. Holland Jr.
1994	Donald R. Lehman	2003	Kent E. Patterson
1995	Ted E. Davis	2004	J. D. "Denny" Carreker Jr.
1995	Charles L. Hardt	2004	Steven D. Hofener
1996	R. Gerald Bennett	2004	David Kyle
1996	Marvin M. Johnson	2005	James Brooks Cummins
1997	H. E. Cobb Jr.	2005	Gordon E. Eubanks Jr.
1997	Donald L. Wickens	2006	Sanjiv Sidhu
1998	Ronald D. Wickens	2006	James L. Vining
1999	Ronald L. Calsing	2007	Rand Elliott
1999	John C. Mihm	2007	Michael Damore
2000	Jim W. Bruza	2008	Ronald L. Hoffman
2000	Sherman E. Smith	2008	Donald D. Humphreys
2000	Thomas W. Wallace	2009	Charles Kridler
2001	B. N. Murali	2009	A. Joe Mitchell Jr.
2001	Duane Wilson	2009	Sridhar Mitta
2002	Donald W. Vanlandingham	2010	Ray O. Johnson

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