

**JULY
2009**

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TGMI Newsletter

Tennessee Government Management Institute

2008 Session I Class

2009 Steering Committee

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Lauren Hill
Class of 2006

Vice Chairperson
Jon Zirkle
Class of 2003

Past Chairperson
Greg Duncan
Class of 2001

2008 Class Members
Carolyn Head Estep
Vojin Janjic

2007 Class Members
Linda Cone
Melisa Hucks

At Large Members
Marilou Cook
Class of 2007 Fall
Greg Wilson
Class of 2005

EX-Officio Member
Trish Pulley
Class of 2008 Session I

Newsletter Design
April Wright
Class of 2008 Session I



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Treasury



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Administration



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Conservation



Archie Doby
Correction



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TN Housing Devel-
opment Agency



Eric Fowlie
Bureau of
TennCare



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Insurance



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Conservation



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opment Agency



Theresa Nixon
General Services



LaKesha Page
Treasury



Cindy Patton
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Conservation



Al Pond
TRICOR



Trish Pulley
Human Resources



Stephen Reksten
General Services



James Roberson
Labor and Work-
force Development



Tommy Sneed
Revenue



Scotty Sorrells
Environment and
Conservation



Cynthia Stewart
Safety



Joy Stoots
Human Services



Cyndi Taylor
Correction



Michelle Waldrep
Human Services



April Wright
Finance and
Administration



Charles R. (Bud) Yard
Environment and
Conservation



Tennessee Government
Management Institute

2008 Session II Class

TGMI was created in 2000 for mid-level managers, with supervisory responsibilities, in state government. Each year, in two intensive weeks over a two-month period, TGMI provides thirty of state government's mid managers with the opportunity to broaden their perspectives of management, responsibility, and perspectives of leadership principles and practices. TGMI class members travel to the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and to a Tennessee State Park to develop additional skills and knowledge needed to efficiently manage resources and organizational systems and to analyze and discuss local changes that are rapidly occurring in the business, political and overall workplace environment. The TGMI experience is designed to help class members gain fresh perspectives and enhance their leadership skills.

State managers work "where the rubber meets the road". They must be able to interpret policy and law into workable processes for staff and they must champion change and assure that services to citizens are efficient, effective and customer focused. They must have skills and knowledge to improve workplace performance, interaction and productivity. TGMI provides a forum to develop the knowledge, skills and insight necessary to lead and sustain organizational effectiveness and efficiency in dealing with these challenges.



Scott O. Anderson
TRICOR



Tiffany Baker-Cox
TN Human Rights
Commission



Lois Barrett-Luke
Human Services



Tracy Brown
Finance and
Administration



Randy Carroll
Education



Jaye Chavis
Treasury



Michael Cole
Environment and
Conservation



Christina Coleman
TN Higher Education
Commission



Joe Daniel
Safety



Juanita Flakes
Human Services



Steve Gatlin
Correction



Steve Goins
Environment and
Conservation



Phyllis Hodges
Education



Vojin Janjic
Environment and
Conservation



Steven Jenks
General Services



Aaron Jewell
Comptroller of the
Treasury



Ramsey (Bart)
Leathers
Bureau of TennCare



Katie Longsmith
Bureau of
TennCare



Randall Mann
Environment and
Conservation



Georganne Martin
Finance and
Administration



Terry Mason
Comptroller of the
Treasury



Gary McEntire
Environment and
Conservation



John Mehr
TN Bureau of
Investigation



Donna Morin
Military



Timothy Poole
Environment and
Conservation



Wayne Pugh
Commerce and
Insurance



Jeanne Smith
Finance and
Administration



Kathy Smith
Revenue



Eric Van Allen
Bureau of
TennCare



Kenny Williams
Comptroller of the
Treasury



Sabrina Williams
Comptroller of the
Treasury



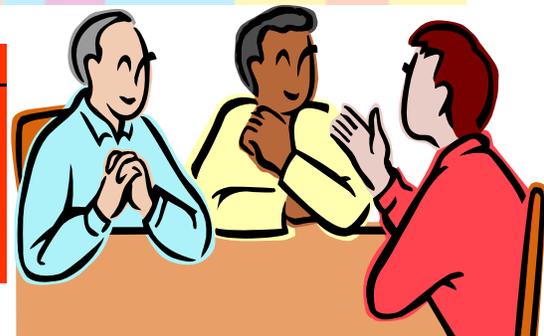
TGMI Committees – 2009

The TGMI Steering Committee invites you to volunteer on a subcommittee to help us put on the events that you, the alumni, enjoy each year. The current list of committees, responsibilities, and chairs follows.

Participating on a committee helps provide the connection to the alumni that our busy schedules don't always allow for in other ways. Helping to coordinate events like the Fall Conference and Holiday Breakfast is hard work but is also fun and a great way to connect with your class and alumni from other classes and meet new folks from all the different departments of state government. Even if you are not available to participate in a particular event such as the Community Service projects, your help coordinating events and the diversity and creativity in planning them is still valuable.

Remember the Steering Committee can't do it without you. If you would like to help out on a committee, please notify:

Jon Zirkle, P.E., TDOT Hydraulics Section, Office: 615-741-4253



Charter Committee

Duties: Include responsibilities of past By-laws and Nomination committees

Chairperson: Mike Travis

Steering Committee Liaison: Lauren Hill

Membership: Jon Zirkle
Carolyn Head

Education and Leadership Development Committee

Duties: Include Fall Conference coordination and speakers bureau

Chairperson: E. Ross White

Steering Committee Liaison: Linda Cone

Membership: Linda Cone
Georgeanne Martin

Communications Committee

Duties: Include website management and newsletter development

Chairperson: Jon Zirkle

Steering Committee Liaison: Jon Zirkle

Membership: Class reporters
Greg Duncan

Year	Class Reporters
2000	Chuck Holland
2001	Donna Duarte
2002	Mike Travis
2003	Don King
2004	Patsy Grooms
2005	Beth Pugh
2006	Lisa Walker
2007 Summer	Cynthia Greene
2007 Fall	Edwin Mimms
2008 I	April Wright
2008 II	Donna Morin

Events Committee

Duties: Include duties of Hospitality and Orientation committees - coordinating brown bag lunches, holiday breakfast and orientation

Chairperson: Lisa Pugh

Steering Committee Liaison: Angie Duncan

Membership: Linda Cone
Chris Harris
Cassandra Thompson
Saya Qualls

Community Service Committee

Duties: Include proposing and implementing alumni community service projects

Chairperson: Robyn Probus

Steering Committee Liaison: Robyn Probus

Membership: Jon Zirkle
Lauren Hill
Cynthia Stewart
Jewell Crawford



IN THE HEART OF TENNESSEE

Rainbow shining, my heart beats slowly
Here in the Heart of Tennessee
In the seat of Trousdale County
This rainbow came to find one like me
Many times I have driven this highway
Along this way, I have seen the sun
Today came a heavenly symbol
After the Father's work was done
Hartsville calling making me mention
The wonder I see in colors above
My heart is taken in this place so lovely
A beautiful sign of the God of love
Rainbow shines above my journey
Guiding me along my way
Giving direction on an otherwise normal
Twenty four hours we call a day
I marvel at the rainbow rising
In the Heart of Tennessee
A place of life and joy and hopeful
Where my soul is humbled by the vision I see

Picture by Chris Jones
Lyrics by Melvin Jones, Jr., ©
May 25, 2009

To all my TGMI colleagues:

Thank you for your cards, prayers, phone calls, and well wishes, during my time away. I am walking again, back in the office, and doing what I do. There are still a few bumps in the road, but I have come a mighty long way. I have been fortunate to continue with my writing, for friends, family, co-workers, and even for a group of service men overseas.

The poem I submit here, "In The Heart of Tennessee," is special also, because it was inspired by a picture of a rainbow taken by my son Chris. This place is now significant to me, for a number of reasons, including the fact that my son lives in Hartsville (Called "The Heart of Tennessee"). Also, Chris' daughter, Joniya Shamika Jones, is buried there, on a hill overlooking the City of Hartsville on one side and the beautiful rolling hills of Trousdale County on the other.

Joniya never saw life here on this earth. She grew for eight months in the womb, and then she was taken to one day enjoy an even more beautiful place. My son and his girlfriend loved her and I loved her, because she was my grandchild, and she bears our family's name.

God bless you all and your families.

Peace,
Melvin Jones, Jr.
Class of 2002

Class Updates

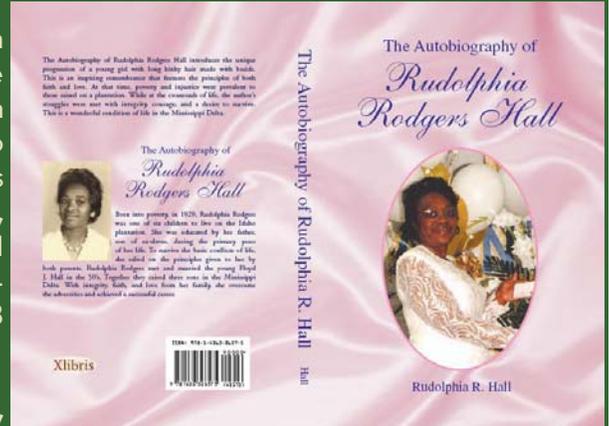
Class of 2000

Randy Jennings: Tennessee Department of Agriculture Biofuels Administrator Randy Jennings received the National Biodiesel Board's Industry Partnership award at the National Biodiesel Conference & Expo. "Randy's knowledge of renewable fuels has been an invaluable asset as we've worked with industry to increase the development and use of quality biofuels in Tennessee," said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. "I'm glad to know he is getting the recognition he deserves for helping our state to lead in the establishment of national biofuels standards." For more information on Randy's national award, visit the TN.gov newsroom at <http://news.tennesseeanytime.org/node/920>.



Melissa Hall

Floyd Hall's daughter Melissa graduated on May 9, 2009 from Tennessee State University, Cum Laude in Speech Communication and Theater. Floyd also published his mother's autobiography. It's available at www.xlibris.com, www.amazon.com, www.borders.com and www.bn.com. The ISBN #'s are 978-1-4363-2657-5 (hardcover) 978-1-4363-2656-8 (softcover)



Cindy Saladin has a new granddaughter. Her youngest son, Eric, and his wife, Miriam, gave birth to Kaitlyn Elizabeth Hall on April 8, 2008. Kaitlyn was born with a head full of black hair. Nana is very proud of her new granddaughter.

After 33 years of service, Nancy Blevins retired effective the end of 2008.

Jason Hartman graduated from Father Ryan High School May 2008 - he is a member of the Cum Laude Society and the National Honor Society. He is attending the University of Tennessee. He earned the Hope Scholarship, the General Assembly Merit Scholarship, the Volunteer Scholarship from the University of Tennessee, and a scholarship awarded by the National Roofing Contractors Association. Ken and Kathy are so proud of him!

Class of 2001

No updates this time. If you want to send updates for the next newsletter, please make sure they are sent to Jon Zirkle.

Class of 2002

Ashley Glover got married on March 22, 2009 and has now become Ashley Holland ... Congratulations Ashley.

Cynthia Hancock is officially retiring from the State ... her last day of work is May 31st. C.J. we wish you the very best in your retirement.

Mike Travis became a Grandfather on July 18, 2008 with the birth of Connor Wesley Travis ... Congratulations

Barry Woody became a Grandfather on March 27, 2009 with the birth of Michael Henry Barcroft ... Congratulations Pa Bear!

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Word from the Chair

Hello! We are excited to get our newsletter back up and running! We believe it's filled with good information will be an excellent resource for the Alumni Organization.

I am so very proud to be a TGMI alumni-and even more humbled to have been elected to Chair the Steering Committee this year. My excitement and enthusiasm for my class (Yes....'the best ever!') and the program only continues to grow.

These are unique times for all of us. Challenging times. Times when we as leaders must step up, and as ever, but now even more so, do more with less. Less money, fewer staff and resources, and ever growing frustrations and demands.

There were serious doubts whether the TGI program would be funded this year-but through the outstanding efforts and commitment from the Commissioner of DoHR, Deborah Storey, who doggedly pursued other Commissioners and Agencies to commit to the program by sending their future leaders, we have one TGMI and one TGEI class this year. Both are large.

Karen Eddy, the Director, and Trish Pulley, the Assistant Director, have labored long and hard to create a solid, purposeful, and challenging program for the classes. Throughout their planning they have resourced both EI and MI steering committee alumni for ideas and feedback. All programs will occur at Tennessee state park lodging and conference facilities and UT will again facilitate. Yes we can! J

Plans are under way for Community Service Projects such as Habitat for Humanity and River clean ups, Outreach speaking engagements to encourage youth to seek state government as an employer of choice, Brown Bag lunches (one in August to welcome the new TGMI class of 2009-more to follow!) the Annual TGI conference, Holiday Breakfast, and much more. You will be hearing more about all of these soon!

The steering committee is working to create a new site for our Alumni Directory to make it more interactive so each of us can easily access and update our own data making it a more dynamic, useful resource while eliminating the need for using your Social Security number for access. We're exploring how to improve our web site in general, and looking for more and better ways to keep the network thriving.

It's exciting! I believe when you see the results of the efforts of your steering committee and everyone who is volunteering you will be as enthusiastic as I am and gain a renewed sense of pride and purpose in what TGMI is about. We are strong and the future literally belongs to us.

Times are challenging. They require leadership. We have the ability to make choices in our lives. Choices that affect each of us, our families, our friends, our work, and the future of our state. It's not what happens to you but how you handle what happens to you that makes the difference. Let's make that difference a positive one!!
Lauren Hill



Dates to Remember

TGMI 2009 Class Orientation July 21st

*TGMI Community Service Projects
Habitat for Humanity
Saturday, October 3, 2009*

*Harpeth River cleanup and hike
Another Saturday in October, more de-
tails to follow*

*2009 TGMI Class Dates
August 23-28 and September 27-
October 2*

*Holiday Breakfast
Friday, December 4, 2009 at Elling-
ton Agricultural Center*

Class of 2008 – Session I

From the desk of our president, Tommy Sneed

The picture of a guy being eaten by a gigantic bird reminds me of our TGMI experience. Have you ever noticed how sometimes your heart softens with a simple change of perspective? The big meeting is important until you get a call that your child has been in an accident. Having everything blown away in the storm becomes a reason to be thankful because everyone under the rubble is

alive. The person you would not normally make an effort to befriend becomes more like family after a few days together.

George J. Thompson said “Operating under the assumption that people are flawed rather than corrupt keeps open the possibility that there may be reasons for behav-



ior.” I was driving a church van home one afternoon when a “jerk” cut in front and almost ran me off the road. Naturally, I laid on the horn and gave him what for. When I had an opportunity to pass, I pulled beside the driver to continue my *expression of annoyance*. I saw the old wrinkled face of a frightened man who had to

be wondering why there was a “jerk” behind him honking his horn.

I hope we don’t forget that for a moment, we were a family viewing our jobs in connection with one another and our bond as a transforming means. Since leaving Montgomery Bell State Park, our lives have resumed the hectic pace. I miss your perspective. When you get a chance, give someone benefit of the doubt, accept a lunch appointment for a class member’s birthday, drop by just to say hi, and look at the man-eating chicken upside down. I guess he is having a better day than we thought.

From LaKeshia Page

The jury is still out on the man who shared with me that a wise man once said, “Never miss a good opportunity to shut up.” Although I have been afforded several opportunities to shut up, it is not in my nature to do so (lol). In that same spirit, yet in all seriousness, I welcome this opportunity to reflect on my TGMI experience.

A year after meeting in Knoxville, I am still extremely grateful to have shared the experience with each of you. Initially, I was excited to be chosen, but I was apprehensive about what to expect: who I would meet, whether the sessions would be informative, and how open I would allow myself to be to the

experience. I first thought it safe to only commit myself to extracting something from the training that would have an immediate impact on my work. As a result, upon my return from the second week in Montgomery Bell State Park, my program conducted a customer service survey to gauge customer satisfaction: Big. Huge for my program. However, to my surprise and to my greatest advantage, among the best things that I experienced at TGMI were the friendships that I forged and how each of you have broadened my perspective, understanding, and appreciation of what is really important a little bit in your own way. Thank you for *that* opportunity.

**2008 Session I
Class Officers**

 Tommy Sneed Revenue Class President	 Carolyn Head Estep TN Housing Development Agency Steering Committee Member
 April Wright Finance & Administration Class Reporter & Social Director	



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Class of 2008 – Session II

My TGMI journey began in early 2008, when our Assistant Commissioner asked me if I wanted to be nominated for TGMI. I had heard great things about TGMI from managers and directors at my own department and others, and hoped one day I would get to go. I never figured my day would come so soon. Though my mind was filled with a hundred excuses as to why this wasn't a good time, I knew the chance might never come again. I enthusiastically accepted my department's nomination, diligently filled out all the paperwork and waited. And waited. Each day I checked my office mailbox with the anticipation of a child waiting for a letter from Santa Claus. Then it came. I was in! And so started what became the dominant experience of my 2008.

Orientation in late April was the first of many nerve-wracking experiences. The way orientation was planned, those of us in Session 2 essentially showed up late to the party, after Session 1 members had been introduced to each other. Desperately searching the room for the few familiar faces I knew from the class roster, I finally gave up and began talking to whomever I encountered. Overcoming my initial anxiety was the first of many empowering moments. The orientation luncheon was literally a taste of the many big meals to come. Session 2's orientation was a lot of fun, as we learned a little about our new classmates and got to meet the members of our presentation groups. The Class of 2007 told us enough to get us excited, but not enough to ruin the surprises. No one could truly prepare us for what was to come.

As a member of the first presentation group, I got to know five of my classmates right away. I received my first unofficial lessons in the subjects of group dynamics, teamwork, negotiation and the art of compromise. Though we all had different interpretations of our presentation topic and how best to present it, we managed to put together a presentation that would work for all of us.

The drive to Knoxville in June was pretty uneventful, until I pulled up to the Hilton and started feeling the nerves again. Meeting in the lobby that evening, I had the feeling that things were about to kick into high gear. The first night included a big dinner and the amusing name game, where we all gave ourselves nicknames, many of which stick with us to this day. We carried the camaraderie that we built at the conference center back to the hospitality suite for the first of many fun nights.

Each morning that week started with continental breakfast and individual introductions, usually followed by a group presentation. It was interesting to see how each group's presentation was unique, yet entertaining and informative. There were morning and afternoon sessions covering topics such as stress management, ethics and project management. Probably the most anticipated sessions were on Monday, when we saw the results of our SDI. We all learned more about ourselves and about our classmates that day.

Teambuilding day was another standout event. Filled with challenges indoor and outdoor, mental and physical, teambuilding day taught us the importance of using our individual strengths and talents to contribute to the success of a team. There might have been a few emotional breakdowns and physical aches and pains, but there's no doubt that we all came out of that day feeling stronger as individuals and as teams.

Evenings were just as busy as the days. Monday evening was an organized affair with a field trip to UT to tour their sports training facilities and the UT Sports Hall of Fame and a dinner at Calhoun's on the river. The other evenings, people usually split into small groups to go to dinner, then met back up in the hospitality suite. The hospitality suite was a great place to get to know your classmates better. After all, the connections with people from other departments are just as integral a part of the TGMI experience as the daytime sessions. A week full of raucous nights in the hospitality suite culminated in a Mardi Gras themed party on Thursday night.

After settling into a comfortable routine for the week, it was time to go home. We were all a little sad to be leaving so soon, but we knew we had another week, plus a really exciting experience, in the

2008 Session II Class Officers



Christina Coleman
Tennessee Higher
Education Commission
Class President



Vojin Janjic
Environment and
Conservation
Steering Committee
Member



Donna Morin
Military
Class Reporter



Georganne Martin
Finance and
Administration
Social Director

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Class Updates

Class of 2003

No updates this time. If you want to send updates for the next newsletter, please make sure they are sent to Jon Zirkle.

Class of 2004

At least two of our classmates have been on the move. Garland Johnson retired from the Department of Correction in June 2008 with a GroupWise message of "Gone Fishing". Drop him a line at 133 Southern Hills Drive, Doyle, TN 38559 and wish him a happy retirement and a reminder to please keep in touch. I heard he's building a new home. Remember that classmate Joan Gibran was working on her PHD? Last Fall semester, Joan became a full time assistant professor with the Tennessee State University College of Public Service and Urban Affairs. She will be teaching courses for the Urban Studies, Public Administration and Non-profit Management programs. I know all of us wish her well in this new career.

Since last reported, several other classmates were either promoted or completed additional training. Tracy White was promoted to an Information Director for the Department of Human Services and Patsy Grooms was promoted to Associate Director of TRICOR's Customer Relationship Management division. Greta Beard was awarded Certified Purchasing Manager status and was a member of the 2007 Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence's board of examiners.

Class of 2005

No updates this time. If you want to send updates for the next newsletter, please make sure they are sent to Jon Zirkle.

Class of 2006

In 2007

Tom and Anna Leta Moss welcomed son William Jay Moss on June 8, 2007.

October 1, 2007 - John Crawford accepted the job as Administrator of IT Division in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

November 1, 2007 - Carla Farris left the Comptroller Department after 17 years of service to be Assistant Administrator in the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

In 2008

In February 2008, Sherree Hall was promoted to Deputy Director for the Civil Rights Office.

In March 2008, Billy Trout working as manager of taxpayer education, county clerk support and the title and registration call center for the Department of Revenue.

On May 1, 2008, Valerie Oliver was promoted to Fiscal Director 3 in the Department of Health!

Spring 2008 Phil Smith's son Bryan graduated from UT. His other son Justin graduated from UT in December 2008.

Nicole and Robert Lucas welcomed new daughter into the world. Olivia was born July 7th, 2008 at 7:36 a.m. Stats: 9 lbs 2 1/4 ounces and 21" long.

(Continued on page 15)

2008 Habitat for Humanity Community Service Project Summary

By Jon Zirkle, Class of 2003

The fourth annual Habitat for Humanity community service project was held April 5, 2008 and was again a big success. This was our largest volunteer group of the four years we have participated.

I contacted the Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity in late January and worked with Maggie Vossler to schedule a date and type of project to set up for the group. They again have volunteer opportunities throughout the year at the Habitat Store on 8th Ave. and on Division Street where small groups of three or four can come in on a Saturday and provide customer service, stocking, or other tasks needed on that particular day and individuals can contact them and be placed with a build crew or another sponsoring organization on another build day. They again requested volunteers to help teach classes to prospective homeowners in things like landscaping and home finances at the Habitat offices. This is still a good opportunity if anyone would like to volunteer to help out in a different way from the physical labor aspect.



This year we participated in day five of the eight days of construction on a house for a new owner that we met on site. Her name is JoAnnette Mason and is shown in our group picture. Habitat has contractors on site supervising the build and providing tools and they work rain or shine. They grouped us again this year with a Habitat Homestore sponsored house and we partnered with a TSU sorority for the day. The combined group cut and installed trim work, doors and baseboards, caulked trim, filled nail holes, installed porch rails, exterior trim and siding and primed and painted indoors. A couple folks helped finish out a home that was supposed to be finished already by caulking, sanding, and touching up paint. A home dedication and pizza lunch will held from 11:30 to 1:30 on Sunday April 20 at Timberwood for the 16 new homeowners.



The 16 volunteers that participated on the build day included personnel from eight departments of state government and consisted of 12 TGMI alumni. The other four volunteers were friends and family of alumni.

The project was a success. We started out slowly since Habitat was short on site supervisors and we had lots of volunteers. Once everyone got on task and had the skill lessons they needed the work picked up and we completed all the day's tasks. Great teamwork! They have said in previous years it rarely rains at the project site and that has not been accurate this year as they had snow and downpours on consecutive weekends. But we had a nice dry, cool day to work with.

Additionally, this year Susan Moss has a time setup to work at the Habitat Store on Division St. April 19 from 9 to 1 and Susan Cook is looking to volunteer on a future Saturday. If you would like to join in and help them out in a small group send them an email.



Thanks to all those that participate in our Habitat for Humanity projects and all those that are there in spirit as well. Maggie and the contractors on site were great to work with and provide a great service for the community.

I hope you all had a rewarding experience and look forward to doing it again next year.

If you would like to set up a time for a small group to volunteer on a build or at the Habitat stores or tutoring prospective home owners, contact Jon Zirkle at TDOT or Ms Maggie Vossler at 254-4663 ext 238.

2008 Harpeth River Cleanup and Hike

By Lauren Hill



There's nothing like picking up garbage on a beautiful fall day!!! No. Seriously!! Take a look! Canoes. Lots of bright TGMI people all smiling and happy! And a little wet occasionally...and maybe sorta grungy with a little dirt on their clothes sometimes...but smiling!

And happy! And doing something very worthwhile. A river clean up. For the past 3 years TGMI has volunteered for a fall Harpeth River Clean Up project. Generally in October on an away foot ball game date for UT and Vandy, several of us will get up early in the cool fall morning and float the Harpeth River for a few hours picking up debris.



By the end of the float the sun is warm and we are in tee shirts and shorts. You can paddle ardently or float slowly-but the job is to clean the river of debris left by prior visitors and flooding waters. It's a beautiful river returned to it's more natural state through



our efforts.

Last year we combined our project with folks from TGEI and had over a dozen volunteers!

The park manager, Jane Polansky, ever the interpretive specialist, cannot resist giving impromptu talks about the river, the ecology, the history and archeological sites, and occasionally, the nature of car tires and beer cans and their impact on the flora and fauna of the Harpeth river... not her favorite subject, but she sure can speak to it!! J



Foggy Bottom Canoe rental provides canoes, paddles, and PFD's (puts them in and tales them out for us as well!!) The park provides everything needed for the clean up including gloves, trucks and rangers to load and haul the trash at the

end of the float, and usually a tee shirt or cap for volunteering! Check it out! It's a lot of fun! If you are interested please contact Robyn Probus, Jon Zirkle, or me and we'll put you on our volunteer list to contact you when we have our date this year.



-Lauren Hill



*2009 ExtravaganZoo Easter Project at Nashville Zoo
&
2008 Pre-boo night for Ghouls at Grassmere at Nashville Zoo*

By Robyn Probus

TGMI alumni have volunteered in two events held at the Nashville Zoo. The first event was in October 2008 for the zoo's annual Ghouls at Grassmere event. The second event was in April 2009 for the zoo's annual Easter event, EggstravaganZoo.

The participants had a great time at each event helping out in the games booths, handing

out candy to the kids at the Halloween event, and hiding eggs for the Easter event.

Thank you to all alumni who helped make these two events so much fun!

We are planning to once again participate in the Ghouls at Grassmere event this fall. Additional details will be sent when they become available in early October.

near future.

In between weeks one and two, we met up in Smyrna to go on our Blackhawk flight. The flight included beautiful views of the MTSU stadium and some of the neighborhoods and countryside in the Nashville suburbs. The skilled pilots thrilled us with a few daredevil maneuvers. The flight was made all the more exciting by the arrival of a sudden thunderstorm, but our safety was always put first. Before the flight, some people were very enthusiastic,



some were a little more apprehensive, but everyone who was able to make the flight seemed happy they did it. Getting this

ride of a lifetime that most people will never get to experience was just another perk of being a member of TGMI.

The second week at Montgomery Bell was more relaxed, both in dress and in attitude. Some of us probably wish we had been dressed a bit better when we received a surprise visit from Governor Phil Bredesen, who just happened to be at the inn for a political event. There were more group presentations and sessions on topics such as customer service, leadership and change management. Regardless of the subject matter for the session, two recurring themes kept coming up – the state’s impending budget crisis and the upcoming implementation of Project Edison. It made the lessons learned at TGMI seem that much more important, as we would be called upon as leaders in state government to help navigate our agencies through the storms that lie ahead.

Evenings were filled with more fun events, like an ice cream social, bowling night and a birthday fiesta for our youngest class member and unofficial youth director.



There was a cocktail hour with 2007 class officers and Steering Committee mem-

bers, and an astronomy presentation attended by Commissioner Deborah Story, who later joined us for a while in the hospitality suite. The Summer Olympics were going on that week, so much of the hospitality suite activity concentrated on cheering for Michael Phelps as he won numerous gold medals, and watching women’s gymnastics, with running commentary by our own judges. The last night included a luau-themed party at one of the picnic pavilions, with a slide show showcasing some of the highlights of our time together. By the time we left on Friday, we had a handful of newly elected class officers, lots of wonderful memories and a slogan for our class – The Most Fun Class Ever.



Though our two weeks together were over much too soon, most of us had the opportunity to reconnect at the fall conference. Then in November, it was time for graduation. I felt so much pride for each of my classmates as they took their turn on stage. When my turn came, I felt triumphant. The plaque I received served as a tangible reminder of having achieved something most state employees will never get the chance to do.



The theme for TGMI 2008 was “Transforming Tennessee”. Over the course of nearly a year, I was transformed by the entire TGMI journey. The skills I honed at TGMI have helped me meet the daily challenges that we face during an unprecedented time in our state’s history. The connections and friendships I formed will stay with me through the course of my career. I can only hope to repay the state for the opportunity I was given as a member of TGMI.

-Donna Morin,
TGMI 2008 Session
Two, Class Reporter



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**Holiday Breakfast
2008**

The Magic of
Christmas

Class Updates

Debbie Dey married Aaron Rivers October 4, 2008. She has left OIR and works in the private sector.

October 15, 2008 Trish Wilson left the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and went to work for Branches Recovery Center in Murfreesboro.

Oct 25, 2008 Sherree Hall married Nathan T. Crowder.

In 2009

Susan Cook's son Clayton will be graduating from Station Camp High School in May 2009!

E. Ross White was selected as TGMI Chairman of the Education and Leadership Development Committee

Ross White's daughter, Emily, started UT in the fall of 2008.

Lauren Hill is currently the Chairman of the TGMI Alumni Steering Committee.

Class of 2007—Summer

Financial Institutions Commissioner Greg Gonzales has appointed Joyce Simmons to the position of Chief Regulatory Accountant at the Tennessee Department of Financial Institutions. The position was established in response to the need for heightened oversight during the current challenges facing the financial industry. Simmons will provide advice on accounting issues in all regulatory divisions within the department. She will also be responsible for tracking the ongoing accounting changes that continue shaping the industry and help provide training to department staff.

Class of 2007—Fall

David White left State Government November 2008. He is now working as a Department of Defense Contractor for the Tennessee Army National Guard. His new email address is david.elwyn.white@us.army.mil

Angie Duncan was recently promoted into the position of Alternative Contracting Manager for TDOT starting the new program with the concept of Design-Build. The Department of Transportation is utilizing the design build concept to expedite project delivery and streamline design processes. The first project completed in Davidson County was at I-40 at Stewart's Ferry Pike. The entire process was cut by 6 months. Thanks for helping us have the best road system in the Nation!

Congratulation to TGMI alumnus Melisa Hucks and her husband Craig, expecting the arrival of their first child, a boy, this summer.

Brandon Maloney was promoted to Director of Classification for the Department of Corrections, effective May 15th.

Kourtlyn Simone Howard was born Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at 1:14 a.m. at Centennial Women Hospital. Kourtlyn weighed in at a whopping 9 lbs. & 6 ozs. to the proud parents of TGMI Alumnus Shaylondia Simmons & Courtney Howard. These days Kourtlyn enjoys cooing, singing and watching tv.

Michele Neely, Fall Class of 2007, is moving to the Atlanta area this summer. Her husband has accepted a new engineering position with CIBAVision due to the closure of the plant where he works now. Michele is

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TGMI 2009 Schedule:

Orientation - July 21 - TN Bureau of Investigation Facility
Week one - August 23 - 28 - Montgomery Bell
Week two - September 27- October 2 - Pickwick Landing
Graduation - December 4 - Old Supreme Court Chamber

2009 TGMI Participants



John Allen
TN Housing Development Agency

Jimmy Bivens
TRICOR

Nicole Cobb
Department of Education

Sharon Crawford
Department of Human Services

Tremecca Doss
Department of Transportation

Vicky Goodin
Department of General Services

Eric Harkness
Department of Finance & Administration

Christy Hollingsworth
TN Housing Development Agency

Tresa Jones
Department of Finance & Administration

Kimberly Mayo
Department of Human Services

Rick Newton
Department of Finance & Administration

Patrick Parker
Department of Environment & Conservation

Jason Ronnow
TN Housing Development Agency

Johnetta Scales
Department of Revenue

Rew Sloan
Bureau of TennCare

Greg Spradley
Department of Finance & Administration

Darlene Stringfellow
Department of Human Services

Joe Sweat
Department of Transportation

Jackie Vandercook
TN Bureau of Investigation

Adele Anderson
Administrative Office of the Courts

Patty Burton
Administrative Office of the Courts

Gwendolyn Coffey
TN Housing Development Agency

Melinda Crutchfield
Comptroller of the Treasury

Anneita Dunbar
Department of Human Services

Ken Hannifin
Department of Human Services

Lori Hoening
Bureau of TennCare

Cindy Johnson
Department of Safety

Julie Lamb
Department of Transportation

Mehran Mostajir
TRICOR

Kenneth Osborne
Department of Correction

Richard Presler
Department of Military

Brent Rumbley
Comptroller of the Treasury

Suzanne Shatila
Department of Human Services

Gary Smith
Department of Human Services

Mark Spruiell
Department of Human Services

Sandy Strickland
Department of Finance & Administration

Willie Talley
Department of Military

Chris Yeiser
Department of Finance & Administration

Tennessee Government Institute
"Leaders Transforming Tennessee"



Class Updates

currently the Assistant Director of Rental Assistance for Tennessee Housing Development Agency and plans to take some time to be a full-time mother when she moves. She is not yet sure when she will move. Michele greatly appreciates the opportunity she was given to take part in TGMI and will really miss all of the friends she made.

Class of 2008—Session I

One of our classmates welcomed a new baby since graduation. Bryan Kinsey and his wife welcomed Brandon Lee Kinsey on March 13, 2009 at 1:08 AM; He weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz and was 19" long.



Bryan Kinsey & Brandon Lee Kinsey

Well we all heard the statistics, that several of us would receive promotions after graduation from TGMI. We are certainly seeing our share of that in our class. The following classmates have all received promotions since graduation:



Curtis Clan

Curtis Clan received a promotion from Manager of Network Operations to Director of Network and Security Engineering and Operations in F&A OIR on July, 1 2008.



Philip Davis

Philip Davis actually received a promotion right before coming to TGMI, but since graduation he has actually moved to Nashville, something that came with the promotion.



Terry Malone

Terry Malone received a promotion from Program Compliance Manager to Assistant Director of Operations at THDA on October 1, 2008.



Cyndi Taylor

Cyndi Taylor received a promotion in Correction to the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitative Services, effective May 10, 2009.



Carolyn Head and Steve Estep Wedding
April 18, 2009

April 2009 was a big month for Carolyn Head Estep! Not only did she celebrate a milestone birthday on her wedding day, she also received a promotion effective April 1, 2009. Carolyn is now Contract Administrative Manager for THDA's Section 8 Contract Administration Division; supervising the Resident Issues section, the Special Claims section, the Voucher Payment section, as well as the quality control coordinator for those sections.



Curtis Clan receiving his award

Awards our classmates received:



Al Pond

Al Pond has been selected to the 2009 Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence Board of Examiners

Curtis Clan was awarded OIR's Outstanding Individual Award for 2008

Class of 2008—Session II

The Class of 2008, Session 2 has already had some remarkable accomplishments, as have some of their family members:



Randy Carroll

Randy Carroll and his wife, Erin, have a new addition to their family. Madeline Claire was born on November 25, 2008. She was 20.5 inches long and weighed 7 lbs 7ozs.

(Continued on page 19)



Madeline Claire Carroll





TGMI Alumni Network

The Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI) Alumni Network is an organization of graduates from TGMI.

The TGMI Alumni Network attempts to accomplish these goals each year through the actions of the alumni elected Steering Committee and its appointed Subcommittees.

The Steering Committee engages in monthly meetings to coordinate the upcoming events and makes sure the year's goals are being met and any problems are solved.

Each year the Steering Committee and its Subcommittees sponsor events such as, but not limited to a Fall Conference, Holiday Breakfast, Brown Bag lunch and learn meetings, Leadership Development, various community service events, and produces an alumni newsletter to keep alumni connected.

TGMI Alumni Network Objectives:

- A. Promote the interest in and support of TGMI.
- B. Provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among Tennessee Government Managers and Executives.
- C. Encourage networking and effective partnerships within Tennessee State Government.
- D. Edify and demonstrate effective communication in Tennessee State Government.
- E. Nurture and sustain affiliation and camaraderie between classes of TGMI through the sponsorship of the Alumni Network.
- F. Serve as an educational resource to provide a clear understanding of Tennessee State government and its operation.
- G. Create opportunities for learning and continuous improvement in government operation.
- H. Teach and enrich professionalism in Tennessee State government.
- I. Instruct and foster appreciation for innovative management philosophies and effective techniques of supervision.
- J. Coordinate the TGMI curriculum and educational activities with the Department of Human Resources and all other relevant State agencies.
- K. Promote a positive image of state employees.

TGMI alumni make a difference within State Government!





Joe Daniel

Joe Daniel received a plaque of appreciation from the Commissioner of Safety for his role in installing 326 new iNovah cashiering systems in all Driver License stations across the state in 30 days.



Tiffany Baker-Cox

Tiffany Baker Cox has been accepted into the 2009 class of TGEI.



Steve Gatlin

Steve Gatlin is proud of all three of his children, but his oldest son, Josh, has recently received special recognition. Josh, who is a senior music education major at UT-Martin, is serving as a music counselor this summer at MTSU Governor's School. In late July, he will perform with the Berkshire Institute Choir in Sheffield, MA. Josh was also recently appointed to the Chancellor's Council on Student Affairs.

Aaron Jewell was promoted to Audit Manager with the Comptroller of the Treasury last October. His wife, Donna, who also works for Comptroller of the Treasury, has been accepted as a member of TGEI for 2009.



Aaron Jewell



Katie Longsmith

Katie Longsmith has been promoted to Director of Home and Community Based Services in the Division of Long Term Care at TennCare.

Terry Mason accepted a position from the Comptroller's Office to join their Procurement Oversight Section.



Terry Mason



Gary McEntire

Gary McEntire was elected to the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in April.

A few photos from the Blackhawk Flight—Both Classes of 2008 went together



From Tim Holden



Wow, has it really been a year since we began our TGMI experience?

In addition to the academic lessons we learned from Dr. Tom and the TGMI staff; the most rewarding experiences for me were the lifelong relationships built among the classmates. The comradely of teambuilding, arti-

cle presentations, and of course the hospitality suite, made a lasting impression on me and (hopefully) the way I conduct business. Knowing that I have peers in various state departments that are friends and

classmates that have shared the TGMI experience together means the world to me. Although we do not see each other every week or every month, I feel we are all bonded together as the TGMI Class of 2008, "THE BEST CLASS EVER!"

From Mary Griffin

Hard to believe that it has been a year since we stood in a circle and made up names for ourselves like Curtis Crash, Mad Mike and Windy Cindy! At the time, these names made up who we were to the group. Now our TGMI family has experienced deaths, births and most recently, a tornado. It is at these times

it is easy to see why we chose public service. I would be hard pressed to find a more giving, loving group of down right decent people. I know that we all send good thoughts and prayers to those struggling post-tornado and we stand ready to help in any way possible.



From Bryan Kinsey

"My TGMI Experience"

The Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI) was more than I could have ever imagined. I am by my very nature skeptical. So, when I was first asked to apply for the program, I was doubtful that it would really be as great as what I had been told. The very first night we were "forced" to form a circle and make up silly nicknames for ourselves. My skepticism kicked in right away, and I was convinced that TGMI was going to be a disaster for me. The week in Knoxville progressed. I got to know people ... interesting, unique, fun people. I

began to realize TGMI might have some benefit after all. At least I might make a few friends, and I certainly learned how to enjoy a Hershey's Kiss in a whole new way. By the end of the week, I realized I had been wrong from the beginning to be skeptical. My eyes had been opened. We select few had been chosen and brought together for a reason bigger than any one of us. We were expected to make a difference in state government. The second week at Montgomery Bell State Park is when it all came together for me. That is when I realized the desire and capacity for change had to come from within. In my opinion, the final session with Bill Halbert, PhD was the perfect way to end the week. I

He was very uplifting and motivational. I made an observation that I feel really sums up my personal experience and what I believe to be the experience of others. On the first night in Knoxville, our class had to be "forced" into a circle, but we kept some distance from each other. On the last day at Montgomery Bell, we "wanted" to form a circle, and we did not want it to end. I just hope we can continue to feel that positive energy and that we will continue to be given the opportunity to recharge our batteries during these times of fiscal restraint.



From Chris Harris

When I was asked by my director to apply for TGMI, I thought to myself, "Great, that's all I need...more work!" Upon arriving at orientation, I quickly learned that this was not going to be your ordinary training session. This was going to be an experience that I would never forget! Over the next few

months, I was not disappointed. I learned valuable information that was not only applicable to my work responsibilities, but I also gained insight about myself on a personal level. I met many fellow state employees with very similar challenges; and made a few friends along the way. TGMI was, by far, the best experience of my career at the State of Tennessee. I'm so thankful that my director encouraged me to apply.