

# TGM witness

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Quarterly Newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Management Institute Alumni

## Welcome TGMI Class of 2005

The TGMI Class of 2005 was officially welcomed by the TGMI family at the BellSouth Tower for orientation on May 17, 2005. Thirty mid-level state managers spent a good part of the day learning about the wonderful adventure upon which they are about to embark.

The Class was welcomed by Department of Personnel Commissioner Randy Camp, University of Tennessee Vice-President of Public and Government Affairs Hank Dye, and TGMI Steering Committee Chairperson Chuck Holland. Personnel TGMI Program Director Cindy Saladin, University of Tennessee Coordinator for Public Service Kasey Draney and Matthew Whinery presented information regarding this year's institute. The theme for this year's class is "Transforming Leaders: Lessons in Vision and Vigor." The class was introduced to the book "*The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*", which is required reading this year. Personnel Deputy Commissioner Nat Johnson presented a charge to the class encouraging them to make the most of their TGMI experience.

Representatives of the TGMI Class of 2004 served as the official welcoming committee, and pulled out all the stops to impress upon new class members the tremendous positive impact that TGMI has had on their lives, both professionally and personally. The 2004 class members also provided plenty of information to help the new class prepare for two weeks away from work, home, and family.

The Class of 2005 is preparing to depart for their first week at the University of Tennessee Center for Government Training in Knoxville, which will take place June 12-17, 2005. The class will spend their second week at Pickwick Landing State Park, July 10-15, 2005.

By the end of orientation, I'm sure the Class of 2005 was wondering, "what did we get ourselves into?" Hopefully however, as they start planning for their first week the excitement will grow, and they will look forward to the unbeatable training and networking that is TGMI. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and wish them a successful, productive, and fun two weeks.



## 2005 Steering Committee

### Chairperson

Chuck Holland  
Class of 2002

### Vice-Chairperson

Mike Travis  
Class of 2002

### Past Chairperson

Donna Duarte  
Class of 2001

### Class of 2004

Saya Qualls  
Susan Gullette

### Class of 2003

Julie Perrey  
Marty Toth

### At-Large

Melvin Jones  
Class of 2002

### Ex-Officio

Cindy Saladin  
Class of 2000

### Newsletter Editor

Mike Travis

### Graphic Designer

Sharon Buwalda

# Welcome Class of 2005

Ralph Barnes	Bruce Bayless
Patti Bell	Steven Borden
Laura Burton	Lloyd Craig
Jewel Crawford	John Duncan
Connie Gibson	Patrice Hannah
Don Johnson	Jeanette Jones
Richard Kennedy	Christopher King
Rusty Lacy	Margaret Lewis
Jane Lovell	Terrinita Manlove
Sheila Marchman	Tony Matthews
Phillip Page	Richard Pharris
Pam Pitts	Beth Pugh
Lisa Pugh	John Sanford
Jim Snell	Victor Vaughn
Brooks Wilkins	Gregory Wilson

## Nashville Rescue Mission By Marty Toth

On Monday January 17, 2005 eight members of the TGMI Alumni and one special guest went to the Nashville Rescue Mission to help serve those in need. The eight members were Chuck Holland-2000, Rick Brown-2002, Marty Toth-2003, Jean Brown-2003, Brenda Apple-2003, Julie Perrey-2003, Verna Norris-2003, Lesia Woods-2003, and the one special guest was Katie Perrey, daughter of Julie Perrey. Katie is a freshman at Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville; she took time from her holiday at school to help out, and did a wonderful job.

Everyone learned a lot about the mission; how it operates, what it offers to needy men, women, & children, and the passion of those that provide this service of God. During our tour with Mr. Tom Schmidt, Director of Volunteers and Church Relations, we found out that there is another location that caters to women and children in need, the Family Life Center.

On February 21<sup>st</sup> a second trip to the Rescue Mission was done, and with the help of Julie Perrey of the Steering Committee it has been suggested that the Community Service Committee look into organizing another visit there in the summer or fall.



*“As the Sun melts ice, so too does Caring cause hate, discontent,  
and sorrow to evaporate” -Unknown Source-*

# *My Experience at a Rescue Mission*

*By Katey Perrey*

My name is Katey Perrey and I go to Pope John Paul II High School in Hendersonville, Tennessee as a freshman. As a requirement for my theology class I must complete forty hours of community service and volunteer work. There was one such project that I have done that I felt was worth mentioning to other people. That one project was visiting the Rescue Mission in downtown Nashville.

My mom, Julie Perrey, and a group of her friends from her TGMI (Tennessee Government Management Institute) team from a few years previous allowed me to accompany them to the mission. Seeing as how I had never gone to a mission of any sort, I was unsure as to what I would find when we arrived. Upon arrival we were escorted to the kitchen, where we would be serving food to the homeless men of Nashville, along with residents and of course workers of the mission facilities. While serving the men I helped with the salad and the drinks while other workers including my mom did other tasks on the buffet line. I had never realized just how many men there were in Nashville alone that needed the things that everyday I take for granted. There were well men and men with disabilities alike all trying to get to the front so that they could have their meal. I was also surprised because even with everything that was going on in their lives or had gone on in their lives many of them had great faith in Jesus and would call out AMEN to one of the soon to be graduates who worked in the cafeteria. Shouts of blessings and praise could be heard resounding through the line especially as they took their trays and drinks and headed out to eat.

After we had finished serving the men we were given a guided tour by a gentleman, who unbeknownst to a few of us at the time had been through the program. He had since then successfully graduated and had just recently gotten married and purchased a house with a woman who had gone through the female mission program. The mission program is much more than just a place where men are fed, it is a place where they can live and interact with other people who know what they are going through first hand and can help them.

Classes are provided so that after they graduate the program they have something that they can use, like a GED, which they can use to get jobs or go to college. Computer courses and basic Math, English, and Reading are also taught so that the graduates have basic comprehension skills, which they will need to be successful in life. We were also shown the transitional housing, which were small dorm rooms where graduates could stay if they chose for a small rent fee until they could get out on their own and provide housing elsewhere.

The mission is even more complex than this but I am not a very well versed person in this subject matter. I encourage you at some point in your life to make a trip out to the Union Rescue Mission or to any mission for that matter and give back to your community for it is well worth your time and effort.



# *A Bicycling Experience*

*By Brenda Apple*

It is not often one gets to realize the fact that a life goal has recently been achieved. And getting on a bicycle and riding 375 miles through Tennessee over a seven-day period may seem like an unlikely candidate for a life goal, but it was one of mine for fifteen years.

In early 1990, I bought my first bicycle as an adult; a beautiful, sky blue, 18-speed Cannondale built for the road. Almost from the beginning, I had the desire to participate in the Bike Ride Across Tennessee, otherwise known as The BRAT. Its an annual event that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation sponsors every year for bike enthusiasts from across the U.S. Tennessee is just one of many states that sponsor such a ride as a way to highlight the beauty of the state and to offer a safe, sanctioned ride for bikers of all ages.

Tennessee's ride is known to be somewhat challenging because of the many hills of the Central Basin and Highland Rim areas and the down right mountainous areas of the Plateau and Appalachian foothills. I was cautioned by friends to train and maybe even do a similar, but less difficult, ride offered in nearby Georgia. So, that spring I trained and that summer I rode the 350-mile BRAG, from north Georgia to south Georgia, with 1800 other riders. As you might imagine, the biking was almost incidental to the experience as a whole. Just imagine the sight of 1800 brightly colored tents going up in a field each night. Following this ride up with the BRAT in TN in September of 1990 was not to be, however.

Eventually, in the fall of 2004, a co-worker and I decided it was now or never for the BRAT. So, we joined up with our friend, Doctor Bruce, and 297 other riders in Gallatin, TN on a beautiful fall Sunday in September. Because the effects of hurricane Ivan had just moved through a day or so earlier, there had been some skepticism the ride would even take place. But alas, the rains ceased and we were left with some of the prettiest, bluest skies many of us could remember for a long time. We immediately started cashing in on our meal tickets by grabbing a breakfast burrito from the mobile unit and then we were off to our first destination, Pioneer Village in Murfreesboro, TN. Our ride would be about 74 miles and take most of the day at our leisurely pace of 13 to 14 mph but then we were in no hurry and had nothing better to do than enjoy the sites, the scenery and the camaraderie.

The first thing you do when you arrive at your destination each evening is get your camping gear off the transport truck and set up your tent. Then its off to the mobile shower unit to get freshened up and out of the lycra clothing. Our routines were similar over the next six days as we headed next to Rock Island State Park near McMinnville, Cookeville's Fairgrounds, Standing Stone State Park near Livingston, the Bed-and-Breakfast hotels in Red Boiling Springs and finally back to Gallatin to complete this years middle Tennessee loop.

I could literally go on and on about the wondrous scenery and sites along the way, the perfect weather for the entire week and the trials and tribulations. I could write about the early mornings, the long days, the early bedtimes and the hard ground. Or I could even write about the stats, including riders from 30 states and Canada, an average age of about 50, 60% men and 40% women and no children because school was in session. I could also dwell on the fact that a fellow rider died of a heart attack within the first 3 miles of the first day. But once again, the ride itself was almost incidental to everything else.

The surprising highlights for me are the many conversations we had with some of the other bikers. Prior to the ride, I had convinced my co-worker to help me write an article for our Departments magazine, The Tennessee Conservationist. So, we initially came up with three questions we would ask people and we spent every chance we had "interviewing" other bikers as to why they were riding in the BRAT. It was a great way to break the ice and get people to talking and, believe me; the stories were nothing short of phenomenal.

We learned that there is a sort of sub-culture where bikers go from state to state participating in multi-day rides like the BRAT. Many of them know each other strictly from biking and maybe only by their biking moniker. They look forward to the different rides oftentimes just to meet up with some old friends they haven't seen since the previous years ride. We talked to one couple that took their soon-to-be-retired boss up on an offer for 2 weeks vacation if they got married. They had their ceremony in a bike shop and spent their 2-week honeymoon biking from Ohio to Maine. There was the "RAT" pact, Recumbents Across Texas, with their own trailer full of supplies and support. And The Whiners, a group of co-workers sharing several tandem bikes. There's the widower who had made a pact with himself after his wife's death to ride in all 50 states. He was on number 42 this week and headed to Arkansas for number 43 the next. There's no doubt in my mind that he will accomplish his goal by this time next year.

My favorite conversation had to have been with the group of 70 and 80 something. They could put many of us 40 and 50 somethings to shame. They were some of the first out of bed, the first to camp, the best prepared and, usually, the most modest. They had the most miles and some of the funniest stories. They played harmless practical jokes on each other and, with all the camaraderie; you would think they all came together. But, like many of the other riders, they generally only knew each other through biking.

I have not had many heroines in my life, but I have a new one now. She's all of 100 pounds (wet), a lean, mean machine who's been across the U.S. on a bike three times and has lost count of the many states shes ridden in. I mentioned having given up on a long-standing goal of riding across the U.S. and just being glad to have done the BRAT now. While her simple words of "don't give up on it, you're so young!" were very encouraging, the fact that she completed her first ride across the US after retiring at the age of 65 is something that has shifted my whole way of thinking, or should I say hoping and planning. She's 81 now, and when asked to comment on their friend who had passed, she would only say "He was lucky. He died doing what he loved!"

So now I look forward to my next BRAT or Iowa or Georgia or maybe even Colorado, but my real plans are for the rekindled dream of tipping my rear wheel into the Atlantic and my front wheel into the Pacific sometime down the road. Here's to all my new, best friends from the BRAT!



## *TGEI/TGMI Merchandise Pick-up Event*

TRICOR hosted an open house February 10th for alumni to pick up the TGEI/TGMI branded merchandise they had ordered through TRICOR.

Between 3:00 to 4:00 PM people stopped by to enjoy light refreshment, see alumni from different classes and view the many items in TRICOR's showroom. TRICOR provides good and services to state agencies at competitive prices.



Charles Alvis, Melvin Jones, Belinda Bolton, Rick Brown,  
Dorothy McCrady, Bill Harmon



Chuck Holland, Dorothy McCrady, Belinda Bolton



**Spotlight  
Article**

**Susan Gullette**

Susan is the Assistant Director of Property Assessment for the Comptroller's Office. As Assistant Director Susan manages and oversees the assessment of systems, tax relief programs, appraisal training programs, and the daily divisional administrative responsibilities.



Susan was born and grew up in Big Springs, Texas. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Computer Information Systems, from Middle Tennessee State University. She enjoys walking and traveling.

**MOST MEMORABLE TGMI EXPERIENCE:** "The 'Great Race' was incredible. We had a perfect day for this outside activity. Our team was so supportive of one another as we faced challenges beyond our comfort zone. On this day, I realized I had met 28 people that would remain my dear friends for life."

**WISHES FOR NEW TGMI MEMBERS:** "Participate in all activities associated with your 2 weeks in TGMI. Leave your job responsibilities behind and completely immerse yourself in TGMI! It will be 2 weeks that you will never forget!"

**WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD BE DOING:** "Work related: I love my job and can't imagine working anywhere else. My job seems to have different challenges and opportunities everyday! Personally: I would love to be able to walk on the beach everyday with my husband and watch the sun set over the ocean."

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## **Promotions Since TGMI**

The First Class of TGMI started in 2000 and since then 5 Classes have completed the program bringing the current membership of alumni to 150 members. Several of those who went through TGMI have left State Government either for other opportunities or retirement.

But how many have received promotions since completing the TGMI program?

Through the help of the Class Reporters a count was compiled to see what percentage of TGMI graduates have achieved a promotion since their TGMI experience. Twenty-six members of TGMI have been promoted, which would constitute a percentage rate of 17.3 of the total alumni membership.

Although this overall percentage may seem small compared to the total alumni membership, it is significantly higher when you take into consideration the number of alumni who are no longer with the State.

Of the 26 promoted, here are a couple of testimonies from those who thought TGMI assisted in their promotions.

*"I was in the Class of 2001 and was promoted from a manager to a director in January 2004. I think my supervisor (who attended TGEI) saw the value of the experience and training associated with TGMI and felt that I could handle the challenge."  
- Susie Tucker*

*"My TGMI experience was highly beneficial in my promotion. Not only was I promoted to Director but also I was groomed to help create a new Division to manage. Now I sit on Committees with TGEI alumni and I am every bit as prepared as they are to assist and make decision that help drive the Agency." - Donna Duarte*

## 2000 Class Notes

*Mark Tummons* was promoted to Director of Recreation Educational Services at the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation on March 1, 2005. In his twenty year career, Mark has served ten years as the Parks and Recreation Technical Assistance Manager and most recently as the RES Division's Assistant Director. Mark's responsibilities with the statewide Parks and Recreation Technical Advisory Service (PARTAS) will focus on research, training and developing or enhancing parks and recreation delivery systems statewide. He and his staff will assist and advise local parks and recreation departments, private organizations and agencies. They manage five grant programs that average \$18 million per year and requires a match from other public or private dollars. Congratulations Mark!

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## 2001 Class Notes

'*THY LIGHT IS COME*', an organ, choral and brass composition by Nashville composer, David P. Sartor, husband of TGMI 2001 graduate, *Nancy Sartor*, was prominently showcased in our nation's capital during the 2004 Christmas season. The piece was performed three times, December 11, 12, and 13, 2004, to a total audience of 10,000 at Washington National Cathedral by the 240-voice Cathedral Choral Society with the Washington Brass, timpani and organ, conducted by Dr. J. Reilly Lewis.



Sartor's festive composition was the concluding work on each of the Choral Society's critically acclaimed "The Joy of Christmas" concerts, which also included the world premiere of Libby Larsen's *The Shepherds and the Angels* (in English and Aramaic), and *We Sing Thy Birth* by Stephen Paulus.

Sartor was on hand for the first two performances on December 11th and 12th. Prior to each concert he addressed audience members and also participated in a lively panel discussion with composer Libby Larsen and CCS Chorus Master Christine Shuart, moderated by WGMS / WTOP's "Man About Town" Bob Madigan.

*Greg Duncan* was awarded the 2005 Professional Engineer in Government Award by the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers.

*Chas Taplin* and his family are living in the City of Hope in Cambodia for the next year. Chas's wife took a nursing position there and the family up and moved with her. They hope to be back here within the next year but this is truly a rewarding experience for both Chas and his family.

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## 2002 Class Notes

*Dorothy McCrady* received her bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University on Saturday, May 7, 2005. Dorothy decided to go back and finish her degree that she started many years ago. Also, Dorothy's son James A. McCrady, II (Tony) received his bachelors degree from "The Holy Hill" American Baptist College (Seminary) on Monday, May 9, 2005.

## 2003 Class Notes

*Brenda Apple* has been selected to serve as Regional Director, Environmental Field Services for TDEC. This will be in addition to her normal duties as Director of the Nashville Environmental Field Office. The appointment is scheduled for a six month period. "This opportunity will supply lots of good experience," according to Brenda.

Congratulations are in order for 2003 Class President, *Martin Toth*. He was married on Saturday, May 28, here in Nashville. His bride is Kristen Leigh Arwood.

*Martin Toth*, chief boiler inspector in the Boilers & Elevators division, was elected member-at-large to the Board of Trustees of the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors at the association's national convention last week. The National Board membership consists of all the Chief Boiler Inspectors from North America (the U.S. & Canada) and was created in 1919 to promote greater safety to life and property through uniformity in the construction, installation, repair, maintenance, and inspection of boilers and pressure vessels. Martin, as a member-at-large, will be part of the seven-member board that will provide direction to the National Board in its exercised power, business affairs, and property management. He is currently the youngest member of both the National Board and the Board of Trustees.

*Verna Norris* has retired since our last newsletter. As of December 31, 2004, she had logged thirty years and eight months with state government. Her most recent position was with DMRS Human Resources. A forwarding number is not currently available, but will be included in our next issue.

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## 2004 Class Notes

Along with *Lisa Knight* and *Scott Pierce*, four more of our classmates have received promotions since last year. *Gail Camp* - is now Assistant Director of Fiscal Operations in General Services. *Susan Gullette* - was promoted to Assistant Director for the Division of Property Assessment, Office of the Comptroller. *Sherry Hankins* - was promoted to GIS Tech Manager 2 in Transportation. *Robert "Rockin" Wright* - was promoted to Fiscal Director 1 at the Military Department. In case you've been wondering our Blackhawk is still in Iraq. Robert's children are involved in soccer, dance competition, cheerleading and gymnastics. How we know that he maintains his Energizer Bunny stamina to keep up with all this activity. Go Robert!

On a sad note, *Gail Camp* reported the passing of her father in February.

*Linda Biek* was selected to serve as Chair of the 2006 Decorators' Show House for the Junior League of Nashville. That organization does wonderful work for our community so plan on attending this year to show your support of a good cause.

## Mark your calendar For Upcoming Events

Dates for Class of 2005

Tennessee Government Management Institute

Class of 2005

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Week 1 – June 12-17, 2005

Week 2 – July 10-15, 2005

