

**Tennessee  
Leadership**



**A Strategic  
Advantage**

A quarterly newsletter issued by Tennessee Government Executive Institute alumni

September 2006

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## *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TGI Golf Tournament August 24, 2006*

By all accounts the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual TGI Golf Tournament was a success. The TGEI steering committee's goal for this year's tournament was to put together an enjoyable event that would foster networking among fellow TGEI and TGMI alumni. The committee was uncertain whether or not we could generate a larger participation level than last year's event. Therefore, we were pleasantly surprised as the event continues to grow – this year we had thirty-one participants (almost double the size at our 1<sup>st</sup> event). Going forward, it is the committee's desire to continue to grow this event to potentially raise money for the TGI endowment. Many thanks go to the participants, volunteers, and our friends at TRICOR for making this event such a success.

All in all for the month of August the weather was pleasant and all participants seemed to readily enjoy themselves despite having to chase those little white balls around Harpeth Hills Golf Course in 90+ degree weather. Play began at high noon on Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup> with players stepping to the tee with a lofty goal of exceeding last year's winners.

After an official tabulation and posting of the team scores by a reputable, independent, objective party, Ralph Duke – a member of last year's winning team, the winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual TGI golf tournament were determined. The team of Ted Fellman, Joe Werner, Buddy Lea and Ron Maupin took the title from the field with a blistering score of 62 (10 under par). Each of them received a round of golf at Harpeth Hills Golf Course. Hopefully we will be allowed to return to next year's event to defend the crown, but the votes are still out.

When it was all said and done, five of the eight teams completed their rounds under par with the following players taking home individual titles in the ladies' and men's competitions:

<i>Longest drive</i>	Vickie Stanfill	Joe Werner
<i>Closest to the pin</i>	Samantha Law	Jeff Owens

A final thanks again to all the participants and volunteers. Many are already looking forward to next year's event. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual TGI Golf Tournament is shaping up to be more fun than last. Be sure and make plans to be there.

Ron Maupin  
Class of 2000

Joe Swinford  
Class of 2003



**Winner of the 2nd Tournament**

# *TGEI Brown Bag*

TGEI held its first Brown Bag Lunch series for 2006 on May 16, 2006, and it was a great success. Forty TGEI and TGMI alumni attended the luncheon and were excited to learn about Comptroller John Morgan's new education proposal and ways to finance education in Tennessee.

Mr. Morgan discussed the areas in which Tennessee has been successful. The state established a culture and structure of accountability for school systems and classroom performance which was built on local decision making. The state provided for appointed superintendents and improved student/teacher ratios in the early to middle grades and, Tennessee provided more classroom resources and technology as well as improved equalization. In hindsight, Mr. Morgan recognizes what the state did wrong. Tennessee has an input-driven formula, provides minimal improvements in upper grades, relies too heavily on local funding, and understates costs (e.g., English language learners, at-risk kids, professional development, and classroom materials). Tennessee has also been ineffective with its on-going review of the formula, and it has been difficult to change when changes are needed. From this information, certain insights have been gained, and barriers to success have been identified. Barriers include no shared vision by political leaders and the public, low educational standards, ineffective governmental accountability structure, effort vs. capacity arguments, insufficient resources at the state and local levels, and a single salary schedule for teachers.

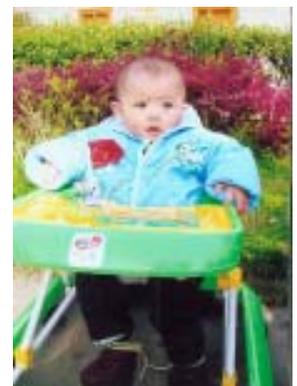
Comptroller Morgan suggests there is a new way to approach education. The way to begin is to build a funding formula around the cost of achieving desired outcomes and to establish clear lines of accountability. Also, provide the right resources and demand performance at high levels of student learning. And finally, use the statewide tax base to address a statewide issue. Examples of what can be done are the change the method of how we equalize state and local funding to reflect available tax bases, and make funding of education a state government responsibility. The state needs to fully fund the Pre-K program (\$268.7 million), reduce class size and student/teacher ratios, fund professional development for teachers, fund teachers' salaries at 95% of the national average (est. \$45,363), create 1 position for every 50 at-risk students at high at-risk centers, and create additional math and science positions to serve grades 9-12 for every 500 kids in each school. Mr. Morgan quotes Bill Gates from a February 26, 2005 speech to the National Governors Association saying, "For the sake of our young people and everyone who will depend on them – we must stop rationing education in American."

Everyone who attended this luncheon was enlightened and moved to learn about the needs of our state's education system. We recognize that this was a busy time of year for Mr. Morgan, and we are greatly appreciative of his time and efforts to speak to our group.

The next Brown Bag luncheon will be held on September 12th, 11:30 at TEMA 3401 Sidco Drive, Nashville. Eddie Boatwright, Deputy Directory will lead the group on a tour of the "pit".

## *Karen Hale Class of 2004 has new family member*

NAME: Cen Li Yan (Sen Lee Yon)  
DOB: September 1, 2005  
HEIGHT: 25.59" as of April 4, 2006  
WEIGHT: 16.28 lbs. as of April 4, 2006  
SWI: HengFeng SWI (although she's been in foster care since  
PROVINCE: Jiangxi  
COUNTRY: China



day one)



*Spotlight  
Article:  
George Zukotynski  
Class of 2004*

Dr. George Zukotynski was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. (Tony Soprano drives by his exit at the beginning credits for the HBO show, “The Sopranos.”) He has an undergraduate degree in Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a masters in Clinical Psychology from Texas A&M, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Notre Dame. He is a licensed practicing psychologist in North Carolina and Texas and has provided services in Indiana, North Carolina, and Texas. Over the last 25 years, he has worked with people with mental retardation who have mental health disorders and dangerous behavior such as aggression and self-injury. His orientation is to help people develop self-management skills by using behavior techniques. He is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

His journey in Tennessee began about nine years ago. He worked as the chief behavior analyst at Clover Bottom his first year here. He is currently the state director of behavior services. As state director, he is responsible for various policies, quality assurance, training, and approval of behavior providers.

His wife, Pam, is from Texas, and is a teacher in an alternative school. They have two daughters, Christine and Megan, both attending Middle Tennessee State University. Christine is finishing her masters in Early Childhood Special Education and Megan is finishing her undergraduate degree in Graphic Arts. He attempts to play the saxophone, enjoys working in the yard, and likes being with his dogs. They currently have four dogs: a Yorkshire Terrier, Cairn Terrier, Dachshund, and Chihuahua. He likes teaching and does a great deal of teaching about behavior services throughout the state. He also teaches at MTSU.

He has worked in various state governments for over 25 years in North Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee. He feels very fortunate to have participated in the TGEI program, and it has been exciting to learn about state government and to gain new insights about management in the public sector. It has been fun getting to know the people in his class. Dr. Zukotynski has been impressed by the knowledge, skills, and dedication of TGEI alumni.



# 50 Years of Interstates

Ralph Comer represented Tennessee in a National Convoy celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Interstate System. The convoy is retracing, in reverse, the route of the 1919 First Transcontinental Motor Train, an arduous journey of 3,250 miles from Washington, D.C. to San Francisco which included then Lieutenant Colonel Dwight David Eisenhower. Traveling the Lincoln Highway, now the route of Interstate 80, the journey forged in Eisenhower's mind the need for an interstate highway system. As President, Eisenhower would sign the legislation making the Interstates a reality on June 29, 1956. Fifty years to the day later, the convoy arrived in Washington, D.C., where a media event took place near the very same Zero Milestone from which the 1919 convoy departed.

The 2006 convoy began in San Francisco Friday, June 16th. Ralph joined the group in Chicago on Sunday, June 25th and traveled to South Bend, Indiana and on to Akron, Ohio before returning to Nashville.

You can trace the convoy's travels as well as read fascinating information at the official website:

<http://interstate50th.org/>. Click on the square map in the upper left corner (GPS Tracking) to follow the path of the convoy.

Merrill Eisenhower Atwater, great-grandson of President Eisenhower accompanied the group and kept a daily blog, which is on-line and in the Eisenhower Library. Andrew Firestone (of "The Bachelor" fame) and great-grandson of Harvey Firestone also accompanied the convoy and hosted a dinner for the participants on Monday night in Akron. The Firestone family championed the need for the interstate system and provided tires for the 1919 expedition.

Ralph drove a 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid with a sign proclaiming, "Tennessee - Home of U.S. Senator Albert Gore Sr., Author of the 1956 Interstate Legislation."



**Heading out in the 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid**



**With Dan McNichol, author of the book "The Roads that Built America" and his 1951 Hudson, which went from Boston to San Francisco to Washington, DC.**



**With Merrill Eisenhower Atwater great grandson of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower**



**With Andrew Firestone, great grandson of Harvey Firestone, at the Firestone Headquarters in Akron, Ohio. Here we were served fried chicken just as the Firestone family did in 1919 with the original convoy.**



**The Firestone Truck with Eisenhower's photo**

## *Reconciliation Ministries*

On Saturday, March 18, about 40 volunteers 10 from the Nashville area participated in the Extreme Makeover kickoff for Reconciliation Ministries. TGEI and TGMI alumni joined the volunteers. The group stripped wallpaper, cleaned curtains and linens, organized, scrubbed, sanded, pulled weeds, trimmed and pulled up shrubbery, raked leaves, picked up garbage and even power-washed the outside. It was an overwhelming success, and everyone worked together to prep the house for painting and the next team of volunteers: the Re-Designing Women

and Heavenly Helpers.

The completed project resulted in a beautiful, refreshed guest house that will be temporary haven for family members who are visiting an incarcerated loved one. This is a stressful situation that takes it's toll on everyone involved, especially the children. The volunteers from TGMI and TGEI did a tremendous job in showing these people that we care. A special thanks goes to Brenda Apple, Linda Biek, Rick Brown, Greg Duncan, Yvonne Holbert, Chuck Holland, Rusty Lacy, Saya Qualls, Marty Toth, and Jon Zirkle.



Several members of the **Class of 2004** (best class ever) meet for lunch at Speaker's Restaurant located inside Sheraton Downtown every other month and schedule after-hours social events for the alternate months. Here are some of the participants from the Spring luncheon.

### **Mark Your Calendars**

TGEI Class of 2006

Week Two - September 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

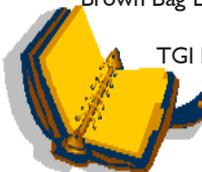
Week Three - October 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>

Graduation - November 14<sup>th</sup>

Brown Bag Luncheon - September 12<sup>th</sup>

TGI Fall Conference - November 2<sup>nd</sup>

TGEI Holiday Breakfast -  
December 12<sup>th</sup>





## **Class of 1987**

**Ethel Detch** is serving on the Executive Committee of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, a staff section of the National Conference.

**Carolyn J. Mills West** got married, changed jobs, and moved to Knoxville. She is now the DHS Family Assistance District Director in Knoxville, District 2. She is really enjoying all the changes and has declared fishing as her new favorite pastime.

**Kent Taylor** attended the National Scouting Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia with his son, Gray, as one of the conservation staff members. He is also in the process of purchasing 50 acres on the Cumberland Plateau for a summertime retreat. He and his family are planning to move to Woodmont Boulevard this summer. Therefore, Kent has a great deal for you if you are looking for a home in Brentwood!

## **Class of 1991**

**Gayle Barbee** created a DVD from some of the original video taken during the 1991 class experience. This should be exciting for the Class of 1991 to see.

**Ted Fellman**, was recently promoted to executive director of the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. Congratulations Ted!

**Carl Hill**, who was the first president of the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the Association of Fraud Examiners, was recently spotted at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fraud Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

## **Class of 2001**

**John Gregory** received the 2005 Land Conservationist of the Year award from the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. The award recognized John's efforts and successes in land acquisitions for public recreation and wildlife habitat and overall management of forestry program lands. Way to go, "Big John!"

**Lynn McDonald**, chief executive officer for Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, was featured in a January 2006 article in the *American Journal of Nursing*. The article entitled, "Voices for the Voiceless" featured Lynn and several other nurses who work in TDMHDD leadership positions including Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts, Dr. Freida Hopkins Outlaw, and Candace Gilligan. Lynn, you make us proud!

## **Class of 2002**

On April 17th **Susan Cowden**, was appointed Administrator for Employment and Workforce Development with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

## **Class of 2004**

**Dr. Andrea Willis** was recently named Executive Director of Tennessee's new CoverKids program. CoverKids is one of the innovative health care programs proposed by Governor Bredesen earlier this year as part of his comprehensive health reform package. When the Governor was looking for the right person to head up this very important health plan for Tennessee's uninsured children he selected our own actor-turned physician Andrea Willis. CoverKids will start enrolling uninsured children in this new health plan November 1, with coverage to begin January 1. Once again a member from the Class of 2004 has been tapped to lead a vital program serving citizens of Tennessee. Congratulations and best wishes to Andrea.

**William Benson**, who serves on the board of the Tennessee Alliance for Drug Endangered Children, is busy planning the third annual National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children Conference at the Opryland Hotel on October 30, 2006 through November 1, 2006.

## **Class of 2005**

**Trent Ridley** became the chief financial officer at Tennessee Housing Development Agency on June 1st. He will have responsibilities over the areas of accounting and financial reporting, procurement, administrative services, cash and debt management, and technology. Congratulations Trent!

**Joe Kimery**, Comptroller of the Treasury, was promoted to assistant director of the Division of County Audit. In his new role, he will be in charge of financial and compliance audits. On a personal note, he also got a new grandson in January.

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# ***TGEI Class Reporters for 2006***

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The newsletter staff is always looking for updates, stories, good news, etc., on our fellow alumni. In order to accomplish this, we utilize "Class Reporters" representing every one of the TGEI Classes. The reporters for 2004 will be contacting you via e-mail, telephone or in person to pick your brain on any information you might have regarding fellow classmates as well as your own update. Please contribute information because your input is what makes this network so very viable. Listed below are the latest class reporters:

<b>Class Year</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>
1983	Robert Bumbalough	615-313-4715	<a href="mailto:Robert.Bumbalough@state.tn.us">Robert.Bumbalough@state.tn.us</a>
1984	Ken Becker	615-741-3461	<a href="mailto:Ken.Becker@state.tn.us">Ken.Becker@state.tn.us</a>
1985	Marva Bradford	615-741-8635	<a href="mailto:Marva.Bradford@state.tn.us">Marva.Bradford@state.tn.us</a>
1986	Pat Dishman	615-741-8267	<a href="mailto:Patricia.Dishman@state.tn.us">Patricia.Dishman@state.tn.us</a>
1987	Carolyn J. West	865-594-7034	<a href="mailto:Carolyn.J.West@state.tn.us">Carolyn.J.West@state.tn.us</a>
1988	Bill McClanahan	Retired	<a href="mailto:gg.mc@comcast.net">gg.mc@comcast.net</a>
1989	Pat Totty	615-253-6179	<a href="mailto:Patricia.Totty@state.tn.us">Patricia.Totty@state.tn.us</a>
1990	John Casey	615-532-1284	<a href="mailto:John.Casey@state.tn.us">John.Casey@state.tn.us</a>
1991	Ron Erickson	615-741-6548	<a href="mailto:Ronald.Erickson@state.tn.us">Ronald.Erickson@state.tn.us</a>
1993	Brenda Clark	615-741-2107	<a href="mailto:Brenda.Clark@state.tn.us">Brenda.Clark@state.tn.us</a>
1994	Robert Barlow	615-741-8285	<a href="mailto:Robert.Barlow@state.tn.us">Robert.Barlow@state.tn.us</a>
1996	Quincy Styke	615-532-0562	<a href="mailto:Quincy.Styke@state.tn.us">Quincy.Styke@state.tn.us</a>
1997	Cathy Posey	615-253-8094	<a href="mailto:Catherine.Posey@state.tn.us">Catherine.Posey@state.tn.us</a>
1998	Gary Godsey	615-253-4296	<a href="mailto:Gary.Godsey@state.tn.us">Gary.Godsey@state.tn.us</a>
1999	Sue Quick	615-837-5049	<a href="mailto:Sue.Quick2@state.tn.us">Sue.Quick2@state.tn.us</a>
2000	Barbara Charlet	615-532-5959	<a href="mailto:Barbara.Charlet@state.tn.us">Barbara.Charlet@state.tn.us</a>
2001	Deborah Wallace Copeland	404-651-6431	<a href="mailto:dcopeland@oig.ga.gov">dcopeland@oig.ga.gov</a>
2002	Jean Stone	615 741-2094 Ext. 198	<a href="mailto:Jean.A.Stone@state.tn.us">Jean.A.Stone@state.tn.us</a>
2003	Carol Freeman	615 781-6639	<a href="mailto:Carol.Freeman@state.tn.us">Carol.Freeman@state.tn.us</a>
2004	Michael Thomason	615 741-1857	<a href="mailto:Michael.Thomason@state.tn.us">Michael.Thomason@state.tn.us</a>
2005	Dawn Darden	615 253-0045	<a href="mailto:Dawn.Darden@state.tn.us">Dawn.Darden@state.tn.us</a>

## **TGEI Alumni Network Mission Statement**

To Enhance the effectiveness of executives in Tennessee State Government through education, fostering personal networking strategies, developing new leaders and practical application of principles of contemporary management philosophies.