

**Tennessee  
Leadership**



**A Strategic  
Advantage**

A quarterly newsletter issued by Tennessee Government Executive Institute alumni

March 2004

**2004  
Steering Committee**

**Chairperson  
Thomas Chester 1994**

**Vice Chairperson  
Susan Cowden 2002**

**Past Chairperson  
Chuck Pitt 2000**

**2003 Members  
Roland Colson  
Reagan Farr  
Joe Swinford**

**2002 Members  
Gabrielle Chapman  
Alvin Pearson  
Joe Werner**

**At Large Members  
Barbara Charlet 2000  
Buddy Lea 1999  
Glenda Shearon 1993  
Brenda White 1990**

**Ex-Officio Members  
Lynn Goodman 2002**

**Newsletter Editor  
Susan Cowden 2002**

**Graphic Designer  
Sharon Buwalda**

***Commissioner Camp Spearheads Endowment  
for TGEI/TGMI Programs***

What do you get when you combine a state budget crisis with the Commissioner of the Department of Personnel? You get an endowment that will ensure that the Tennessee Government Institute, including the Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI) and Tennessee Government Management Institute (TGMI), will survive future budget crises and changes in administrations.

In Commissioner Randy Camp's first few weeks on the job in 2003, he was inundated with request by program alumni to continue the TGMI and TGEI programs. This request would not seem unusual except when faced with a nine percent budget cut, Camp had a tough decision to make. The two partners for TGEI and TGMI - the Tennessee Department of Personnel and UT Institute for Public Services collaborated to ensure that the programs would continue in 2003.

In an effort to learn all he could about the programs offered by the Department of Personnel, Camp made a three week commitment to be a participant in the Tennessee Government Executive Institute. He was so moved by the content of the program that he pledged to work to ensure that TGEI and TGMI would not be affected by future budget challenges. He proposed creating an endowment that would fund these programs in the future. Working with UT's Mary Taylor and Linda Davidson, Camp developed a preliminary plan for funding the endowment.

"The bottom line is, governors come and go . . . commissioners come and go . . . but dedicated state employees stay and make government what it should be . . . a service to the people. And if they are going to serve the people well, they should be provided every tool available to perform their job," said Camp.

"My vision is for TGI to set the standard by which state government employee training is measured . . . to be the program all others look to . . . to assure that we perform at a level no other entity can attain."

Sadly, during the third and final week of TGEI in October, Camp lost his father, Billy Camp of West Tennessee. While facing this most difficult time, Camp turned this heart-breaking experience into an opportunity by requesting donations be made in his father's name to the TGI endowment.



As a result, the class of 2003 pledged in excess of \$2,300, and a group of West Tennessee business leaders represented by Dennis Henderson pledged \$25,000.

"We are so honored to be working with Commissioner Camp to fund this endowment with gifts in memory of his father," said Mary Taylor. Thank you, Commissioner Camp, for your commitment to excellence and to your commitment to the employees of the State of Tennessee.



***Spotlight  
Article:  
Reagan Farr  
Class of 2003***

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**Reagan Farr, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Revenue**

Serving as deputy commissioner for the Tennessee Department of Revenue didn't appear in Reagan Farr's crystal ball. However, when newly appointed Revenue Commissioner Loren L. Chumley asked Reagan to join her management team, he signed on as the department's assistant commissioner of tax administration in January 2003. Reagan saw this position as an opportunity to serve the public and effect positive change. Commissioner Chumley knew Reagan would bring a unique customer-oriented perspective to the agency in his oversight of the Audit, Taxpayer Services and Legal Divisions, and he did. In fact, Reagan's contributions as assistant commissioner resulted in a promotion to deputy commissioner by Commissioner Chumley a year later, in February 2004. He continues to be the primary contact with the Governor's Office regarding policy issues and plays a principal role in working with the General Assembly on legislative matters.

This past summer, Reagan was selected to participate in the 2003 Class of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute (TGEI). Through his TGEI experience, Reagan gained new insights into leadership principles and practices, networked with other state government professionals, analyzed trends in business, and assessed his own work and leadership styles.

Thanks to TGEI's leadership and team-building activities, Reagan returned to Revenue with renewed enthusiasm for serving the citizens of Tennessee and with even more ideas for positive changes for the department. TGEI benefited him not only professionally but also personally. He maintains frequent contact with many of his TGEI classmates. Reagan wholeheartedly supports TGEI and looks forward to its bright future of continued leadership training for Tennessee's executive staff members.

Reagan is thrilled that he has been given the opportunity to work for the citizens of Tennessee and although working in state government can be a challenge, it is a challenge that Reagan enjoys. His work allows him to use his tax knowledge and expertise and his understanding of customer service to serve the state's taxpayers. Reagan is passionate about the part he plays in enhancing the Department of Revenue's services and customer outreach and promoting the many benefits of TGEI.

Reagan recently married and he and his wife, Jessica, live in East Nashville. He previously served as a manager with Ernest & Young, where he practiced in the state and local tax arena for five years. Reagan earned a law degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C., and a bachelor's degree in economics from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La.



## Class News

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### Class of 2000

**Barbara Charlet** - TGEI Steering Committee Member and web master, has transferred from the Department of Corrections to the Department of Mental Retardation as Information Technology Director.

### Class of 2001

As announced in the previous newsletter, **Debbie Copeland** - (class reporter for 2001) recently moved to Georgia to work for the Investigator General. We are thrilled that she plans to continue to serve as the class reporter. Her new web site address has been updated on Page 4, so class members, please take note and continue to send her updates.

**Angela Baird** - started the new year off right with a promotion. She is now the Assistant Chief Officer for Residential Services at Clover Bottom Development Center.

**Jules Marquart** - is now working in the Administrative Office of the Courts, directing the Court Improvement Program statewide re-assessment. This involves doing juvenile court case file reviews, court observations, and interviews and focus groups in seven counties. Additionally, she conducts surveys of judges, court staff, DSC staff, guardians ad litem, CASA, foster care review boards, foster parents, and foster youth.

### Class of 2002

**Susan Cowden** - TGEI Steering Committee Vice-Chair, was recently promoted to Director of Family Assistance with Human Services. In this position she provides oversight and management for Families First, Food Stamps, Medicaid and TennCare eligibility and Electronic Benefit Transfer.

**Ray Farris** - recently left the Department of Environment and Conservation as Director of Professional Standards and has accepted a position with the Department of Safety. He started on December 1st as a legal instructor at the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Congratulations, Ray!

Please keep **Jeff Wilson** in your thoughts and prayers. He has been on medical leave for a couple of months and is greatly missed by his friends and colleagues. Jeff, we hope you are back soon!

### Class of 2003

**Russ Cotney** - has been promoted to Brigadier General. The U.S. Senate confirmed his promotion on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The ceremony took place at the 118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Berry Field in Nashville on Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

**Toni Stuart** - has been promoted. She is now an attorney in General Services legal office. Congratulations to Toni.



Want to keep up to date on TGEI events and happenings? Do this by making sure you have updated your information in the TGEI Alumni Directory. If you can't remember your password or need assistance you may contact Sharon Buwalda by phone 615.741.5622 or e-mail [sharon.buwalda@state.tn.us](mailto:sharon.buwalda@state.tn.us)

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## ***2003 Events a Great Success***

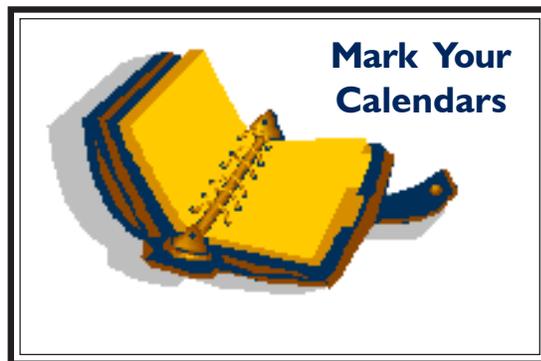
### **Alumni Fall Conference**

This year's TGI Fall Conference was a great success. On October 30, 2003 two hundred forty three (243) alumni and speakers gathered at the Main Library Downtown for a day of professional development and overview of the goals of the new Governor's administration. Key speakers included Commissioner Randy C. Camp, Director Larry Wallace, Commissioner Ken Givens, Commissioner David Goetz, Commissioner Gwendolyn Sims Davis, Commissioner Kenneth D. Robinson, M.D., and Tom Ballard with University of Tennessee. Many thanks to the Steering Committee members who worked very hard to provide this exciting opportunity to the conference participants.

### **Holiday Breakfast/20 Year Celebration**

This year's Holiday Breakfast was once again held at the Ellington Agricultural Center on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was excellent, with over one hundred twenty five (125) alumni participating. This year the charity of choice was St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis. Over \$2,700 was raised to benefit the hospital.

This year's event not only celebrated the holiday season, the breakfast commemorated the 20 year anniversary of TGEI. A memorable power point presentation scanning 20 years was shown. Special guests included several members of the Class of 1983 and George Bass, former Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Personnel. The 129th Army Band Jazz Combo entertained with holiday sounds and a letter of congratulations from Senator Lamar Alexander was read. Thanks to all who made this past year's Holiday Breakfast Event such a special morning!



#### **TGEI Class Dates**

Letters of invitation go out April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Nomination Deadline - May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Class Selected and Announced - June 18<sup>th</sup>  
Orientation - July 29<sup>th</sup>

Week One - August 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>  
Week Two - September 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>  
Week Three - October 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **TGMI Class Dates**

Orientation - May 25<sup>th</sup>  
June 13<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>  
July 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

# *TGEI Class Reporters for 2004*

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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:rbumbalough@state.tn.us">rbumbalough@state.tn.us</a>
1984	Ken Becker	615-741-3461	<a href="mailto:kbecker@state.tn.us">kbecker@state.tn.us</a>
1985	Marva Bradford	615-741-8635	<a href="mailto:mbradford@state.tn.us">mbradford@state.tn.us</a>
1986	Gladys Wolfe	615-741-4424	<a href="mailto:gwolfe@state.tn.us">gwolfe@state.tn.us</a>
1987	Carolyn Mills	615-313-5801	<a href="mailto:cmills2@state.tn.us">cmills2@state.tn.us</a>
1988	Bill McClanahan	615-741-6400	<a href="mailto:bmccclanahan@state.tn.us">bmccclanahan@state.tn.us</a>
1989	Pat Totty	615-741-4353	<a href="mailto:ptotty@state.tn.us">ptotty@state.tn.us</a>
1990	John Casey	615-532-1284	<a href="mailto:jcasey@state.tn.us">jcasey@state.tn.us</a>
1991	Ted Fellman	615-741-1104	<a href="mailto:tfellman@state.tn.us">tfellman@state.tn.us</a>
1993	Brenda Clark	615-741-1000	<a href="mailto:bclark@state.tn.us">bclark@state.tn.us</a>
1994	Robert Barlow	615-741-8285	<a href="mailto:rbarlow@state.tn.us">rbarlow@state.tn.us</a>
1996	Quincy Styke	615-532-0562	<a href="mailto:qstyke@state.tn.us">qstyke@state.tn.us</a>
1997	Larry Richardson	615-741-3367	<a href="mailto:lrichardson@state.tn.us">lrichardson@state.tn.us</a>
1998	Gary Godsey	615-741-2087	<a href="mailto:ggodsey@state.tn.us">ggodsey@state.tn.us</a>
1999	Sue Quick	615-837-5170	<a href="mailto:squick2@state.tn.us">squick2@state.tn.us</a>
2000	Barbara Charlet	615-253-8032	<a href="mailto:bcharlet@state.tn.us">bcharlet@state.tn.us</a>
2001	Deborah Wallace Copeland	615-532-3065	<a href="mailto:dcopeland@oig.ga.gov">dcopeland@oig.ga.gov</a>
2002	Jean Stone	615 741-2687	<a href="mailto:jean.stone@state.tn.us">jean.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>

## **TGEI Alumni Network Mission Statement**

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