

TGM witness

December 2006

Semi-Annual Newsletter issued by the Tennessee Government Management Institute Alumni

Peggy T. Lewis
Named National WIC Association
President for 2006-07

The National Women Infants Children (WIC) Association is an organization that is a proactive voice that supports, inspires, and empowers the WIC community through creativity, teamwork, and leadership. Peggy T. Lewis of the TGMI Class of 2005 was elected President of this body for the year 2006-2007.

The National WIC Association's mission is to provide leadership to the WIC community in promoting quality nutrition services; advocating for services for all eligible women, infants, and children; and assuring sound and responsive management of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

The WIC Program is a federally funded program serving more than 8.2 million participants nationwide. For 32 years, WIC has helped to improve children's health, growth and development, and has prevented health problems. Nearly half of all infants in America and one quarter of all children 1-5 years of age are served by WIC. It has been proven that WIC is cost effective in saving health care costs for participating low-income families. WIC is prevention at work according to former U. S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

The TN WIC Program provides nutrition education, supplemental foods, healthcare referrals and substance abuse prevention education to 158,000 participants. Breastfeeding support and promotion are an integral part of the services provided. Tennessee's breastfeeding rate has increased from 16% to 31% in the past ten years. With the passage of a new law to protect moms who breastfeed their infants, we are encouraged that these numbers will continue to rise to help us attain the goal of 50%.

Tennessee and TGMI are well represented by Peggy and wish her great success in the coming year as president of the WIC Program in Tennessee and in heading the National WIC Association.



2006
Steering
Committee

Chairperson

Mike Travis
Class of 2002

Vice-Chairperson

Melvin Jones, Jr.
Class of 2002

Past Chairperson

Chuck Holland
Class of 2000

Class of 2005

Rusty Lacy
Lisa Pugh

Class of 2004

Saya Qualls
Susan Gullette

At-Large

Ashley Glover 2002
John Zirkle 2003

Ex-Officio

Cindy Saladin
Class of 2000

Newsletter Editor

Melvin Jones, Jr.

Graphic Designer

Sharon Buwalda

Harpeth River Canoe Ride Trash Pick-up Event

A Community Service Volunteer Activity

By Brenda Apple

Seven TGMI representatives, along with seven of their friends and family, joined together for some real fun and community service on a beautiful sunny Saturday, October 7, 2006.

Operation Clean Sweep is a weeklong event organized and promoted by Cheatham County government with TDOT sponsorship. This year, our TGMI volunteer group pitched in to help clean up a part of one of the County's rivers. **Foggy Bottom Canoe Rental** in Kingston Springs provided the volunteers with 8 canoes, including two 'trash barges', and we paddled 5-miles along a scenic section of the Harpeth River called "the Narrows" picking up plastic, glass, tires, basketballs, golf balls and other trash along the way.

While breaking for lunch Jane Polansky, Harpeth River State Park Manager, who graciously coordinated and accompanied the ride, provided interesting information, such as a history of the Montgomery Bell tunnel blasted through the bluff using slave labor and the subsequent iron foundry established on the lower end. The short walk to the canoe launch ramp provided additional opportunity for information about the nearby Indian mounds, Petra glyphs on Mace bluff, and local flora and fauna.

The steering committee provided a special bonus for this event; a \$50.00 gift certificate for the TGMI class with the most participants. Because of a tie between the classes of 2003 and 2006 with two members each, the number of friends and family brought along was used to break the tie. And the winner was the.....(drum roll please)..... **class of 2006!** The classes of 2001, 2004 and 2005 were also well represented by members, friends and family.

What an awesome job by all of the participants. We filled up a large pick-up truck with debris to haul off and, most of all, we had a great time floating the river and visiting and the weather could not have been better!

Harpeth River State Park Manager Jane Polansky summed it up beautifully when she said: "The Harpeth River is a beautiful resource and the primary source of water in Cheatham County. We are grateful to the many folks who assisted in the river clean up and to all of you who continuously protect our waterways."

(See Photos of the float down the Scenic Harpeth below. Class participants were Brenda Apple, Jon Zirkle, Ross White, Tracy White, Lisa Pugh, and Lauren Hill.)



Molly Proctor, Jon Zirkle, Angie Blackford, Joel Blackford, Jane Polansky, Ross White, Lauren Hill, Jim Gallery, Brenda Apple, Glenn Pugh, Lisa Pugh, Lisa's son Dylan Craig, Margie Dunn and her son Dillon



Lauren is the President of the TGMI Class of 2006 and will be on the TGMI Alumni Steering Committee in 2007, she is the Director of Lodging and Conferences with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conversation in the area of Tennessee State Parks Hospitality Services. She is responsible for operational services and financial accountability for all six resort park lodging and conference operations.

Lauren has a BS in Psychology and an MBA, both from the Great University of Tennessee at Martin. (Also, the editors Alma Mater and the current home to one of the top ranked football squads in NCAA Division II.) She is the youngest of five children. Her parents were married for 58 years! She has two dogs, a Golden Retriever named "Casey" and a Chocolate Lab named "Puddin'."

Lauren is a member of St Matthew's Catholic Church, South Cheatham Choral Society and other community organizations. Lauren is really involved. Though born in Sycamore, Illinois, Lauren grew up in Holly Springs, MS, which she calls, "an interesting time and place to live in the 60's with the changes that were brought about during that decade." She currently resides in Kingston Springs, TN.

Lauren says she enjoys TPAC performances, supports the symphony, getting together with her TGMI classmates, and park adventures! Golf, fishing, fly fishing, skiing, canoeing, bicycling, and hiking are some of the sporting activities she enjoys. She is also a UT and Titan football fan.

When asked the most uncommon fact about her, she said, "Nothing in particular-I think one of the greatest things we all realize-especially in the TGMI experience-is that we all have a commonality-a bond. We are all exceptional people who share the uncommon commitment to work for the good of the state of Tennessee and her people. *That* is special." Well said Lauren!

Lauren's most memorable TGMI moment: "I think the night we all ended up in the courtyard of the Chesapeake's Restaurant for dinner was a spontaneously magical night-but most memorable was Joan Cronan sharing her philosophy of success-so passionate yet so humble

in her demeanor; A remarkable person!"

The thing Lauren said she would love to be doing right now: "Standing in a crystal clear creek in the north Georgia mountains with the water rushing around boulders, sun on my face, the sounds of nature enveloping me, casting my fly fishing rod and reel and catching a rainbow trout to cook for dinner at my campsite on the shore."

Lauren's wish for new TGMI participants is for them to embrace the experience! Join without hesitation! Step outside your comfort zone and seek the strength and support of the team to which you belong! It is a truly validating and empowering experience!





Ross "Energetic E" White is the Steering Committee Electee for the Class of 2006 and will be a member of the 2007 Alumni Steering Committee. Ross is the Assistant Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Commerce & Insurance.

Ross is responsible for the management of the day to day processes of the Division, regarding consumer protection, information and the mediation process. He has 17 total years of service, 15 as an attorney with the Department, and the past two years with Consumer Affairs. Ross' educational background includes an AS from Columbia State Community College ('77), a BA from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville ('79), and JD from the University of Memphis ('86).

Ross is married to Tracy White, a member of the TGMI Class of 2004. Ross and Tracy have two children; Emily age 16 and Charlie age 5. They have two dogs; Snow, a cocker spaniel; and Domino, a schnauzer. Sounds like a full house!

When asked about his community service activities, Ross stated that he

is a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, here in Nashville and is a St. Ann's School parent. His social activities include being a member of the West Meade Swim and Tennis Club. He is a runner, and enjoys walking and tennis. He is an avid fan of the UT Vols, The Tennessee Titans, Nashville Predators, IRL racing and his son Charlie's soccer team.

Born in Lewisburg in Marshall County, Ross now calls Nashville home. A little known fact about our Mr. White is that he loves to play drums and is a former "Lawyer Drummer" in a band where all the other members were doctors. Ross most memorable TGMI moment was the Blackhawk Helicopter ride over the Smoky Mounties.

His answer when asked about his wishes for the next class of TGMI was that "(they) have a mountaintop professional learning experience which fuses with and energizes their role as managers." If he could be doing anything right now, it would be to "party with the Tigme Tribe one more time."

Ross wrapped up his statements with, "I owe a debt of gratitude to TGMI, which encouraged my heart and enabled me to recognize myself as a leader."



MAKING STRIDES IN 2006

On October 21, 2006, TGMI's Saya Qualls and Carolyn Wilson participated in the 2006 Making Strides Walk in Nashville. Saya is a survivor of Breast Cancer and an avid supporter of breast cancer research and has participated in the states annual luncheon that recognizes survivors of the disease.

Carolyn wrote after the walk, "It was a cold blustery day in the downtown area of Nashville, but the anticipation and excitement kept us warm and fired up, and of course the exercise didn't hurt

either. It was time for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer five mile walk throughout downtown Nashville. With your help, Team TGMI raised \$775.00, not counting any additional donations that may have come in "as of this writing."

She added, "Many thanks to those of you who cheered us on with your donations and to the walkers who joined us."

Notes from the Class

Class of 2000

- Steve Hawkins was appointed to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health by the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao. The committee meets 3 to 4 times per year in Washington D.C. to advise the Asst. Secretary for OSHA on construction safety and health. This is a link to the committee web page and a little more about the committee. <http://www.osha.gov/doc/accsh/backgroundandhist.html> He is one of two representatives that represent the 26 states (of which Tennessee is one) that have their own occupational safety and health program.
 - Nancy Blevins adopted her second son, Thomas (age 4) in September of this year.
 - Gary Tullock has a new granddaughter born in Phoenix, Arizona on July 6th. Her name is Delaney Jane Tullock and she is healthy and happy. Also, in October, Gary was elected to the Executive Committee of the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS). The Commission is charged with the orderly transfer and supervision of adult offenders across state lines. The Commission passes rules governing the transfer of offenders and has 54 representatives from all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico, St. Croix and the Virgin Islands.
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Class of 2002

- Dorothy McCrady will be retiring effective November 30, 2006. Her retirement plans are to serve as Church Administrator at the Tabernacle of Glory Church and to form and teach a Bible Institute/Sunday School class consisting of individuals who do not currently attend Sunday School. She says, "I'll be doing plenty non-fiction reading. She added that she has spent her entire adult life in State Service, with interruptions for marriage, two children and most recently (May 2005) completing a long overdue Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology." Dorothy says, "She firmly believes that tirelessly doing the right thing pays off, if you don't give up. TGMI 2002 was a unique experience for me and I'll forever keep the members of THE BEST CLASS EVER in my thoughts and prayers."
 - Nikki Inglis, daughter of Robin Inglis, started college this fall. She is a freshman at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. Her son Colton is a football player, wrestler, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle Leader at Page High. Youngest son Austin is a trumpet player and wrestler at Page Middle!
 - Christopher Jones, son of Melvin Jones, Jr. has enrolled as a freshman at Volunteer State Community College and is seeking a degree in Recording Industry Management.
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Class of 2003

- Martin Toth, Chief Boiler Inspector for Tennessee, and his wife, Kristen, are proud parents of a new baby girl, Madaline Grace Toth. Maddie, as she will be called, was born on Marty's birthday, August 23. The happy and healthy baby girl entered this world at 7 pounds, 13 ounces and continues to grow. "From now on it looks like princess pink birthday cakes with the words, Happy Birthday Maddie and Daddy, will be the norm in years to come. Of course her name must be first," beamed Marty.
- Jim Waters was promoted from a Civil Engineering Manager 1 to a Civil Engineering Manager 2 (Assistant Director) in TDOT's Design Division. Jim will be directly responsible for aerial surveys, ground surveys, CADD support, and Region 2 roadway design projects developed in the headquarters office. It sounds like an excellent opportunity for a brown bag lunch!

Jim is also a recent graduate of the inaugural class of the TDOT Executive Leadership Academy.

Class of 2003 (Continued)

- Beth Pendergrass, Legislative Audit Manager, has been keeping busy during her family time by coaching her son's soccer team. Beth's son, Hunter, a second grader, has also recruited his mom to be Den Mother for the Wolf Cub Scouts of Pack 74. They have many activities planned during the next few months, including a Jamboree at the Wilson County Fairgrounds.
 - Many from the Class of 2003 say they are looking forward to attending the TGMI Holiday Breakfast, scheduled for December 8, at Ellington Agricultural Center. The bluegrass group, Second Nature, fronted by 2003's own Don King, will be performing as part of the program. Don says, "I'm looking forward to it and hope to see you there!"
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Class of 2005

- Congratulations to Peggy T Lewis, Dept. of Health, for being selected to serve as the National WIC Association President for the 2006-2007 year. You can read more about her accomplishments in the body of the Newsletter. Way to go Peggy!!!
 - Congratulations to Ralph Barnes, TDOT, for his selection to attend the TDOT Executive Leadership Academy for a second year. Way to go Ralph!!!
 - Also, congratulations to Ralph Barnes, TDOT, as he celebrates the birth of a new granddaughter, Ava Kate McHenry born July 26, 2006. Ava Kate has an older sister Ella who is two years old.
 - Congratulations to Rusty Lacy for being elected to the Steering Committee of the local chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.
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Class of 2006

- Lee and Carla Farris celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary on Sunday August 27th, 2006
- John Crawford, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, had a whirlwind month in August. His daughter Amber Lee was married to Michael "Mat" Thompson on August 5, he moved his son into the dorm on August 25, and then he celebrated his birthday on the 26th!
- Susan Cook, Department of Safety, visited Chicago on vacation for an In-line Hockey Tournament in August with her husband and two sons.
- Valerie Oliver recently transferred to the Department of Commerce and Insurance where she accepted the job of Chief of Fiscal Services.
- On September 1, Greg Turner accepted a position as Budget Module Lead in Enterprise Resource Planning in the Department of Finance and Administration.

I wish the best to all of our Alumni and your families, and I would like to share an abbreviated version of something I wrote earlier this year.

I BELIEVE

*I believe in smiles on Christmas morn
In trees strung with pieces of fresh popped corn
I believe in making children smile
In seeing the goodness in every child
I believe in Grandma s power in prayer
Her appealing and feeling the elements dare
I believe that there is always more
Always a way to stand and endure
I believe that money is not the greatest thing
That love is not proven by the size of the ring
I believe in Christmas lights
In praying on my knees at night
In the knowledge that freedom is not free
In honoring those who gave their lives for you and me
I believe that children should not have to fight
Just to get what is their right
To be loved and held and made content
Before their childhood years are spent
I believe in patience as a gift
In walking together and trying to uplift
I believe in my mom and dad
Their joy in giving me what they never had
In taking away less than you give
In thanking the ones who always did
I believe that life goes on
Long after we leave this earthly home
I believe that we must stand
Protect our own and our fellow man
I believe my son is me
My joy, my boy, my legacy
I believe that songs can make you cry
Even if water never leaves your eye
I believe that you and I
Have a chance to reach beyond the sky*