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The Exchange Newsletter

Institute for Public Service (IPS)

8-2007

Exchange August 2007

Institute for Public Service

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REMOTE START FOR
MILITARY VEHICLES
SAVES TIME AND MONEY

UT DAY
ON THE HILL

NFA XVII CLOSES
WITH PARACHUTING
"ACCIDENT"



the EXCHANGE

2007

MAY
VOL. 17 - NO. 5

Special Terrorism Officers Train to Protect Citizens

Local law enforcement officers throughout the state are learning to prevent terrorism through training developed by the University of Tennessee Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC).

The Tennessee Office of Homeland Security recently implemented the new Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Program to enhance the protection of Tennessee citizens and prevent terrorism. LEIC coordinated the training in Nashville for officers from across the state. The training included recognition of pre-attack indicators and warnings of potential terrorist activity that might otherwise go unnoticed and unreported. One of the primary responsibilities of an officer is to act as a conduit to ensure suspicious activity is immediately reported to the appropriate investigative agencies.

The TLOs also trained on various aspects of the new Tennessee Intelligence Fusion Center, which will gather, analyze, and share criminal and terrorist-related intelligence across the state. Analysts authorized by the General Assembly in 2006 are undergoing extensive training

to operate the Fusion Center, which was slated to begin operations in April.

"The key to preventing future terrorist attacks is understanding how to recognize and respond to warning signs of terrorism and extremism," said Department of Safety Commissioner David Mitchell. "Detecting these signs and sharing the information with the proper agencies provide the best opportunity to prevent a terrorist act."



Commissioner Mitchell addresses the officers selected for the TLO Program.

Similar programs are on-going in a few other states and are showing positive results. The TLO training enhances partnerships between state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies and provides a proactive approach to detection and prevention as well as to broader investigations and responses to acts of terrorism. The goal of the Terrorism Liaison Officer Program is to raise the level of prevention and preparedness in Tennessee communities and to equip public safety personnel to effectively thwart terrorist organizations, their support mechanisms, and other organized criminal activities in general.

For further information about this program, contact Romeo Morrissey at (865) 946-3233.



A newsletter of
THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE
Institute for Public Service

IPS Establishes New Endowments

The Institute for Public Service (IPS) officially kicked off its version of the University of Tennessee Family Campaign in April as part of the Campaign for Tennessee, a system-wide fundraising effort that will go public next year.

IPS staff gathered on separate occasions in Jackson, Nashville, and Knoxville for a series of breakfasts at which they were asked to consider supporting UT with a financial gift. Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, president emeritus and chair of the UT Family Campaign, spoke about the importance of giving to the university and encouraged staff to participate.

Hank Dye, vice president for public and government relations, reminded IPS employees of the value of the institute's outreach efforts statewide. "IPS is the single most tangible unit of the university. You drive economic development across the state, create jobs, and build a network of real relationships with the people of Tennessee," he said. "You know it, and you show it."

Mary Jinks, associate vice president of IPS, highlighted fundraising priorities for IPS and past Family Campaign giving.

"The IPS goal of the campaign is \$3 to \$5 million," Jinks said. "The Family Campaign goal is to maximize employee participation."

(Continued on page 2)

IPS Establishes New Endowments

(Continued from page 1)

Jinks said some goals have been met already. With the past generosity of IPS staff, the Tom and Diane Ballard Excellence in Public Service and the IPS professional development endowments are now fully funded, she said. Staff members who are currently giving to these endowments can now support other funds.

One newly-established fund is the Mary and Jack Jinks Scholarship for children and grandchildren of IPS employees and retirees. The scholarship will support at least one student who's attending any UT campus and is a child or grandchild of an IPS employee. If no child is eligible, the scholarship may be given to an IPS employee. Dye announced the establishment of the fund and presented a certificate of recognition to Jinks at the Jackson breakfast.

Dye also announced the establishment of the Paula Muscatello and Bill Rodgers Local Government Internship Endowment to benefit UT students interested in a career in local government. The endowment is named in memory of Paula Muscatello, wife of Joe Muscatello of the Tennessee Municipal Bond Fund, and Bill Rodgers, former field consultant with the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS).

The internships will be with CTAS and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS). Students studying communications, finance, accounting, public administration, or other fields relating to local government will be eligible to apply. Muscatello and Cheryl Rodgers, widow of Bill Rodgers, received framed certificates. Rodgers attended the Nashville breakfast and was recognized by Mike Garland, executive director of CTAS.

As for the campaign, staff should return their pledge forms to a development representative by May 11, according to Tom Looney, IPS development director. Representatives are Romeo Morrissey, Law Enforcement Innovation Center; Warren Nevad, MTAS; Becky Peterson, Center for Industrial Services; and Ron Woody, CTAS.



Hank Dye, vice president for public and government relations, encourages IPS staff to take pride in their work.



Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, president emeritus and Family Campaign chair, talks to IPS staff in Jackson.



Dye recognizes Mary Jinks for the establishment of the Mary and Jack Jinks Endowment Scholarship.



Cheryl Rodgers receives a certificate of recognition from Mike Garland, executive director of CTAS.



Matt Weaver, Bill Stetar, and David Hall of CIS at the breakfast in Nashville



Tom Looney takes a question in Nashville.



IPS retiree Gary Baskette; Judie Martin, IPS CO; and Garland enjoy a Joe Johnson story in Jackson.



Warren Nevad and Brett Ward of MTAS visit at the Nashville event.

MEET A CIS CUSTOMER

Remote start for military vehicles saves time and money

THE CHALLENGE

The Tennessee National Guard maintains heavy trucks at the base in Tullahoma through TACOM (Tank and Automotive Command, U.S. Army). These trucks carry tanks and other heavy equipment, but they don't do it often.

Each truck has four huge, heavy batteries. Without running the trucks each week, the batteries will run down and cannot start the trucks. Besides the inefficiency of needing a jump-start, the battery life is significantly shortened each time it runs down. Plus, the personnel hours involved with this routine maintenance are costly. Imagine this cost multiplied by thousands of military trucks around the world.

Dieter Nowak, president of Micron Corporation, set out to develop technology that would solve these problems. "Starting the company with what I knew best—research—was the only way to go," says Nowak. Micron needed to create a technology with both military and commercial applications, so Nowak turned to the Procurement Technical Assistance Center (PTAC) at UT's Center for Industrial Services (CIS) for help.

THE BIG IDEA

Under contract with TACOM, Micron started developing a Smart Hybrid Power system (SHP) for military vehicles that is capable of monitoring and controlling individual components on the vehicles. All components communicate with each other wirelessly to optimize the control of power between the battery, capacitor, and various electric loads. All vehicles in a fleet are monitored and controlled by a single office-based PC, which is connected to a radio frequency (RF) base that is the size of a deck of cards. An optional antenna increases the RF range to cover fleets in large parking lots.

Then, Micron developed a system that replaces two of the \$300 batteries with one capacitor. Capacitors store energy and can discharge the energy quickly—like when a truck needs to be started.

"Our system allows us to start vehicles with the click of a mouse," exclaimed Nowak. "This frees up manpower and reduces the amount of replacement batteries needed by increasing battery life. In fact, the savings can be as high as 60 to 70 percent over the life of a vehicle," said Nowak. Plus, the trucks never run out of power.

THE NEXT STEP

It is hard to introduce such money-saving innovation to the military marketplace, even though the product was developed under a Small Business Innovation and Research (SBIR) grant.

"Assisting businesses through the maze of government contracting is what we do," said Joe Flynn, PTAC program manager.

PTAC had to help Micron find a way to manufacture enough SHPs to support government and commercial needs, perhaps as many as 10,000 per year, while the existing company has only three full-time employees. This challenge brought an opportunity for PTAC and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) to jointly assist Micron.

PTAC called upon Harding Aslinger and Misty DePriest of CIS, along with Charlie Ragland, professor of business at UT Chattanooga, to help create a business plan. "We found state funding for this part of the plan," said Flynn.

"Entrepreneurs have a vision but often no accessories to make it happen. Practical experience is what is needed. A team and small business can't do it alone. I was unaware that these services are available to me

from the state," said Nowak.

The economic impact to Micron and the surrounding community could exceed \$1 million in the first year following a purchase order, with the potential to exceed \$25 million annually.

To learn more about research and commercialization assistance, contact Joe Flynn at joe.flynn@tennessee.edu or call 1-888-763-7439.



Left to right are Joe Flynn of CIS, along with Jeremy Forbes, Erika Nowak, and Dieter Nowak of Micron Corporation.



Kemp, Jinks, Garland, Huffman, and Looney talked with visitors at UT Day on the Hill, sharing information about the positive impact IPS has across the state of Tennessee.

OUTREACH

In March, the Institute for Public Service (IPS) joined all University of Tennessee campuses and institutes for UT Day on the Hill, an annual event at which the university manifests its latest education, outreach, and public service initiatives. UT students were joined by UT leadership at 11 university displays and greeted legislators while President John Petersen visited the Tennessee House and Senate education committees. In remarks to both committees, Petersen emphasized progress in the current legislative session's budget recommendations for higher education.

"I invite you to meet the students joining us today. They are the best ambassadors of what we do for higher education in Tennessee," Petersen said. "And beyond the obvious priority of educating students, our mission includes building a new kind of economy for Tennessee—investing in a future that gives Tennessee national leadership opportunity."

While visitors to the IPS exhibit learned how the institute's outreach efforts drive Tennessee's economy, they didn't meet with any traditional 'students' of IPS.

"The institute's students are its customers—those government, industry, and law enforcement professionals who look to the university for expertise in improving government processes, perfecting business methods, and protecting our communities," said Mary Jinks, IPS associate vice president. "They are our best spokespersons."

Customers representing IPS at UT Day on the Hill were Jim Thomas, city manager of Goodlettsville; Jeff Huffman, mayor of Tipton County; and Bill Kemp, clerk of Sumner County.

IPS display graphics represented the institute's four agencies, and promotional materials for programs of each agency were available. Mike Garland, executive director of the County Technical Assistance Service, and Tom Looney, IPS development director, helped Jinks greet visitors to the IPS booth.

IPS also provided a personalized fact sheet to each member of the legislature, highlighting significant projects IPS completed in fiscal 2006 in every district of the state.



NFA's Session XVII Closes with Parachuting "Accident"



Session XVII of the National Forensic Academy (NFA) graduated on March 16, bringing the NFA's graduation total to 261 crime scene investigators from 44 different states.

As in past academies, Session XVII participants were fortunate enough to have several unique experiences, including a "hell scene" final exam in which a parachutist plunged to his death. The parachutist—none other than the NFA's fifth ballistics gelatin dummy Kosmo, complete with organs and bones from a sheep—was strapped into a real parachute rig and dropped from a height of more than 300 feet.

Following the "accident," NFA teaching associates Dr. Jamie Downs and George Weeks delivered field lectures to the class, explaining what to look for regarding trauma to a body and how to investigate a parachuting accident.

Author and NFA supporter Patricia Cornwell piloted the helicopter from which Kosmo was dropped. After the exercise, Cornwell pledged to purchase each of the Session XVII graduates an NFA class ring as a reward for their hard work during the 10-week academy.



Notice of Cancellation for IPS Staff News

The "IPS Staff News" insert that was introduced in November 2006 for IPS employees has been cancelled due to lack of submissions.

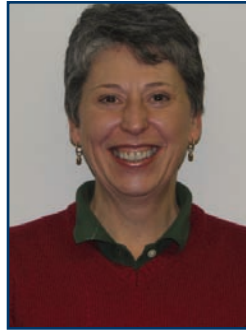
Intended to highlight personal successes of IPS staff, the newsletter did not generate enough interest to sustain publication.

IPS will continue to publish *The Exchange* each month to inform IPS employees and friends of professional, university-related accomplishments of IPS staff and to keep staff apprised of current happenings around the institute.



GET TO KNOW...

Janet Kelly MTAS



Dr. Janet Kelly joined MTAS as finance and accounting consultant in Knoxville in January 2007, but she is no stranger to the agency. She worked on a special Bingham Consultant project at MTAS just a few years ago, and she is glad to be back among friends. "I like being part of a team and working with others to solve problems, and I love working with the cities."

Kelly has a bachelor's degree in economics and received her master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina. As you might guess, her hometown is in South Carolina. She worked for the city of Charlotte and the state of South Carolina before earning her Ph.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. For 15 years, she focused on teaching and research at Clemson University and Cleveland State University. With a new interest in teaching and service, she moved away from academic research and came to MTAS.

Away from the office, Kelly loves fly-fishing. On any given weekend, you may find her at the Clinch River or another favorite fishing spot, catching fish and throwing them back.



Elizabeth Adams CTAS



Elizabeth Adams, administrative support assistant, has been with CTAS since January 2005. She stays busy responding to telephone inquiries and assisting with various projects.

Adams came to CTAS from Staffing Solutions, where she provided administrative support for various businesses in the Nashville area on a temporary basis. Before she became an administrative assistant, she worked for 15 years as a licensed aesthetician for Nashville dermatologists.

She recently passed the Certified Professional Secretary exam, and she enrolls in classes online to further improve her skills.

Her hobbies include walking, running, yoga, reading, painting, and trying new recipes.



CTAS Training Corner

County Officials Renew Certifications

Late March and early April were busy times for the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) training staff.

More than 120 county officials renewed their County Officials Certificate Training Program (COCTP) certification in March at renewal conferences in Knoxville and Jackson. In April, 25 county officials completed the Capstone training at Montgomery Bell State Park, meeting the final requirement to receive their Certified Public Administrator certification.

The COCTP provides office-specific, technical, administrative and managerial training to all county government employees. The main objectives of the COCTP are to help county officials run their offices more effectively and to provide a more comprehensive knowledge of the inner workings and functions of county government. In 1989, the Tennessee General Assembly officially recognized the COCTP and provided that county officeholders and employees who complete the program would be designated by the University of Tennessee as Certified Public Administrators.



In other training for county officials, CTAS government consultants Rick Hall and Gary Hayes taught the County Budgeting Course to more than 40 county officials in Kingsport on March 29. On April 18, CTAS offered Senior Tax Relief at County Government Day in Nashville. This course was taught by David Connor, CTAS legal consultant, and Doug Goddard, executive director of the Tennessee County Commissioner Association (TCCA). The following day, CTAS training staff offered (an enrolled in!) Stress Management, a Category B training course in Franklin.



Staff Applause

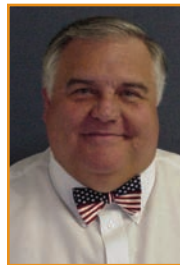


Amanda Watts

To: Amanda Watts, LEIC
From: Chris Brien, Training Officer
Gatlinburg Police Department

Ethics class instructors J.D. Sanders and Willie Williams were excellent. They were very knowledgeable in the training topic. I would like to schedule more training for next year.

★ ★ ★



Ray Crouch

To: Bob Schwartz, MTAS
From: Ray Crouch, MTAS Fire Consultant

The Fire Chief of Tracy City says they received their upgrade letter from ISO and went from a class 9 to a class 4. He credits their new rating to attending my ISO class at the State Fire Academy, following advice he received from Don Darden and me, and hard work by the volunteer Fire Department members and city officials during the past two years. Tracy City is not accustomed to being in the "Top Tier" of too many lists, but we can add them to the very few who have obtained this rating.

★ ★ ★



Nathan Lefebvre

To: Nathan Lefebvre
From: Craig Allen, Alaska State Trooper
NFA Session XVII Graduate

Your perception of how well we did together as a class is actually a reflection of your own dedicated efforts. You made it look effortless and seamless, and we could see that you enjoyed doing all that you did for us. We never discussed it as a class, but I'm sure in our collective hearts and minds, we needed to live up to the standard you established through your exemplary efforts, so as not to disappoint you. That is a quality of leadership that cannot be learned from any book or course. It is a character trait within you, and we are all better people for having spent time in your presence.

★ ★ ★



Don Darden

To: Don Darden, MTAS
From: Dr. John R. Vile, Chair
Department of Political Science
Middle Tennessee State University

I want to express my appreciation to you for speaking to our Municipal Government Class. I was informed that your subject matter, a presentation on Public Chapter 1101 and metropolitan government, was most appropriate for the subject matter currently being covered in class. Thank you for providing this public service to our department and to the university. Your experience as a city manager, county executive, and municipal consultant are resources that we seek to provide insight to our students. Thank you again for your time and effort; they are most appreciated.

★ ★ ★



Romeo Morrissey

To: Romeo Morrissey, Deidra Phillips,
and Dan Baker, LEIC
From: Andrea Curtis
On-Site Senior Reviewer, CRA, Inc.

On behalf of CRA, Inc., I want to thank each of you for your participation in the T4 on-site course review. A great deal of time and effort went into the development and review of this course and it shows! The CRA panel members provided many valuable comments to help clarify the content. I sincerely appreciate your willingness to listen with an open mind to the suggestions made by the panel members. Your team was exceptionally receptive to the comments and made the review process go smoothly. You showed an eagerness to help reach the ultimate goal of providing a stronger course to our nation's transit officers. We wish you all the best in your upcoming course deliveries.

★ ★ ★



Gary West

To: Sharon Rollins, MTAS
From: W. Troy Beets, Mayor
City of Kingston

The city of Kingston is celebrating a major accomplishment in reducing the ISO rating for our town from a class 6 to class 4, yet we are not unaware that without the assistance of professionals like Fire Management Consultant Gary West of your staff, it would have been a much more difficult, if not impossible, task. Please consider this our thanks for providing the excellent services of Gary West.

★ ★ ★

What do they do?

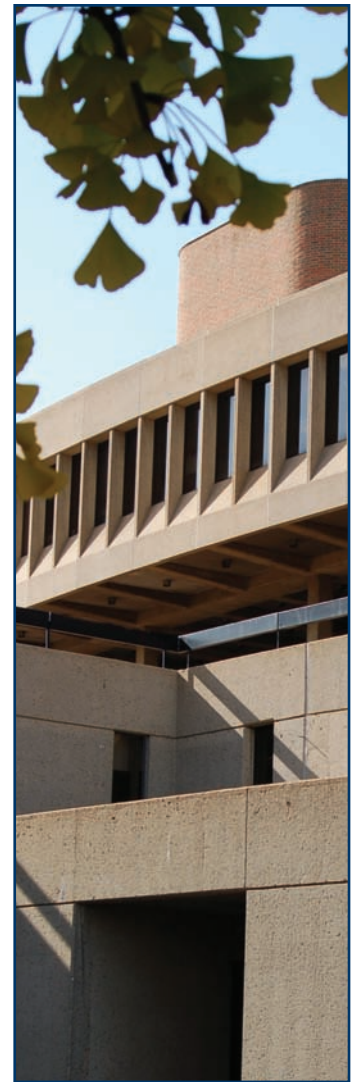
Here's another look at the day-to-day responsibilities of staff in the IPS central office in Knoxville. These staff members support all IPS personnel statewide and are employees of the system-wide Institute for Public Service, not the Knoxville academic campus.



Jill Marling is the administrative specialist who supports Mary Jinks, associate vice president of IPS. Jinks is out of the office a considerable amount of time, so Marling takes care of office operations, administrative matters, schedules, correspondence, phone calls, and other duties in Jinks' absence. Marling makes sure there are no excessive delays in responding to matters of immediate importance while Jinks is away. Marling has a great deal of latitude in determining her work priorities within the agreed-upon IPS work plan.

Marling also assists Judie Martin, IPS manager of operations, with human resource matters. Marling reviews and processes all the paperwork for recruitments, new hires, etc., for all the IPS agencies.

In addition, Marling provides support for special IPS events. She orders Annual Conference awards and coordinates the annual IPS Customer Day at a Knoxville football game, for example. Marling coordinates ticket collection and distribution, makes facility arrangements, selects menus, manages correspondence and reservations, and answers questions.

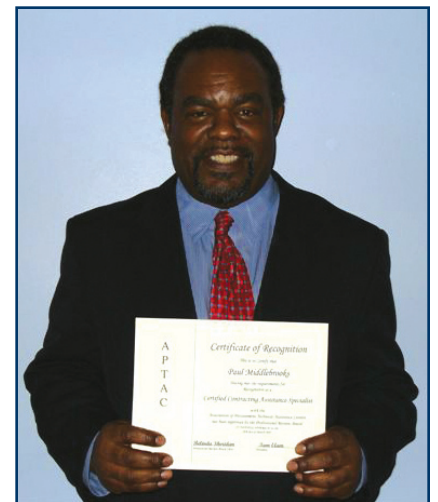


Paul Middlebrooks Achieves APTAC Level 3 Certification

Paul Middlebrooks, marketing consultant with the Center for Industrial Services, has achieved the highest level of certification possible for a government contracting specialist.

Middlebrooks studied diligently for months and passed the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Center's (APTAC) Level 3 Certification Exam.

Middlebrooks is now one of three counselors in the state of Tennessee to obtain the certification, making Tennessee one of the few states in the nation to have all of its PTAC counselors certified at the most prestigious level of excellence available.



May 2007 Calendar of Events

CIS

- May 2 8-Hour Site Worker Refresher, Nashville
- May 3 8-Hour DOT Refresher, Nashville
- May 7-11 40-Hour Site Worker, Murfreesboro
- May 8 OSHA 10-Hour General Industry, Jackson
- May 10 Healthcare Safety and Bloodborne Pathogens, Bartlett
- May 10 Supply Chain Logistics, Nashville
- May 15 Form R, Knoxville
- May 16 Form R, Nashville
- May 17 Form R, Jackson
- May 17 Healthcare Safety and Bloodborne Pathogens, Knoxville
- May 21 Six Sigma Green Belt (Week 2), Nashville
- May 23 8-Hour Site Worker Refresher, Bartlett
- May 24 Healthcare Safety and Bloodborne Pathogens, Nashville
- May 31 Shingo Examiners Workshop, Knoxville

CTAS

- May 2-4 TIAOO Spring Meeting, Paris Landing State Park
- May 8 Dealing with Difficult People, Knoxville
- May 8-10 State Court Clerks Conference, Gatlinburg
- May 16-18 Capstone, Montgomery Bell State Park
- May 23-25 Tennessee Registers Association Conference, Franklin
- May 23-25 CTAS Staff Meeting, Pigeon Forge
- May 29-31 Tennessee County Trustee Association Conference, Pickwick Landing State Park
- May 30 Dealing with Difficult People, Jackson

IPS

- May 2 LeadershipPlenty Graduation
- May 6-11 TELA, Paris Landing State Park

LEIC

- May 7- July 13 NFA Session XVIII
- May 16-17 Secured and Prepared Schools Train-the-Trainer, Lebanon
- May 22-24 Transit Terrorist Tools and Tactics Training, Orange County, Calif.

MTAS

- May 1 Developing and Maintaining Discipline, Knoxville KCDC
- May 2 Economic and Community Development, Jackson
- May 3 Economic and Community Development, Bartlett
- May 3 Human Resource Overview, Kingsport
- May 4 Public Safety NIMS Compliance—Hitting a Moving Target, Franklin
- May 8 Delegation Skills, Collierville
- May 8 Dealing with Difficult Behavior, Knoxville
- May 9 Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Red Bank
- May 9 Economic and Community Development, Collegedale
- May 10 Economic and Community Development, Franklin

- May 15 Workplace Harassment and Workplace Violence, Knoxville KCDC
- May 17 Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Kingsport
- May 17 Economic and Community Development, Cookeville
- May 30 Economic and Community Development, Johnson City
- May 30 Dealing with Difficult Behavior, Jackson
- May 31 Economic and Community Development, Knoxville

May Service Anniversaries

- Elizabeth Adams, CTAS2 years
- Richard Buggeln, CIS.....12 years
- Jay Cabler, LEIC..... 1 year
- David Connor, CTAS13 years
- Ralph Cross, MTAS8 years
- Pat Frost, IPS CO.....29 years
- Gary Hedgcoxe, CIS 1 year
- Harry Kitchens, CIS..... 1 year
- Jill Marling, IPS CO20 years
- Elaine Morrisey, MTAS2 years
- Ronnie Neill, MTAS14 years
- Bill Nusbaum, CIS4 years
- Becky Peterson, CIS29 years
- Lisa Shipley, MTAS.....12 years
- Mike Simmons, CIS.....7 years
- Mike Stooksberry, CTAS.....15 years

Recruitments

IPS CO _____
Information Specialist, Knoxville

CIS _____
Manufacturing Consultant, Johnson City
Lean Manufacturing Consultant, Nashville
Program Manager, Nashville or Knoxville

CTAS _____
Jail Management Consultant, Nashville

LEIC _____
Coordinator, Knoxville (2 positions)

MTAS _____
Program Resource Specialist, Nashville

New Hires

MTAS, Knoxville _____
Gary Pretree, Training Consultant
Bonnie Curran, Human Resource Consultant

Mark your calendar!

2007

IPS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 17-18

Park Vista Hotel • Gatlinburg

Recognize your IPS colleagues for their good work throughout the year and nominate them for a 2007 IPS award at

<http://intranet.ips.tennessee.edu>.

The Law Enforcement Innovation Center has moved to
1201 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Suite 101

Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Phone: (865) 946-3201

Fax: (865) 946-3214

Toll Free: (866) 449-5342



The EXCHANGE is a newsletter of THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE

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HANK DYE
Vice President for Public and Government Relations

DR. MARY H. JINKS
Associate Vice President
Institute for Public Service



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The university does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities pursuant to the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

Inquiries and charges of violation concerning Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, ADA or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) or any of the other above referenced policies should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone (865) 974-2498 (V/TTY available) or 974-2440. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the UTK Office of Human Resources, 600 Henley Street, Knoxville, TN 37996-4125.
IPSO559 • 450 • E13-0110-000-029-07

April 30, 2007, marked the retirement of Ron Fults, CTAS chief legal consultant. He left behind a well-trained staff of wide-eyed legal consultants committed to providing the same expert legal advice that he doled out for 30 years. Ron started working for CTAS in 1976. After a brief break in service in 1980, he rejoined the agency in 1981. He enjoyed the work because of the opportunity to assist counties with legal questions. Some of his specialty areas were economic development, finance, metro government, solid waste, and issues related to registers of deeds.



Whenever Ron was asked a legal question, he could be relied upon to research it thoroughly in order to provide the most accurate answer possible. Some of his many notable achievements were helping Moore and Trousdale Counties implement Metro Government charters; helping draft and implement the Solid Waste Management Act of 1991; writing and editing the County Government Handbook; reviewing and drafting private acts for local governments and state-wide legislation; and providing guidance to the Tennessee Registers Association.

Ron will be missed, but he's not "buried" yet. He will continue to guide legalese in Tennessee on a part-time basis through CTAS. He plans to spend the rest of his time golfing and reading up on foreign policy and foreign affairs. Who knows? Maybe he'll be called upon to broker a peace deal in the Middle East.

Whatever retirement brings, Ron's CTAS friends and colleagues throughout the Institute for Public Service wish him the best of luck and happiness.



Ronald E. Fults

The management team and legal staff of CTAS offered these memories of Ron Fults.

Ron and I worked together for 30 years. He is one of the founders of CTAS. Our organization is nationally recognized as a leader in providing technical assistance and training to county governments. I can truthfully say, we would not be the quality organization we are today had it not been for Ron and his commitment to local government. Thanks for all you have done.

Mike Garland, Executive Director of CTAS



Ron has often been recognized by various county officials' organizations. It has been most enjoyable to watch Ron when the Register of Deeds Association bestows accolades upon him. On several occasions the registers' association was able to involve Ron in funny skits and turn ol' Ron's face red as a beet. They were able to break Ron's proper stature down and show the lighter side of his personality. Ron loved the registers as much as they loved him. I will miss getting to laugh with Ron when officials pull stunts over on him. I will also miss the serious discussions on economics, history and world events. Ron is an avid reader and keeps up with a variety of topics that he can discuss with a deep understanding. He can add the historical context to most world events and issues to give you a different viewpoint on current issues. Of course we at CTAS will miss the historical information he can recall about our own agency's stories, some of which cannot go to print. He has lived through most of the history and can recall many of the funny stunts, jokes, and characters of our past.

Robin Roberts, Administrator of Field Services

It was a pleasure to work with Ron. He was a source of information to county officials and to CTAS as a whole.

Jon Walden, Administrator of Information Technology Services

I will miss his knowledge of all aspects of county government. The guy is a walking encyclopedia!!

Bob Schettler, Administrator of Training Services

Throughout the 16 years I have worked with Ron, I have been continually amazed at his wealth of knowledge. I can't imagine a time when I won't be able to walk into Ron's office to discuss legal issues affecting counties, or current events, or foreign policy, or history. Ron has been with CTAS almost since its inception. I don't know what we will do without Ron.

Libby McCroskey, Legal Consultant

If CTAS were a circus (which it often feels like), Ron Fults would be the safety net. Some days here, you find yourself up on a high wire trying to juggle questions from county officials like "...can we cremate an indigent person who died at a county nursing home instead of burying them?" or "...is the county liable if a walnut falls from a tree and hits the windshield of a passing car on a county highway?" or "...does hotel motel tax apply to rented houseboats?" or "what if two people apply for a marriage license and they both look like women, but one of them has a birth certificate saying the applicant is a man?" and you just want to scream "I don't know! Why are you people asking me?". But you don't. Instead you trot down to Ron's office and say "You won't believe this question..." and more often than not, Ron's already written a letter on the very same issue. Or he'll say - "I think there was an Attorney General's opinion on that topic around 1984." Or he'll flip through the note cases to an obscure provision of the Tennessee Constitution and point to a case that provides guidance. And it doesn't have to be related to work. His encyclopedic mind has more volumes than just local government. Ask him about Canada, or recruiting prospects for the UT football team, or President Lyndon Johnson, or handwriting analysis, or the latest experimental jetfighter under development by the Air Force, and he can tell you more than you ever wanted to know about the subject.

David Connor, Legal Consultant

Ron will be sorely missed. He knew more about county government than anybody in the state.

Steve Austin, Legal Consultant