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MTAS Has New Leaders

Mike Tallent has been named executive director of the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), and Melanie Purcell of Reno, Nev., will join MTAS as assistant director in late September.

An agency of the statewide UT Institute for Public Service (IPS), MTAS offers consulting services to Tennessee municipalities in areas such as finance, strategic planning, fire and police services, public works, legal issues and municipal codes.

Tallent has served as interim executive director of MTAS since December 2007 and had served as senior program manager since May 1996. He joined MTAS in 1979 as a municipal management consultant and has covered West Tennessee and Southeast Tennessee over the years.

“Mike’s knowledge of MTAS’ history and development -- along with years of solid relationships with Tennessee cities -- has equipped him to effectively lead MTAS staff and to anticipate the needs of municipalities in our state,” said Mary Jinks, UT vice president of public service.

The agency was created by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1949 at the request of the Tennessee Municipal League.

“I am honored to be appointed executive director and to have the opportunity to build upon the success and accomplishments of the directors who preceded me over the past 59 years,” Tallent said.

“I look forward to working with the staff of MTAS, and all of IPS, to assist the leadership of Tennessee cities as they continue to strive for the most efficient and effective ways of enhancing the quality of services they provide to their citizens.”

Purcell will join MTAS as assistant director in late September. Purcell brings to MTAS the strength of financial.
The University of Tennessee’s National Forensic Academy — one of the nation’s premier training grounds for crime scene investigators — opened its new facility with a bang on Aug. 18 in front of a crowd that included UT officials, law enforcement professionals and Institute for Public Service employees.

Also on hand were renowned forensic anthropologist William “Bill” Bass; U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp; Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn; and past NFA class president and Texas Ranger Joe Haralson. UT officials included President John Petersen and Vice President for Public and Government Relations Hank Dye.

The new facility is housed within a building donated to the university by Guilford Glazer, a benefactor who formerly lived in the area but now lives in California. The building also houses other UT programs, including those of the Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC).

“Thanks to the support of the University of Tennessee, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Congress and private donors, the National Forensic Academy’s new facility is finally a reality,” said Don Green, program manager of the National Forensic Science Institute. “This dedication of resources to advance training in the specific area of investigative techniques will aid law enforcement nationwide.”

The new training facility includes a classroom, laboratory, photography lab and a specially designed experiment room where CSIs can learn to better evaluate blood evidence at crime scenes. Those attending the Aug. 18 event toured the facility and saw demonstrations and exhibits in the various rooms.

(Left) A ribbon blasting replaced the traditional ribbon cutting to officially open the NFA.

(Below) UT Professor Emeritus Dr. Bill Bass talks with the media at the conclusion of the program.


(Above) More than 100 people turned out for the National Forensic Academy open house.

(Below) Dr. Lee Jantz with the UT Department of Anthropology talks with visitors about how age, gender and other variables are determined using forensic science.

(Above) Anthony Borgognoni with the Bergen County (N.J.) Sheriff’s Department shows visitors how NFA students are able to study bullet trajectory in the experiment room.
LEIC Conducts Bloodstain Class in Pennsylvania

Investigators examine bloodstain pattern as part of a mock crime scene.

More than 20 law enforcement officers from Berks County, Pa. recently completed a week-long bloodstain spatter analysis course with instructors from the Law Enforcement Innovation Center’s National Forensic Academy.

They learned the types of blood spatters, the physics involved, the math needed to re-create the angle of impact and proper evidence documentation. Participants received certificates from the International Association of Bloodstain Spatter Pattern Analysts.

"Unlike 'CSI,' you don't walk into a room and immediately solve the issue. What this is going to allow police officers (to do) is to make sure that everything at a crime scene that we can work with is observed," said Robert F. Johnson, a detective with Berks District Attorney’s Forensic Services Unit.

West Appointed COAT Executive Director

John “Jay” West has been appointed the new executive director of the County Officials Association of Tennessee (COAT). West was selected from a field of nine candidates to fill the position formally held by Marie Murphy.

COAT is a non-profit association of county clerks, state court clerks, registers and trustees. COAT was formed in 1968 to serve coordinated efforts of county officials with respect to training and intergovernmental relations while providing a cooperative information sharing environment.

West possesses a wealth of knowledge gained from both his professional and political career. He was executive director of the Home Builders Association of Tennessee for 10 years, and executive director of two engineering firms for five years. In addition, he served Nashville as councilman at large, and was elected vice mayor in 1995. West has been a registered lobbyist on Capitol Hill for more than 25 years.

West is a graduate of Belmont University and the Nashville School of Law. He is married to Diane West who serves as executive vice president of BancorpSouth in Brentwood.

LEIC Employee Receives 10-Year Service Award

Mike Hill recently celebrated 10 years of service to the Law Enforcement Innovation Center and the Institute for Public Service. Hill has played an integral part in developing and marketing Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), the Southeastern Command and Leadership Academy (SECLA) and Project Safe Neighborhoods for the U.S. Attorney. Each of the programs he manages has proven to be successful and provides vital skills and training for communities and law enforcement.

Thaddeus Grace Receives Certification from CBMI

Thaddeus Grace, IPS business manager, completed his third year of the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers’ (SACUBO) College Business Management Institute (CBMI), earning his Certificate of Completion.

The CBMI offers an intensive course of study in business and financial management for administrators of colleges and universities.

It is designed to provide participants with an overview of current issues and procedures applicable to institutions of higher education large and small, public and private.

Individuals participate in 28 hours of instruction each summer for three years to earn a certificate of completion.

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MTAS Has New Leaders

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management and more than 15 years of experience in city and county management.

Most recently, she served as budget manager of Washoe County, Nev., coordinating an $887 million budget. Prior to that, she served in various city management positions in municipalities in Michigan. She has overseen downtown development authorities; supervised various city departments including water, building and zoning, and parks and recreation; and directed tax and utility bill collection, fund investments and debt management.

“It is an incredible honor to join MTAS and IPS. This organization sets the standards for service to cities and I look forward to lending my skills and knowledge to help Tennessee communities provide the best to their citizens,” said Purcell.
From time to time, IPS hears from former employees. Former CIS Executive Director Reuben Harris recently checked in with Dr. Mary Jinks.

Please extend my congratulations to the entire staff of IPS and its fine units. I greatly appreciate the opportunity given to me by the university when I was employed and instructed to begin building the Tennessee Industrial Research Service, which evolved into the Center for Industrial Services. When Bob (former vice president Bob Hutchison) and I walked into the office in the old Methodist Publishing House building across from the Federal Courthouse on Broadway, he gave me my charge. The room was furnished with one large desk and a chair. On the desk was a telephone and a yellow legal tablet with a sharpened pencil across it.

Bob looked at me and said “I have delivered your automobile to you, and this is your office. Now build the program.”

The Exchange is a wonderful publication that I anticipate with pleasure each month. It is very gratifying to me to read about the extensive off-campus training delivered by IPS. I remember delivering some CIS-developed training during the 1960s, some of it to the midnight shift foremen in Jacksboro and Erin.
Bob Schettler, administrator of training services, began his career at CTAS in 2002 after spending 17 years with the former University of Tennessee (UT) Center for Government Training (CGT).

Prior to CGT, he worked for 12 years in the metropolitan government of Nashville-Davidson County. Schettler is a Knoxville native and a graduate of Holston High School. He has a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics, and a master’s degree in public administration from UT, Knoxville.

In his free time, Schettler enjoys golf, UT sports and good conversation.

Susan Frant, Ed. D., joined LEIC in 2006 as a Homeland Security specialist. Currently, she oversees the development of curricula, instructional materials, and ensures that instructional and certification standards are met. She has extensive experience in developing training for safety professionals.

Before joining LEIC, Frant was deputy director for incident response operations for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She ran an operations center and trained NRC staff to respond to any incident at commercial nuclear power plants. She also served as NRC liaison with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Council, and other federal agencies regarding the federal response to terrorist events. She developed training and exercises related to the National Response Plan and coordinated with the Department of Defense’s Northern Command.

She also served on many international missions and technical assistance committees of the International Atomic Energy Commission.

Frant holds a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California, a master’s degree from Queens College, City University of New York, and a bachelor of arts from Arcadia University in Pennsylvania.

Frant lives with her husband in West Knoxville. They enjoy walking, films, book clubs and travel. A highlight each year is her trip with her two granddaughters—so far they’ve been to Paris, Rome, London, Venice, New York, San Francisco, Toronto, Montreal, Philadelphia, Florence, Barcelona, Madrid, Miami and Key West. Next year they hope to visit Russia or Ireland.
Report Discusses Needs and Opportunities for Youth Development

What does Tennessee need to do to strengthen and capture the vision, talents and passion of youth, the real future of the South?

That was the challenge discussed by participants in a statewide policy dialogue and 20 community forums held throughout the state this year. The forums — held to brainstorm ways the state can enhance youth development — were hosted by the University of Tennessee (UT) Institute for Public Service (IPS) and Institute of Agriculture (UTIA), and local and regional organizations, in partnership with the Southern Growth Policies Board (SGPB).

The results are published in a report titled “Youth: The Real Future of the South, Results from the SGBP 2008 Tennessee Community Forums,” which is being distributed through forum partners and is available online at www.ips.tennessee.edu and trend.ag.utk.edu.

The report summarizes key themes discussed by more than 500 participants at the forums, including 230 youth. In addition to providing a general overview of the status of youth in Tennessee, the report seeks to consider findings from the community forums, coupled with data from secondary sources, to examine important issues concerning youth and their development into productive and satisfied adults.

To enhance youth development in Tennessee, participants said that the state needs to:

• Find new ways to reach and engage youth.
• Develop stronger civic participation among youth.
• Address issues that prevent youth from engaging and reaching their potential.
• Better prepare youth for the global economy.

“Youth development is critical to the future economic and community development of our state,” said Mary Jinks, vice president of public service. “Competing in this fast changing global economy requires youth who are engaged academically, socially and civically in their communities.”

Workshops Assist Small Businesses with Grant Writing

The Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program awards more than $2.2 billion to small businesses with big ideas. The UT Center for Industrial Services, one of the organizations that administers the SBIR initiative, is sponsoring two workshops in September to give small businesses the opportunity to learn grant writing strategies from expert consultants. The Grant Writing workshop is scheduled for Sept. 10 in Chattanooga and the Cost Proposal workshop is scheduled for Sept. 11 in Oak Ridge. Partnering with CIS on these workshops are UT-Battelle, Technology 2020, the East Tennessee Economic Council (ETEC), Y-12 National Security Complex, Integrated Manufacturing Technology Initiative, the U.S. Department of Energy and the Knoxville/Oak Ridge Innovation Valley initiative.

Jim and Gail Greenwood will be on hand to discuss the grant writing strategies. They are nationally recognized for their expertise in SBIR and small business incubators. Their award-winning workshops have been presented throughout the U.S., and the couple received a national Tibbetts Award for their contribution in SBIR counseling and training.

SBIR is a highly competitive program that encourages small businesses to explore their technological potential, and provides the incentive to profit from its commercialization. Since its enactment in 1982, as part of the Small Business Innovation Development Act, SBIR has helped thousands of small businesses compete for federal research and development awards. Their contributions have enhanced the nation’s defense, protected the environment, advanced health care, and improved the nation’s ability to manage information and manipulate data.

For more information about the program, visit www.tnsbir.tennessee.edu.
SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Steve Austin, CTAS .......................... 8 years
Jennifer Benson, LEIC .......................... 2 years
Beverly Erwin, CIS ............................ 27 years
John Freeze, LEIC ............................. 6 years
Mike Garland, CTAS ........................... 33 years
Dennis Huffer, MTAS .......................... 9 years
Gary Jaeckel, MTAS ............................ 9 years
Mary Jinks, IPS CO ............................. 25 years
Nathan Lefebvre, LEIC ........................ 10 years
Mike Meyers, CTAS ............................ 9 years
Richard Phebus, MTAS ........................ 35 years
Bobby Phillips, CTAS ........................... 21 years
Kim Raia, CTAS ................................. 8 years
Brian Spears, CTAS ............................. 13 years
Chris Wright, CIS ............................... 11 years
Steve Wyatt, MTAS ............................. 10 years

RECRUITMENTS

♦ CTAS
Environmental Consultant, Cookeville

♦ IPS
Assistant Vice President, Knoxville or Nashville

♦ MTAS
Municipal Management Consultant, Knoxville

PROMOTION

♦ MTAS
Mike Tallent to Executive Director

RETIREMENT

♦ CIS
Al Cash, Memphis

♦ DEPARTURES

♦ CIS
Brenda Baker, Nashville
Anna Barnes, Nashville

♦ LEIC
Derek Brownlee, Oak Ridge

♦ MTAS
Jennifer Hicks, Knoxville

IPS September Calendar of Events

♦ CIS
Sept. 9 8-Hour Site Worker Refresher, Knoxville
Sept. 9-10 OSHA 10-Hour General Industry, Nashville
Sept. 10-11 16-Hour DOT, Knoxville
Sept. 11 Hazard Communication, Nashville
Sept. 12 8-Hour DOT Refresher, Knoxville
Sept. 15- 6 Sigma Black Belt Training,
Dec. 11 Nashville
Sept. 16 Hazard Communication, Bartlett
Sept. 16 Lean Manufacturing (Overview), Johnson City
Sept. 17 Hazardous and Special Wastes, Jackson
Sept. 17 Hazard Communication, Jackson
Sept. 23 Hazard Communication, Knoxville
Sept. 23 Kaizen Facilitator Training, Johnson City
Sept. 24 Tennessee Environmental Regulatory Overview (TERO), Nashville
Sept. 24 Hazard Communication, Johnson City

♦ CTAS
Sept. 2 TCCA Regional Meeting, Cleveland
Sept. 4 TCCA Regional Meeting, Henry Horton State Park
Sept. 9 TCCA Regional Meeting, Gallatin
Sept. 10 TCCA Regional Meeting, Knoxville
Sept. 10-12 Clerks of Court Conference, Paris Landing State Park
Sept. 11 TCCA Regional Meeting, Jonesborough
Sept. 16 Crisis Communications Workshop, Knoxville
Sept. 18 TCCA Regional Meeting, Jackson
Sept. 23 TCCA Regional Meeting, Cookeville
Sept. 25 TCCA Regional Meeting, Paris Landing State Park
Sept. 23-25 Capstone, Montgomery Bell State Park
Sept. 25 Crisis Communications Workshop, Jackson
Sept. 30 Crisis Communications Workshop, Franklin

♦ LEIC
Sept. 8-30 National Forensic Academy, Knoxville
Sept. 15-19 Fundamentals of Cybercrime Investigations, Nashville
Sept. 23-25 Transit Terrorist Tools and Tactics (T4), New Jersey

♦ MTAS
Sept. 3 Planning and Organizing, Kingsport
Sept. 4 Developing Teamwork, Brentwood
Sept. 4 Mutual Aid, Collierville
Sept. 8 Mutual Aid, Franklin
Sept. 9 Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Columbia
Sept. 9 Mutual Aid, Jackson
Sept. 9 Human Resource Overview, Newport
Sept. 10 Mutual Aid, Bartlett
Sept. 10 Communicating, Coaching and Counseling, Bristol
Sept. 10 Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Columbia
Sept. 16 Municipal Manager Overview, Chattanooga
Sept. 17 Delegation Skills, Bristol
Sept. 17 Communicating, Coaching and Counseling, Chattanooga
Sept. 17 Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Columbia
Sept. 17 Mutual Aid, Johnson City
Sept. 17 Communication Skills, Kingsport
Sept. 18 Customer Service, Brentwood
Sept. 18 Communicating, Coaching and Counseling, Chattanooga
Sept. 18 Mutual Aid, Knoxville
Sept. 19 Delegation Skills, White House
Sept. 23 Understanding DISC Workstyles, Chattanooga
Sept. 23 Communicating, Coaching and Counseling, Maryville
Sept. 23 Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Newport
Sept. 24 Making Effective Decisions, Bristol
Sept. 24 Delegation Skills, Chattanooga
Sept. 30 Planning and Organizing, Chattanooga

♦ Leadership Programs
Sept. 7-12 TGEI, Knoxville
Sept. 14-19 TELA Academy, Knoxville

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