



# Volunteer Vision

AN ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

**A Message From Our President**

**New Faces In Familiar Places**

**Spotlight on Faculty**

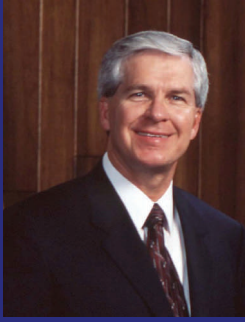
**Tornado Update**

**YEAR IN REVIEW**

**Cover Story—Spotlight On Alumni**

Gary Renfro, Plant Engineer/Maintenance Manager  
Kenwal Steel and Volunteer State College Alumni  
Class of 1992

## A Message From Our President



**“Remember, that this is your college and we are always pleased to see our Vol State Alums and hear of your accomplishments” states Dr. Warren Nichols, President**

Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is an exciting time for us here at Vol State. The Middle Tennessee area is experiencing phenomenal growth and we are right in the heart of it! As I begin my 5<sup>th</sup> year as President, I am pleased to be able to share with you, through this inaugural alumni newsletter, the good work that is occurring at Vol State.

We are finally close to putting the physical effects of the 2006 Tornado behind us. I can tell you first hand that no words can describe the impact the tornado has played on our emotions, our sense of well-being, and our work. Even though we have faced many difficulties in dealing with the upheaval of the Tornado; our faculty, staff, and administrators continued to take on new initiatives and challenges along the way. We have grown stronger! I am so proud to work with such a committed group of professionals.

In this newsletter you will be provided with the Vol State year in review and I hope you get a sense of all the activity that has been taking place. I also believe you will discover more about your Alma Mater through our Spotlights on people and services. Additional information about programs and services can always be found on our website at [www.volstate.edu](http://www.volstate.edu). However, this newsletter is our way of providing you with updates on the current happenings at Vol State. Please feel free to share with us what you would like to see in future issues.

As we are continuing to prepare for our future, I would like to invite you to stay connected to Vol State. For those of you who have not been on campus in a while, please stop by and see the positive changes that have occurred out of the tornado's devastation. Remember, that this is your college and we are always pleased to see our Vol State Alums and hear of your accomplishments.

Dr. Warren Nichols  
President, Vol State Community College

## New Faces at the Foundation



Karen Mitchell has been appointed Vice President for Resource Development. Mitchell has extensive background in development. She served as Director of Business at Hendersonville Medical Center; President of United Way of Sumner County; and the Executive Director of the Cumberland Crisis Pregnancy Center.

“I went to school at Vol State for two years and loved it,” Mitchell said. “We have great teachers here. I’m not sure I can put into words what it feels like to come back and work at the college.” Mitchell then added, “We’re trying to bring a new energy to our Foundation events and find new ways to engage the community,”



Lori Johnson has been named the Resource Development Specialist. Johnson is also familiar with development in the area. She was the Development Associate with the Sumner Foundation for six years.

“I was born and raised here,” said Johnson. “In my work at the Sumner Foundation, I established many rewarding relationships. I am hoping to use those contacts to bring new folks to Vol State.” Johnson also has a unique perspective when it comes to alumni. She too is a Vol State alumnus. “I think it adds a lot, in terms of what I can say to potential donors and alumni. This is my opportunity to give back to the college,” Johnson stated.



## YEAR IN REVIEW...



### **Athletic Association Golf Tournament Raises \$20,000. 2nd Annual Tournament to be held August 4, 2008**

Pictured above: Josh Gilmore, Jason Baxter, Jason Hibdon and Richard Hudson take a break to pose for photo. Nina McReynolds takes a shot while Robin Lawhorn and Dr. Hal Hooper look on. Team ServPro, Steve Vanhoozer, Rick Isaacson and Bill Reese on the putting green (not pictured Fred Fisher).



Keith Bell, Terry McGovern and Coach Richard Moore enjoy lunch.

### **Faculty & Staff Appreciation Luncheon "A Day at the Beach Grab-N-Go Lunch"**



Mary Nunaley and Peggy Watson are welcomed by Karen Mitchell.



Laura Black, Andy & Peri Allman, winners of the Roger Staubach Football, and Eric Hall.



Charles and Carolyn Lind and Morris and Brenda Shankle with Shankle-Lind LLC were the top sponsors for the Harvest Moon Soirée which raised over \$20,000.



Soiree Guests check out the Silent Auction.



Buddy Shaw, Margie Davis, Judge Barry Brown, Julia Tucker of TN Juvenile Court Services Assoc. and Dr. Warren Nichols.

### **Keith Stacey entertains guests at the 2007 Annual Dinner.**



Buddy Shaw, Board Chair and Dr. Warren Nichols, President of Vol State present Mr. Ron Hibbard with his award.

## SPOTLIGHT ON FACULTY— Betty Williams

Betty C. Williams has been chosen as the Faculty member to spotlight in this issue of your Alumni Newsletter. Ms. Williams was born in Portland, TN. She was educated in the public school systems in Gallatin and graduated in 1969. She is the proud parent of two children. Her son is a U. S. Army Captain and is currently serving in Iraq. Her daughter works for the city of Gallatin. She is also the grandparent of one grandson and one granddaughter. She is the second child of six and a first generation college graduate.



Ms. Williams has an extensive educational background.

- 1973 Bachelor of Science Major, Health Physical Education, Tennessee State University.
- 1975 Master of Education, Tennessee State University
- 1978 Post Graduate Courses in Education, Austin Peay State University
- 1980 Corrective Therapy and Recreation Therapy, Veterans Administration Medical Center
- 1989 Doctor of Arts Degree, Dissertation Stage in Doctoral Program, MTSU

Ms. Williams professional work experience is as extensive and impressive as her education.

- 1990—date Associate Professor, Health and Physical Education
- 2000—date Watercise Instructor, Gallatin Civic Center
- 1984-1990 Associate Professor, Health and Physical Education, Dyersburg State Community College. Served as Women's Basketball Coach 1984-1986
- 1981-1984 Instructor and Library Assistant, Volunteer State
- 1976-1981 Instructor, Health and Physical Education, Austin Peay University. Served as Women's Volleyball and Track Coach 1976-1979
- 1974-1976 Instructor, Physical Education, Union Sixth Grade School
- 1973-1974 Instructor, Physical Education and Science, Union Seventh Grade School

Ms. Williams has not only made an impact in primary and higher education, she is also very involved in her community. She sponsored the community Kwanzaa celebration in Gallatin. She also presented a four week workshop for Inroads Parent Support group on "How to Prepare Your Child for College". She works individually with disabled persons through an exercise program for restoration. She started the Soul Food Luncheon in celebration of Black History month at Vol State. She served on the Board of Directors for African American Leadership Conference at Rust College in Holy Springs, MS. She also works with seniors (50+) in personal training.

Ms. Williams demonstrates her dedication to Volunteer State Community College by volunteering her personal time. She has served various committees such as, Campus and Cultural Committee, Chairperson on the Library Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Advisor for the African American Student Union Organization from 1992-2006. She was a chaperone for AASU members to Leadership Conference in Holy Springs, MS. She was appointed to serve on the Volunteer State College Foundation Board of Trustees. She has been serving in this capacity from 2002 to date.

Ms. Williams exemplifies some of our many outstanding faculty members that we will continue to spotlight in future editions of your Alumni Newsletter.



## ALUM COVER STORY—Gary Renfro



*“As we travel down life’s road we meet many individuals who say ‘If I were involved I’d...’ Many folks never finish that sentence. I served on various boards and do volunteer work to help make a difference in our community; I wanted to give something back.”*

*-Gary Renfro, Class 1992*

Gary Renfro is our Spotlight on Alumni Cover Story for this edition. Mr. Renfro graduated magna cum laude from Vol State in 1992. He then attended Vanderbilt University where he graduated summa cum laude and received his Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Electrical Engineering. He resides in Lebanon, TN with his wife, Terri and two children Lacey, a graduate of Lipscomb University who now works for Merrill Lynch as a client associate and Alex, a junior at Lipscomb University majoring in Bio-Chemistry.

While at Vol State, Mr. Renfro received the R. Wade Powers Award for Probity, Positive Difference Award, Patricia B. Lebkuecher Award for Academic Excellence, Math and Science Award for Academic Excellence, Faculty Award for Student of the Year and graduated at the top of the class with a GPA of 4.0. At Vanderbilt University, Mr. Renfro received the Tau Beta Pi—Engineer’s Honor Society, Eta Kappa Nu—Electrical Engineer’s Honor Society, Gamma Beta Phi Society and Mortarboard Honor Society. He also made Dean’s list for all semesters at Vol State and Vanderbilt.

Mr. Renfro stated, “My career path led me to Toshiba America Consumer Products here in Lebanon for 13 years as the Facilities Engineering and Maintenance Manager, then to Vanderbilt University and now to my current position with KenWal.”

“I proudly served 4 years in the United States Air Force as a Master Instructor of Avionic Communications attaining the rank of E-5, Staff Sergeant,” Mr. Renfro added.

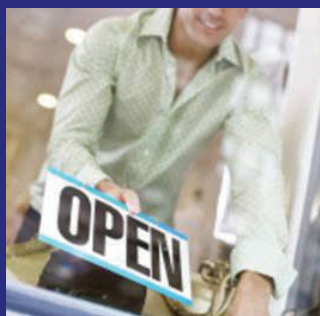
Mr. Renfro is actively involved in his community. He has served on the Sign Ordinance Review Board, the City Abatement Board, and the Lebanon Planning Commission. He also ran for public office (Ward 6 City Counselor) in 2003. Mr. Renfro stated, “We lost the race, but met and were befriended by many of our neighbors. It was a great learning experience for me and my family.”

Mr. Renfro is also active in volunteerism. He helped coach his children’s little league teams when they were younger. He and his wife volunteer through her employer with Habitat for Humanity. He currently serves as a Trustee for Vol State College Foundation. “As we travel down life’s road we meet many individuals who say ‘If I were involved I’d...’ Many folks never finish that sentence, or if they do, they offer verbal recourse without action. I served on the aforementioned boards and ran for office to help make a difference in our community; I wanted to give something back to such a great community that gives so much to us.”

Gary Renfro has given us an example of what all Vol State Alumni should make as our goal, “to give something back to the community.”



We encourage the community and area businesses to participate in continuing education programs and to utilize the many services available. For more information about Continuing Education visit our website at [www.volstate.edu/continuing](http://www.volstate.edu/continuing)



For more information about the TSBDC visit our website at [www.volstate.edu/tsbdc](http://www.volstate.edu/tsbdc)

Rita Reagan, Class of 2004, Summa Cum Laude, Asst. Director, Livingston-Overton County TN Chamber of Commerce. "Vol State was my road to success and it can be yours."

## Continuing Education—Your Lifelong Learning Resource

The non-credit continuing education program is as diverse as the population it serves. Subjects range from arts and crafts to technical training and everything in between. Programs draw upon the expertise from College resources, corporate resources, community resources, and technical resources to provide quality adult learning opportunities. Classes are offered on ground, online, on campus, and off-campus. Special short courses and workshops may be customized to meet the special needs of the community and area business and industry.

Personal enrichment courses are offered to enhance the quality of life. Professional workforce development courses strengthen employee performance and business competitiveness, fostering the economic vitality of the area.

There are many services available including, but not limited to:

- State-of-the-art computer training facilities
- Mobile computer lab for on site training
- Campus meeting facilities
- Downlink capabilities
- Audio and video production facilities
- Certificates of completion
- Information and referral services
- Certified, qualified trainers and consultants
- Basic skills assessment services
- Career assessment and placement services
- Continuing education units and transcripts of record

## Tennessee Small Business Development Center

### The TSBDC offers

- ♦ Free and confidential one-on-one counseling for existing and start up small businesses.
- ♦ Training seminars on a wide array of topics for small business owners
- ♦ Assistance with various funding proposals including SBA loans.
- ♦ Referral to professional services and agencies.

### 2007 TSBDC Economic Impact

- ♦ 9 New Businesses Started
- ♦ 13 New Jobs Created
- ♦ 37 Jobs Retained
- ♦ \$2,847,000 in Capital Formation
- ♦ 89 Clients
- ♦ 594 Training Attendees

### 2006 Statewide Economic Impact

- ♦ 816 New Jobs
- ♦ 935 Jobs Saved
- ♦ \$29,000,000 in Capital Formation
- ♦ \$48,200,000 in Increased Sales
- ♦ \$57,800,000 Saved due to Counseling
- ♦ 767 Training Sessions
- ♦ 12,628 Training Attendees

## Mentoring Program

The Career Alumni Network (CAN) has been created in collaboration with area business and industry partners of Vol State College to assist students of the College in exploring several career development opportunities. Distinguished alumni have volunteered to help students by serving as a CONTACT, SHADOW, MENTOR or REFERRAL to enhance students' awareness of existing career opportunities and options. Volunteer State Alumni desiring to participate may register on line at [www.volstate.edu/placement](http://www.volstate.edu/placement), click on Alumni Resources, click on Alumni (CAN) Interest Form.

## TORNADO HITS VOL STATE APRIL 7, 2006



Campus suffers damages to several buildings but nothing stops the Pioneer Spirit... Classes resumed 10 days later.  
Vol State Main Entrance Sign after Tornado and December 2007



Caudill Building After Tornado, March 2007 and November 2007



Ramer Building After Tornado, March 2007 and November 2007

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kitty Dake Armstrong	James Harding	Dr. Warren Nichols	WE "Buddy" Shaw– Chair
Shirley Arrendale	Ron Hibbard	Bill Nichols– Vice Chair	Bill Sinks
Bob Atkins	Jenny Hibbett	Wallace "Wally" Nicoll	William T. Sugg
Betty Belote	Dr. Halden Hooper	David Bate Parsons	Dixie Taylor-Huff
Albert A. Bennett	Robert "Corky" Jennings	James Pope	Dr. F. William Taylor
Senator Diane Black	Dixie Jones	Patty Powell	Virginia "Ginny" Thigpen
John Boniol	Dr. Lois Jordan	Dr. Wade Powers	Grace Tomkins
Mayor Billy Paul Carneal	Bill Kemp	Dr. Hal R. Ramer	Sandy Webster
Wilda Dodson	Deotha Malone	Scott Raynes	Judge Jane Wheatcraft
William Draper	Ed Mayberry	Gary Renfro	Betty Williams
Chancellor Tom Gray	Carl McKellar	Matt Ricker– Campaign Chair	Betty Zuccarello
Ragan Hall	Karen Mitchell	Richard Rowlett	
Jan Hallmark	L.H. "Dink" Newman	Bettye Scott	



## UPCOMING EVENTS....

"Educate A Woman"  
Luncheon — May 8, 2008



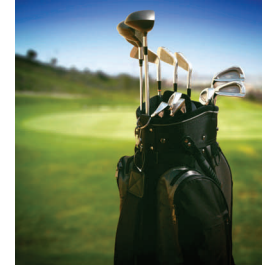
Career Placement  
Office—Spring Job  
Career Fair  
April 16, 2008



Commencement  
May 3, 2008



First State Bank  
Corporate Cup  
Challenge— June 23,  
2008



### VOLUNTEER STATE ENROLLMENT 2006-2007

Credit .....	16,956
Non-credit .....	7,077
Dual Enrollment .....	2,873

### FOUNDATION STAFF

Karen Mitchell, VP for Resource Development  
Lori Johnson, Resource Development Specialist  
Stacy L. Womelduff, Accounts Manager  
Brenda L. Martin, Foundation Secretary

## CONTACT US....



The Foundation. Alumni Association. Resource Development.

**VOLUNTEER STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

*"Turning hopes and dreams of students into realities"*

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