

# THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 45th General Assembly

## Today's Schedule

- 2:30:** President's Address  
House Chamber
- 3:30:** 3rd Legislative Session
- 6:00:** PIZZA!
- 7:00:** 4th Legislative Session



## TISL Social Media

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## The Digital Bill Book

*New Bill App Brings a World of Possibilities to TISL*

As the millennial generation continues to use technology more and more, it's no surprise that TISL has offered a free digital option to delegates who are not willing to pay for a bill book or want to cut down on the amount a paper involved.



Secretary of State Caleb Butler said, "The app will encourage efficiency in the environment and provide a quick real-time access." When Representative Raren and Senator Bozeman from Welch College were asked about the app, they responded, "We're old school because we like being able to make notes on the actual bill book." Law-enforcement Lobbyist Erin Allen from Union University finds it "economical because it's free."

Jeff Wilson, who is the mastermind behind this app, said, "The primary motivation was to cut paper costs, but there were also environmental reasons as well." He joked that, "A small forest dies with each TISL GA," and he's probably right. There are plans in the work to make this app include a feature so delegates can favorite bills, have available calendars for the House and Senate, as well as results for AMC3. But According to Wilson, "That will depend on the feedback from the delegates."

Besides the "old school" delegates who prefer the paper bills, it seems as if this app is onto something. Starting with this app, the Executive Council and Jeff Wilson hope to see TISL go completely paperless in the future. However, that future is quite a long way off.

*-Cassie Richardson*

## Justices Speak to TISL Delegates

Justice Kirby and Justice Bivins, the two newest appointees on the Tennessee Supreme Court, spoke to TISL students this afternoon.

The justices discussed their duties on the Tennessee Supreme Court and opened the floor for questions. Justice Kirby addressed a question relating to women in leadership roles. "It is important for students to envision themselves in positions of leadership," said Kirby, who was an engineering student in college but always wanted to serve in a judicial environment. She stated that her background in engineering has helped her in analyzing the logic in cases presented before her.

Justice Bivins spoke on the importance of keeping one's humility and morals in such a leadership role. He also provided his perspective on applications he receives for clerical positions. Being truthful about not knowing an answer and the ability to think on your feet are two skills Justice Bivins sees as valuable.

The reception for all judicial related students is scheduled for tonight from 5-6 p.m. in the Tennessee Supreme Court Building. *-Jesse Walker*

## A Student Takes a Stand

*Why a 21 Year-Old Delegate Ran for Office*



Most college students barely have time for sleep, let alone running for office. But instead of seeing his education as an obstacle, Matthew Huffer, a junior at Vanderbilt University, saw it as an opportunity to launch a campaign. The 21 year old was researching Tennessee education policy for a class and was appalled by how dismal the funding and systems

appeared. Rather than writing a letter to his local congressman, Huffer decided to run for the position himself. Huffer started participating in TISL his freshman year, initially a lawyer in AMC<sub>3</sub> before serving as a senator. While Huffer lost the November 4th election, he remained graceful even in defeat. I was able to sit down with Huffer and talk to him about TISL, the election, and the future.

### **Would you say that TISL had an impact on your decision to run?**

Absolutely. It made feel as though I could have a hand in participating in our government rather than observing. [TISL] also gave me experience with creating legislation, so I felt more comfortable with that.

### **Do you have any plans to run for a TISL office this year?**

I will be running for Governor.

### **Are there any bills you feel particularly passionate about?**

Of course I will be supporting all of the legislation from Vanderbilt, but in particular, Bill 17 - An Act to Provide Students At Public Schools With Access to Courses That Are Nationally Recognized For College Credit holds a special place in my heart. I still care deeply about educational issues in Tennessee. The bill proposes that the State Board of Education chooses a set of online Advanced Placement courses that will be accepted for high school credit and subsidized by the state. *-Page Forrest*