



# Common Bond

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Newsletter

## IHDC 2005 highlighted the Best in Heritage Development

The Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) and its largest statewide program, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, served as host to the Alliance of National Heritage Areas and 350 heritage professionals at the International Heritage Development Conference, held in Nashville and across middle Tennessee in June. Amid tours, educational sessions, mobile workshops, and evening events, the conference highlighted best practices in the heritage development field and demonstrated the diversity and quality of heritage and cultural activities throughout the region.

The opening plenary session at Nashville's historic Egyptian Revival-style Downtown Presbyterian Church set the tone for the conference. Three speakers—Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell, National Trust for Historic Preservation Executive Vice President David J. Brown, and the chairman of the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation John L. Nau, III—emphasized the value of public-private partnerships as they shared the benefits and successes of heritage development.



*Nashville's landmark Downtown Presbyterian Church was the site of the Opening Plenary Session of the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.*

Evening events let key resources tell their own stories. The Sunday event at Belle Meade Plantation highlighted the antebellum mansion and featured southern music from acclaimed singer Kate Campbell. On Monday, Fisk University provided an excellent location for an evening of art, music, and history. Earlice Taylor of Memphis and Angela Stockdale of the Fisk Jubilee Singers provided the music. Next came memorable remarks on the theme of "Voices of Freedom" from Governor Phil Bredesen, Tennessee Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker, Fisk President Hazel O'Leary, and civil rights leader Diane Nash.

Another hallmark event was Workshop Tuesday, when the CHP's many partners showcased their towns and created forums to explore the promise and challenge of heritage development in a rapidly growing region.

The conference closed with author Janisse Ray, who spoke to her strong sense of place and her deeply felt responsibility for protecting natural and historic environments, especially the long-leaf pine forests of her native Georgia.



*A tour of Jack Daniel's Distillery was one of the activities on the mobile workshop to Lynchburg on Workshop Tuesday.*

## CHP Strengthens Support to Students

The Center for Historic Preservation, having supported graduate and undergraduate education through scores of student research appointments and thesis advisory committees, significantly enhanced its commitment to Middle Tennessee State University goals this semester. By collaborating with the Department of History, the center became a key institutional partner in a new program of study, the Ph.D. in Public History. As part of its commitment, the center has pledged to provide working labs and professional opportunities for students. Three Ph.D. students are working at the CHP this year: Kevin Cason, Brian Dempsey, and Steve Hoskins. In addition, the center staff will teach up to four courses a year. Dr. Leslie N. Sharp is offering a new course titled "Seminar in American Architectural History."

The CHP's commitment to student-centered learning through directed projects has attracted MTSU students from many academic majors. Currently, the CHP employs undergraduate and graduate students from the departments of Education and Behavioral Science, Psychology, History, Sociology and Anthropology, and Computer Science and from the M.B.A. program. Students are involved with a variety of projects and topics including survey and National Register work across the state and the development of an iron furnace trail in middle Tennessee. In addition, students provide valuable computer support services and assist in office administrative duties.

To introduce new ideas and energy into its projects, the CHP established its Historic Preservation Fellows program, providing training and experience to persons who have earned mas-



*Historic Preservation Fellow Elizabeth Moore at Bodenham in Giles County.*

ter's degrees. The center supported Carrie Barske (Northwestern University) in summer 2004, Susan Knowles (Vanderbilt University) in spring 2005, Elizabeth Moore (University of Virginia) in summer 2005, and Evan Hatch (University of Mississippi) and Rachel Martin (MTSU) in fall 2005. Moore, whose appointment has been extended through the year, has written several National Register nominations for Giles County landmark buildings and will be working on a heritage development plan for Fentress County and a survey for the City of Franklin. Hatch is completing a collections management plan for the Arts Center of Cannon County. Martin is providing editorial assistance to the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and assisting on a museum interpretation plan for the Green McAdoo School in Clinton.

## Fall 2005 Students

Working on various heritage development projects for the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area are twenty-one students.

**Dan Allen** (B.S. in anthropology, MTSU) is a graduate student in the public history program and president/staff archaeologist of Cumberland Research Group, Inc., a local cultural resource management consulting firm. Allen specializes in historic and prehistoric archaeology, especially cemetery conservation and mortuary studies.

**Kevin Cason** (B.A. in history, Belmont University; M.A. in history, MTSU) is beginning the Ph.D. program in public history and wishes to pursue American cultural history and state

and local history. Cason also holds the newly established Tennessee Century Farms internship, jointly funded by the center and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

**Brian Dempsey** (B.A. and M.A. in history, James Madison University) is pursuing a Ph.D. in public history. Interested in American roots music and the cultural arts, he recently worked at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. Dempsey will be working on cataloguing the Arts Center of Cannon County's collection.

**Brad Donegan** is a senior at MTSU majoring in computer science. Donegan is from Cleveland, Tennessee, and is a member of the CHP's computer support staff.

## Fall 2005 Students cont.

**Lauren Grisham** is a senior at MTSU majoring in anthropology. A native of Athens, Alabama, she assists with the CHP's National Register of Historic Places projects.

**Katherine Haskel** (B.S. in interdisciplinary studies, Tennessee State University) is a native of Laurel, Mississippi, who is interested in African American history, heritage education, and museums. She is assisting on a museum interpretation plan for the Green McAdoo School in Clinton.

**Evan Hatch** (B.A. in American studies, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill; M.A. in southern studies, University of Mississippi), one of the CHP's Historic Preservation Fellows, serves as the folklorist for the Arts Center of Cannon County. His specialties are southern roots music and folk art. He will be developing a collections management policy for the Arts Center.



Staff of the Center for Historic Preservation hosted an orientation for new students on August 26. Pictured from left to right are Kristen Luetkemeier, Kevin Cason, Brian Dempsey, Lauren Nickas, and John Perkins.

**Steve Hoskins** (B.A. in religious studies, Trevecca Nazarene University; M.A. in historical theology, St. Louis University; M.Div., Nazarene Theological Seminary) is a Ph.D. in public history student and professor of church history at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. Hoskins is interested in the study of material culture and religious history and will be completing his residency working with the Clinton museum project as well as the national heritage area.

## Photos from IHDC Conference



Dr. Hannes Toivanen of Helsinki, Finland, spoke on the challenges of developing the cultural resources in the Vouski River Valley that spans the border between Finland and Russia. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.



Commissioner Susan Whitaker of Tourist Development, President Hazel O'Leary of Fisk University, and Governor Phil Bredesen enjoyed the Monday evening entertainment at Fisk University. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.



Workshop Tuesday was an interactive conference experience, as shown here at the Discovery Center in Murfreesboro. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.

## Fall 2005 Students cont.

**Erin Lobb** (B.S. in psychology, University of Mississippi) is a graduate student in MTSU's clinical psychology program. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Lobb is interested in behavioral treatments of childhood developmental disorders, specifically autism. Lobb is working on the iron furnace trail and Century Farms projects.

**Kristen Luetkemeier** (B.A. in history, James Madison University) is a graduate student in public history and worked earlier with Stones River National Battlefield and the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery in Washington, D.C. Her CHP assignments include a National Register multiple property nomination for Tennessee slave housing.

**Rachel Martin** (B.A. in writing and biblical literature, Taylor University; M.A. in history, MTSU) was a fellow at the National Center for Leadership in Washington, D.C., and is now a Historic Preservation Fellow at the CHP. She is also an adjunct professor at Volunteer State Community College and the conference coordinator for the upcoming Holocaust Studies Conference at MTSU.

**Gary Meier** is a senior from Cleveland, Ohio, who is pursuing a degree in computer information systems and works with the CHP's computer support staff.

**Elizabeth Moore** (M.Ar.H. in architectural history, University of Virginia; B.A. in art history, Vanderbilt University) is one of the CHP's Historic Preservation Fellows. A native of Clanton, Alabama, Moore is completing an architectural survey for the city of Franklin and developing a heritage development plan for Fentress County.

**Linley Moreland** is a junior from Nashville majoring in animal sciences who provides office administrative support at the CHP.

**Sarah Jane Murray** (B.A. in university studies, MTSU) is a graduate student in the public history program. A native of Murfreesboro, Murray is interested in rural landscapes and industrial architecture. She is completing a history and interior finish recommendations for the Federal Building in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Holly Nelson** is a sophomore from Albuquerque, New Mexico, majoring in psychology. She provides office administrative support at the CHP.

**Lauren Nickas** (B.A. in history, MTSU), a graduate student in the history department, worked previously as an intern for the Tennessee House of Representatives and The Hermitage. A native of Memphis, Nickas is developing a history of the Orange Mound community in Memphis and working with the national heritage area.

**John Perkins** (B.A. in history and theology, Lee University) is a graduate student in the public history program. He is a native of Westbrook, Connecticut, and is interested in American history and historic preservation. At the CHP, Perkins is working on a National Register nomination and other building technology projects.

**Jake Potts**, an East Tennessee native, is a senior majoring in industrial and organizational psychology. He serves as a member of the CHP's computer support staff.

**Emily Reid** is a senior majoring in anthropology. She is a native of White House, Tennessee, and is interested in cemetery preservation and restoration. Reid is working on a National Register nomination for the DuVall House in Robertson County.

**Liene Rozentale** (B.S. in interior design, Western Kentucky University) is a native of Liepaja, Latvia. She is pursuing her M.B.A. at MTSU. At the CHP, Rozentale creates plans using computer-aided drafting software for National Register nominations and other publications.



*Sarah Jane Murray welcomed attendees to the exhibit hall at the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference. Photo by Ken Robinson, MTSU Photographic Services.*

## Current CHP Projects

This summer, the center has kicked off three new partnership projects that will promote heritage development across Tennessee. The first involves the **Green McAdoo Cultural Organization (GMCO)** and the city of Clinton, who are rehabilitating the Green McAdoo Elementary School for use as a cultural center and heritage museum that will tell the nationally significant story of Clinton's fight for desegregation. Under the leadership of Dr. West, the center is assisting with an interpretation and exhibit plan, collections management, and National Register documentation. Public history Ph.D. student Steven Hoskins is working with the GMCO and local leaders on telling the story and developing exhibits highlighting the school's integral role as a strategy center and staging area for the African American community.

Last spring, the **Arts Center of Cannon County** approached the CHP for assistance in their upcoming expansion, which will include new exhibit space for regional artists and telling the history of Cannon County through the arts. CHP's doctoral research assistant Brian Dempsey is working with the Arts Center staff on cataloguing their current holdings. The CHP is also providing the Arts Center's folklorist, Evan Hatch, with a fellowship that will allow him to develop a collections management policy and learn more about museum practices.

Partnering with the **Fentress County Chamber of Commerce**, the CHP is undertaking a multiphase heritage development plan to identify the county's historic resources, promote heritage tourism, and expand the interpretation of the county's heritage sites. In August, historic preservation fellow Elizabeth Moore and Dr. Sharp traveled the roads of Fentress County documenting many historic places.



*The Alvin C. York Grist Mill on the Wolf River is one of Fentress County's most well-known historic landmarks.*

## Mark Your Calendar

### Travel the Iron Furnace Trail

Three day-long bus tours will offer participants an unprecedented opportunity to view impressive remnants of Tennessee's nineteenth century iron industry that operated along the Western Highland Rim. With partial funding from the U. S. Forest Service, the Center is partnering with the Buffalo Duck River Resource and Conservation District to develop the tours, and provide brochures, a Web site, and video to support these historic places as a part of the multi-county region's heritage tourism efforts. For more details, contact the CHP.

#### Tour # 1, Saturday, November 12

Begins and ends at Meriwether Lewis State Park. Highlights include the Napier Mines and Metal Ford on the Natchez Trace, Brownsport Furnace (Decatur County), and Cedar Grove Furnace (Perry County).

#### Tour # 2, Tuesday, November 15

Begins and ends in Dover. Highlights include furnace stack sites in Stewart County, lime kilns in Erin, and Center Furnace in Land Between the lakes.

#### Tour# 3, Thursday, December 1

Begins and ends at Montgomery Bell State Park. Highlights include Rock Church at Belleview Furnace site, Promise Land School and Church, Charlotte, and Cumberland Furnace.

### TSU and MHC Conference on African American History and Culture

25th Annual Conference

February 8, Wednesday

Tennessee State University, Nashville

Call (615) 862-7970 for more information.

## CENTER FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Box 80, MTSU  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
(615) 898-2947  
(615) 898-5614 (fax)  
histpres@mtsu.edu  
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu>

Carroll Van West, Director  
Caneta S. Hankins, Assistant Director  
Anne-Leslie Owens, Public Service Coordinator  
Leslie N. Sharp, Research Professor  
Nancy Smotherman, Executive Aide  
Betty Johnson, Secretary

## TENNESSEE CIVIL WAR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



Box 80, MTSU  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132  
(615) 898-2947  
(615) 898-5614 (fax)  
civilwar@mtsu.edu  
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu/tncivwar>

Carroll Van West, Director  
Laura Stewart Holder, Manager  
Michael T. Gavin, Preservation Specialist  
Antoinette G. van Zelm, Historian  
Melissa Zimmerman, Program Coordinator  
Rachel Martin, Fellow

**MIDDLE  
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### Center for Historic Preservation

Box 80  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132

2-25400

## Fun and Fieldwork in Memphis, circa 1990



*Pictured kneeling, Susan Cabot; in first row, Chris Richards, Jennifer Butt, Missy McLeod; in second row, Debbie McCord, Jennifer Martin, Lea Lewis; and in back row, Matt Fraas, Lyn Oliver, and Steve Sadowsky.*

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