



THE CENTER "GOES WEST"



The Center is under new leadership, following the retirement of former director Jim Huhta. Carroll Van West, native of Murfreesboro and associate professor of history at MTSU, was named director in August following the June 1st retirement of Jim Huhta, who served as the Center's director since it was established in 1984. West said he hopes to build on the body of work begun and expanded by Huhta. "Jim Huhta did a great job of building a strong foundation for the Center, and I plan to continue in that tradition," West said, adding he would like to see the Center's community outreach programs and research projects expand even more. Overall, there are three main goals West has for the Center: to continue the tradition of national excellence the Center has established; extend the Center's partnerships state-wide and nation-wide; and plan to make the long-range plan for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area fully implemented.

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West said MTSU undergraduate and

NEW CENTER PROJECTS

Plans for this semester include the expansion of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. The Center has hired two new specialists dedicated to the Heritage Area (see "Center Welcomes New Staff Persons," pg. 3). Statewide workshops focused on developing partnership projects will take place in October and November.

Staff are exploring new ways—both print and electronic—to provide data on Tennessee Century Farms to county and regional planners, researchers, and other interested audience.

A similar expansion of program goals and



Alford Farm in Wilson County is a new Century Farm and National Register project for the CHP this year.

outcomes is envisioned for such other core Center projects as the Rural African-American Church Project and the Tennessee Slave Housing Survey.

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The Center will discuss with the Memphis

Center "Goes West" Contd.

graduate students are an integral part of all of the Center's projects and programs. "We rely heavily on our students," he said. "We want the projects to be a student-centered experience that they are really involved in by being out in the community working and learning." West, who received his Ph.D. in history from the College of William & Mary, has been an assistant professor at the Center since 1986, where he directed the Preservation Services Initiative, including Century Farms program, the Rural African American Church Project, and the National Register for Historic Places documentary program. West is also an adjunct associate professor in MTSU's graduate program in public history where he teaches courses in American Architecture and American Material Culture. In 1994, he was elected as an Associate Fellow of the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In the summer of 1985 he was appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. *The New Deal Landscape of Tennessee* is West's more recent book.

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CENTER CALENDAR

TCWNHA Project Development Workshops

For more information, email civilwar@mtsu.edu or call 615.898.2947.

Chattanooga, October 28
Knoxville, October 29
Jonesborough, October 29
Nashville, October 30
Franklin, October 31
Collierville, November 5
Tiptonville, November 6
Dover, November 6

Stones River Symposium October 25 & 26

For more information, contact the Stones River National Battlefield at <http://www.nps.gov/stri> or 615.893.9501 or the CHP at hispres@mtsu.edu or 615.898.2947.

Center Projects, Contd.

Landmarks Commission the possibility of completing a study and assessment of historic African-American churches in Memphis. Staff will also complete a MPS for extant slave houses to the National Register.

The next phase of the Birmingham Civil Rights project involves listing Bethel Baptist Church and other related Civil Rights Movement churches to the National Register. Birmingham may also work with the Center to develop heritage education curricula and a web site about the Civil Rights historic district and properties.

The on-line edition of the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* will be available in November. UT Press will publish *Trial and Triumph: Readings in Tennessee's African-American Past*, a collection edited by Center staff, in October 2002.

The Center plans to work with interested groups to develop a multi-disciplinary humanities outreach project, titled the Tennessee Partnership. The project will bring awareness to the state's resources in history and culture and create partnerships to interpret and preserve these resources. The Center is also working with the MTSU Jennings and Rebecca Jones Chair in Urban and Regional Planning to develop a working group devoted to improving communication and finding solutions for growth management and development in the greater Nashville region.

Other National Register work includes an updated nomination for the Stones River Battlefield.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFILES

Graduate Research Assistant **Sarah Jackson** is a new addition to the Center for Historic Preservation. She graduated in May 2002 from the University of Kansas where she studied history and anthropology, and just recently became interested in public history. Sarah has worked and volunteered for various historical institutions such as the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame, the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond, VA, and the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC.

Nancy Morgan has returned to the Center for another year as graduate research assistant and is as busy as ever. Nancy is a native of Marshall County, TN and has experience with bureaucracies as well as business. She has put those professional skills, plus her great passion for state and local history, to good use in various Center projects such as the Century Farms and impressive National Register nominations.

Taffey Hall, a native of East Tennessee, completed her work at the Center by assisting with the updating of the Century Farm files database. During Taffey's first semester at the Center she wrote a national register nomination and assisted with research for the TCWNHA's compact draft.

Laura Stewart of Franklin began her GA work in Fall 2002. Laura is a graduate of the University of Kansas and is working on the NR nomination of the Natchez Street neighborhood in Franklin.

Robin Zeigler is leaving the Center this semester to become the Preservation Planner in Bowling Green, Warren County, Kentucky.

ALUMNI UPDATE



Row 1, from left: Leo Goodsell, Karen Lowe, Jennifer Butt, Erin Beth Dower. Row 2, from left: Susan Skarbowski, Jennifer Martin, Jeff Mansell. Row 3, from left: Steve Sadowski, Richard Betterly. Photographed at St. John's Church, 1990.

Erin Beth Dower, living and working in Columbus, OH

Jeff Mansell, executive director, Historic Beaufort, SC

Jennifer Butt, secretary for Department of Criminal Justice Administration, MTSU, and co-owner of an antiques business

Jennifer Martin, preservation consultant, NC

Karen Lowe Living and working in Chagrin Falls, OH

Leo Goodsell, executive director, Berrien County Historical Association, MI

Richard Betterly, preservation specialist, McCormick, Taylor & Associates, Harrisburg, PA

Steve Sadowski, preservation planner, City of Austin, TX

Susan Skarbowski Goodsell, gift shop owner and director of communications for an event management firm, MI

CENTER WELCOMES TCWNHA STAFF

Michael Thomas Gavin, is the preservation specialist for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA). A native of New Jersey, he has lived in Tennessee for the past thirty-one years. Michael received a B.A. in English from Rutgers University and a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from MTSU. He was president of a restoration company that for the past twenty-five years specialized in rehabilitating historic buildings. Publications include articles about vernacular architecture in several scholarly journals.

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New Staff, Contd.

CENTER HOSTS RECEPTION

The Center for Historic Preservation hosted a reception on Thursday, August 22nd to welcome Dr. Carroll Van West as new director for the Center and to showcase new and improved offices at 1416 E. Main Street.

Colleagues and friends of the Center who attended the reception included: Dr. Sidney McPhee, MTSU president, Ann Toplovich, Director of the Tennessee Historical Society, Stuart Johnson, Superintendent of Stones River National Battlefield, Martha Carver, Tennessee Department of Transportation, representatives of Historic Bradley Academy, Janelee Wise, Murfreesboro Main Street Director, Dr. John McDaniel, Dean of Liberal Arts, staff of the Metro Historical Commission, Dean Don Craig, Walker Library, faculty of the history department at MTSU, history students and Center alumni.



Michael and his wife Linda have been married for thirty-five years and are raising their grandchild, Tyler.

Tiffany Godbey, TCWNHA project coordinator, was hired in April 2002. She is currently enrolled at MTSU majoring in the fields of Recreational Therapy and Administration with a minor in Psychology. She is a returning student who, with her husband and children, moved to the Middle Tennessee area in the summer of 2001. Tiffany is responsible for assisting each staff member with his or her projects, as well as daily operations and student personnel.

Antoinette G. van Zelm, the TCWNHA's new interpretive specialist, received her Ph. D. in American History from the College of William & Mary in 1998. Antoinette, who serves as book review editor for *H-SAWH (Southern Association for Women Historians)*, has held editorial positions at the Library of Virginia and at the Smithsonian Institution. She was an Elizabeth Perkins Fellow at the Old York Historical Society in Maine and a docent at Travellers Rest in Nashville. She has also done free-lance work for the Virginia Historical Society and ABC-CLIO. Antoinette worked most recently as a writer in the Development Office at MTSU. Antoinette's husband, Lynn Nelson, is an assistant professor in the MTSU History Department. They have a two-year old son, Nathan.

The MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, a research and public service institute, is committed to the preservation, protection, enhancement, and promotion of our historic environment.

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Nancy Smotherman, Secretary
Tiffany Godbey, TCWNHA Secretary
Michael Thomas Gavin, TCWNHA Preservation Specialist
Antoinette G. van Zelm, TCWNHA Interpretive Specialist