

Goetsch said.

Goetsch visited the battlefield frequently last fall as a part of her graduate research on a community of African-American workers that settled near the cemetery after the Battle of Stones River.

During her research, she met Gib Backlund, chief of operations for the park, and Jim Lewis, who's in charge of cultural resource management and law enforcement. Their work in managing the park as a cultural resource aligned with her scholarly pursuits. Since Goetsch joined the staff, both Backlund and Lewis have helped her find ways to utilize the park's resources for her studies, such as designing exhibits.

"My major is public history, and my track is cultural resource management," Goetsch said. "I have the hands-on experience of being able to do this for my internship requirement. Being a park ranger fulfills that for me."

Park officials welcome the expertise and enthusiasm that MTSU students are bringing to their summer positions.

"We have 21 employees working seasonally at the battlefield," Backlund said. "MTSU has been a really great source of employees for us who are studying in the fields of history, biology, parks and recreation and agriculture. Their skills have really helped us do a better job at the battlefield."

Goetsch earned her undergraduate degree in history at New Mexico State University, and she plans to continue in the public history doctoral program at MTSU. If her eventual career is not with the National Park Service, she said she still hopes to continue presenting history to others in an engaging way. For now, that means telling the stories of women and civilians as well as soldiers.

"It's a much bigger picture," Goetsch said. "I like to try to broaden it so that visi-



Goetsch

tors can walk away understanding more of the significance."

For the indoor exhibits, doctoral candidate George focuses on preserving artifacts as a museum tech. One of his responsibilities is maintaining the museum's "integrated pest management" by trapping destructive insects. He also treats paper, wood and other historic materials that disintegrate over time.

"There's a lot that goes on behind the scenes in conserving artifacts from our past that most people wouldn't think about. There are certain insects that absolutely destroy a historic artifact," George said. "If a moth likes to eat wool, and you have a Civil War uniform made out of wool, you need to get rid of that moth!"



George

George is eager to share his love of history through teaching this fall at MTSU. He earned his undergraduate degree in business administration at Faulkner University, a small private college in Montgomery, Ala.

While working 18 years in business, he pursued history as a hobby and dreamed of someday making it a career. He earned an advanced degree in local history online from Oxford University and a master's in American studies at the University of Alabama.

George said he was drawn to the public history program at MTSU because of its emphasis on museum work, historical sites and preservation. "And we have a great resource in the Center for Historic Preservation on campus, which is very highly regarded nationally," he said.

George finds fulfillment pursuing his passion rather than financial gain. "Everybody wants to prosper, but you're not prospering very well if you're unhappy," he said.

For George and Goetsch, historical preservation is a continually rewarding pursuit. They both explore and share history daily at the battlefield.

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lot of history—a lot more history than I thought."

White said the experience he is now gaining by working on the battlefield will aid him in the future by improving his networking and communication skills.

"When I first got out here, I didn't know how it was going to go until I actually started interacting with different people who work here. So it turned out for the best," he said.

White lists his mother, Terrie Cochran, an employee with the U. S. Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., and his father, Harold White, an employee of the Memphis Health Institute and owner of his own landscaping business, as his main influences.

When he was younger, White worked alongside his landscaping father, who also is a recreation major. This childhood experience with his dad has helped to prepare him to work on the landscaping at Stones River Battlefield.



White

"That's actually where I got my experience to work (on the battlefield)," he said, referring to his dad. "A lot of the stuff we are doing now, I learned when I was really young."

White has gained myriad experiences while at MTSU and hopes to graduate in 2010.

"I'm learning a lot fast and taking it all in pretty well, I think," he said, "especially (since I am) coming from a different state."

One of the new skills he's gained at MTSU is running his own radio broadcast. White's one-man show, "The Show," is on the air every Tuesday from 10 p.m. to midnight.

"It's going pretty good," he said. "My show—like the first year-and-a-half I was here—was in the morning, and I just recently got it switched to the night slots. ... I do my show, play whatever I want. I play ... a lot of R&B, but mostly I diversify it."

When he's not at Stones River or WMTS-FM, White said, he's easily entertained and recently took on a new hobby.

"I like to just relax once I get off work," he said. "I have picked up skateboarding, actually. I just started skateboarding; my little brother was teaching me some tricks the other day."

White's plans for the future are extremely clear.

"I'm definitely interested in going into radio when I graduate ... nowhere specific, as long as I'm doing what I like to do."

Senior trades gridiron for new field of interest at SRNB

by Stephanie Drago

Richard Bortner, a senior in MTSU's outdoor recreation program, is chasing a different dream than his love for the game. Bortner, 22, of Crestview, Fla., is a former football player working to restore the historical landscape at Stones River National Battlefield this summer.

"I played football until the beginning of last season and got a neck injury, so they said it would be in my best interest if I didn't play anymore," he said.

Bortner came to MTSU on a scholarship to play right guard for the Blue Raiders football team. The injury prevented any further aspirations toward professional football.

"You always think NFL, but you're never really quite sure if you're good enough to make it," Bortner said. "But I never got a chance to try, so it kind of ruined that."

This turn of events led Bortner to pursue his interest in the outdoors. He became involved with the battlefield last summer when he worked 90 hours there for a field studies credit in his major.

"I did that voluntarily at the park doing the same natural-resources type of work that I'm doing now," Bortner said.

When it came time to find an internship for outdoor recreation, he knew he wanted to check back for opportunities at the battlefield.



Bortner

"I called them and they were hiring seasonal (workers), so this time I'll be paid," Bortner said with a smile.

Bortner and his colleagues are working to gradually change the battlefield's appearance. They use chemical treatments to kill non-native species, such as mustard grass and Chinese privet, which interfere with the plant life they want to preserve.

"Our main goal is that we're trying to restore the park to the original look of the native grasses," Bortner said.

They also use chainsaws to clear more than 600 acres of property littered with years of debris from farming. "We acquired a bunch of new property that needs to be manicured, so we'll be ripping out fences and old hog pens," Bortner said.

Working outside comes naturally to Bortner. His hometown on the Florida panhandle is about an hour north of Destin, and he grew up enjoying hobbies like hunting and fishing. Now his major encompasses a wide variety of possibilities for working outdoors.

"It's a little obscure, because with outdoor recreation, there are so many different things you can turn it into," he said.

After graduation this December, Bortner said he wants to pursue wildlife law enforcement. He plans to use his degree as a federal officer to keep the peace and protect the natural landscape from poachers.

"I'd like to go back to Florida because you get a fair mix," Bortner said. "You know, you've got people hunting, and you've got coastal fishing as well as inland on rivers and lakes. I think it would be fun."



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