I AM TRUE BLACK: The Syllabus
Compiled by Albert Gore Research Center staff

OVERVIEW

In February 2021, the Albert Gore Research Center and James E. Walker Library opened an exhibit called I AM TRUE BLACK: The History of Black Student Life and Activism. The exhibit covered major highlights and achievements in MTSU’s Black history from the 1960s to the present day. One focus of the exhibit was the long history of activism against Confederate imagery used on campus, which is a movement that continues today. Other sections of the exhibit covered important organizations, like the Black Student Union, C.U.B.E., and Greek life. It also explored the history of Black athletes and their role in helping integrate the university. Finally, the exhibit contextualized MTSU’s Black history within the larger narrative of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County’s twentieth century history.

This syllabus provides citations and links to primary and secondary sources related to this vital history. The list is not comprehensive but it gives learners a good start. This syllabus it is intended for MTSU students, staff, faculty, alumni, and interested members of the public.

For comments, corrections, or questions contact Sarah.Calise@mtsu.edu or Donna.Baker@mtsu.edu.
PRIMARY SOURCES

Sylvester Brooks and Don Coleman Essays* - REQUIRED READING


Archival Collections

Forrest Hall Protest Collection, Albert Gore Research Center, MTSU. Available to search online through James E. Walker library’s digital collections. URL: https://cdm15838.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15838coll11

Midlander yearbooks. Albert Gore Research Center, MTSU. Also available to search online through James E. Walker Library. URL: https://digital.mtsu.edu/digital/collection/p15838coll3

Sidelines student newspaper. Albert Gore Research Center, MTSU. Also available to search online through James E. Walker Library. URL: https://jewlscholar.mtsu.edu/handle/mtsu/4
Oral Histories and Video Interviews

Brooks, Sylvester. Interviewed by Erin Toomey. September 30, 2000. Albert Gore Research Center, MTSU. URL: https://youtu.be/1Z3F7xBmCz0

Canty, Andre. Interviewed by Sarah Calise. Interview will be uploaded to our YouTube channel soon.

Gordon, Bart, Caroline Scarlett, and Phyllis Hickerson-Washington. Interviewed by Suma Clark as part of Centennial Conversations. Albert Gore Research Center, MTSU. A clip is available here: https://youtu.be/LeEIPxjN3cw

McDonald, Michael. Interviewed by Sarah Calise. Part 1: https://youtu.be/-BiZ6YZ7n3o

White, Arionna. Interviewed by Sarah Calise. Interview will be uploaded to our YouTube channel soon.

Windrow, Vincent. Interviewed by Quentin Magee as part of MTSU’s centennial celebration. February 2012. A clip is available here: https://youtu.be/ai74nbtuEco

SECONDARY SOURCES

Articles


URL: https://ussporthistory.com/2015/08/24/nathan-bedford-forrest-and-mtsu/

Blog Posts from Gore Center’s WordPress


“We’re Marching to the President’s House: MTSU’s Cross Burnings 50 Years Later,” Dec. 7, 2020. URL: https://albertgoreresearchcenter.wordpress.com/2020/12/07/were-marching-to-the-presidents-house-mtsus-cross-burnings-50-years-later/

Books


**Online Exhibits**

*Movement 68: Honoring 50 Years of Black Student Activism at MTSU*_ created by Sarah Calise, October 2019.

URL: [https://movement68.wordpress.com/](https://movement68.wordpress.com/)