

Public History

at Middle Tennessee State University

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Fall 2010



Integrating Scholarship and Practice through Partnerships

Nine public history graduate students, along with Dr. Rebecca Conard, traveled to Ft. Vancouver National Historic Site (FOVA) in Washington State for a two-week field school led by this year's Distinguished Visiting Public Historian, Dr. Stephanie Toothman, National Park Service (NPS) associate director for cultural resources. The group studied cultural resource management (CRM) practices and partnerships between the National Park Service, state park systems, local government agencies, private non-profit organizations, and universities. Students learned about the variety of partnerships that the NPS uses to preserve cultural resources at FOVA and to interpret a continuum of site history from native habitation through 160 years of military use ending with Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MTSU students spent the first week of the field school at Fort Vancouver, getting an inside view of CRM in the Pacific West Region of the NPS, particularly at FOVA under the direction of superintendent Tracy Fortmann. The daily schedule included both classroom instruction and park tours conducted by FOVA professional staff.

Among its several historic components, FOVA contains a historically accurate recreation of a former fort of the British Hudson's Bay Company fur

trading operations, built in 1824 near the Columbia River in present day Vancouver, Washington. In 1846, the Oregon Treaty set the U.S.-Canadian border at the 49th parallel north and placed Fort Vancouver within American territory.

Among the many highlights of the field school was an afternoon session with NPS Director Jon Jarvis. The students also visited the Historic Colum-

bia Gorge Scenic Highway, the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Mt. Hood and Oregon Trail sites, and Timberline Lodge National Historic Landmark. At the end of the "Maymeester" course, Dr. Toothman conducted a public forum in Murfreesboro.

In addition to Dr. Conard, participants in the field school were Mona Brittingham, David Calease, Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, Brigitte Eubank, Meghan Fall, Katie Merzbacher, Keith Schumann, Sade Turnipseed, and Virginia Wallace-Falck. The students stayed in Portland, Oregon, at the Portland Hostel, a member of Hostel International.

To learn more about the field school and see photos of FOVA, check out Mona Brittingham's impressions about the trip on the History Department's new blog at <http://mtsuhistory.blogspot.com/>. [More information about the blog is on page four of this newsletter.] ↗



Learning Onsite: Stephanie Toothman (right) with MTSU student Virginia Wallace-Falck at Oregon's Gordon House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

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2010 Distinguished Visiting Public Historian, Dr. Stephanie Toothman

Dr. Stephanie Toothman graduated from Smith College in the American Studies program and completed her M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Before her present position as National Park Service associate director for cultural resources, Dr. Toothman served as chief of cultural resource programs for the Pacific West Region, NPS; as regional historian for the Pacific West Region; and with the National Register of Historic Places. ↗

Unlock the Past The Key to Your Future

New Graduate Students

Ph.D. Program

Mohammad Ashjaei
Kerek Frierson
Abby Hathaway
Hasan Karayam
John Lynch
Katie Stringer
Kimberly Tucker
C. Sade Turnipseed

Master's Program

Claire Ackerman
Jessica Bandel
Jared Bratten
Mona Moore Brittingham
Ashley Brown
Morgan Byrn
David Calease
Leslie Crouch
Rachel Drayton
Meghan Fall
Kelsey Fields
Leigh Ann Gardner
Dallas Hanbury
Amy Kostine
Alaina Mankin
Rachel Morris
Charles Nichols
Kristen O'Hare
Keith Schumann
Sean Urrutia

Awards, Publications & Presentations

The Public History program congratulates recent graduates and students for their awards, publications, and presentations this past year.

Awards

Heritage Travel Inc., a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded **Heather Bailey** their grand prize for her review, "An Authentic Southern Town," that highlights Winchester, Tennessee. Bailey's review was selected from hundreds of entries and 25 finalists. To read Bailey's complete review of Winchester, visit www.gowithapurpose.com/go-learn/.

At the Middle Tennessee Users Meeting of the Tennessee Geographic Information Council in Lebanon, Tennessee, **Bethany Hall** made oral and map presentations on her research into the cultural remains of warfare on the Pacific island of Peleliu, which she visited with Derek Frisby's study abroad trip in January 2009. Hall's map placed second in the Best Map competition and received the Viewer's Choice award.

Publications

Heather L. Bailey, "Sustainable Murals," *Art Makes Place* exhibit catalog, Nashville, Tennessee. Published in conjunction with the exhibition at the Nashville Public Library, March 2010.

Tyler Moore, "You Know That I'm Getting Tired of Sleeping by Myself: The Influence of Blues Legend Willie Lee Brown," *West Tennessee Historical Society Papers*, February 2009.

Elizabeth Smith, "Women's Rights National Historical Park," in *National Parks and Historic Sites: An Encyclopedia*, Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, pending publication.

Kristen Baldwin Deathridge, "Fences," in *The World of a Slave: Encyclopedia of Material Slave Life in the United States*. Martha Katz-Hyman and Kym Rice, eds., ABC-CLIO, expected 2010.

Presentations

Heather Bailey, "Hillbilly Skits to Buford Sticks: Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Tennessee," National Council on Public History Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 2010.

Susan Knowles and **Zada Law**, "Ground Truth: What Historians Can Learn from Geography," National Council on Public History Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 2010.

Tyler Moore, "I Asked for Water and She Gave Me Gasoline: Difficult Issues in Heritage Tourism," National Council on Public History, Portland, Oregon, March 2010.

Gwynn Thayer, "The Face of Public History in the Field: Developing Archives at the Grassroots Level," National Council on Public History Conference, Portland, Oregon, March 2010.

Gwynn Thayer, "California Fights the Dogs: The Failure to Establish Greyhound Racing in the Golden State," California American Studies Association Conference, Long Beach, California, April 2010.

Tara White, "Justice and the Beloved Community: The Civil Rights Movement in Nashville," National Preservation Conference, Nashville, October 2009.

Tara White, "Lucinda B. Robey and the Women of the Birmingham Movement," Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Cincinnati, Ohio, October 2009. ↗



Dr. Ellen Garrison Retires

 by Dr. Bren Martin

At the end of spring semester, Dr. Ellen Garrison retired after ten years of service as a member of the MTSU history faculty. Dr. Garrison earned her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history at Stanford University. During her 25-year career as a professional archivist, she had many notable ac-

complishments, including several professional and scholarly publications, becoming a charter member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, and being named a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists.

Dr. Garrison began her archival career in 1972 in the Southern Historical Collections at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She worked in various archives in Georgia, Tennessee, New York, and Alabama, and joined the MTSU faculty in 2001.

Over the last ten years, Dr. Garrison developed a well-organized, successful, and technologically cutting-edge archival program at MTSU. She aligned the archival management program with professional certification standards and spearheaded the department's involvement in the Archival Education Collaborative with four other major universities to offer advanced courses in archival management in real-time video format.

With Dr. Garrison's retirement, Ph.D. student Albert Whittenberg is teaching the archives classes. ↗

Graduate Student Internships in 2010

Hallie Fieser was an intern in the cultural resources section of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Hallie updated condition assessments for the park's structures and prepared an architectural salvage and museum collection report for the park's Elkmont area to guide structure removal and preservation efforts.

Natalie Goodwin interned at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park processing the park's archival collections.

Cheri LaFlamme interned with the New York Historical Society (NYHS), researching Ulysses S. Grant's involvement in establishing the first contraband camp in Tennessee at Grand Junction. Cheri continues to work with the NYHS, developing an online exhibit about life in the camp and the responses of civilians and Union soldiers to the camp.

Greg Morris did his internship at Historic Rock Castle in Hendersonville, Tennessee. Greg updated the site's

master plan to expand their period of interpretation to include the life of Daniel Smith's son, George.

Mandi Pitt was a digital projects intern at the Rutherford County Archives in Murfreesboro. Mandi digitized and catalogued part of the historic Murfreesboro Shacklett's Collection, created a postcard exhibit, and worked on a pilot project to digitize community photographs.

Katie Randall interned with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area and conducted a survey of the newly designated Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area's African American resources. Katie also gained experience in heritage tourism by participating in meetings at the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development in preparation for the Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration and working on the Sesquicentennial Web site. ↗

Congratulations to Our New Graduates



Drs. Heather Bailey and Carroll Van West

In the last year, MTSU has granted seven Ph.D.s in Public History. Our new doctoral graduates and the titles of their dissertations are below.

Heather Bailey, "Hillbilly Skits to Buford Sticks: Sustainable Heritage Tourism in Tennessee"

Kevin Cason, "Sippin', Pausin', and Visualizin': Visual Literacy and Corporate Advertising"

Brian Dempsey, "Refuse to Fold: Blues Heritage Tourism and the Mississippi Delta"

Brian Hackett, "Harboring Negroes: Race, Religion, and Politics in North Carolina and Indiana"

Tom Kanon, "Material Culture and Public Memory in Nineteenth-

century Historical Societies: A Case Study of the Tennessee Historical Society"

Spurgeon King, "The Geography of Civil War: Conflict and Legacy in Upper East Tennessee, 1861-1865"

Tara White, "A Shrine of Liberty for the Unborn Generations: African American Clubwomen and the Preservation of African American Historic Sites"

Public History master's degrees were granted to **Marie Bourassa**, **Elena DiGrado**, **Lane Jarrett**, **Katherine Merzbacher**, **Melody Nazworth**, **Ashleigh Oatts**, **Carolyn Powell**, and **Jeffery Sellars**. ↗



Drs. Tara White and Rebecca Conard



Drs. Tom Kanon and Ellen Garrison



Drs. Kevin Cason, Brian Hackett, Brian Dempsey, and Spurgeon King

Gore Center Welcomes New Staff Member

James Havron Jr. joined the Albert Gore Research Center in August as archivist and coordinator. Jim works with student workers, faculty, and researchers in a variety of projects including processing of new collections, creating greater access to older ones, and digitization.

Havron earned his master's degree in history with an archival management track at MTSU. He is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists and has been the president of the executive board of the Society of Tennessee Archivists for several years. He also serves on the steering committee of a section of the Society of American Archivists.

Before joining the Gore Center, Havron worked for the special collections division of the Nashville Public Library, where he did archival processing and preservation, worked with digital collections, directed oral history projects and the conversion of analog oral histories to digital formats, and served as StoryCorps coordinator. ↗

In the Community

CHP Hands-on-History Work Day

Excerpted from the Record, August 9, 2010, Vol. 19, No. 3

On June 4, a work crew from the Center for Historic Preservation spent the day in southern middle Tennessee at the Matt Gardner Homestead Museum, a frame house built in 1896 by a former slave, to bring the house closer to its original appearance.

“Removing wallpaper and modern paneling to expose the original paneling, removing aluminum windows and general cleaning were among the jobs completed,” said CHP Assistant Director Caneta Hankins.

The Matt Gardner Homestead is located in Elkton in Giles County and includes the frame house, a well house, two later barns, and a recently reconstructed outhouse. The property’s rehabilitation is an ongoing effort by the family, friends, and the Elkton Historical Society.

The home’s original owner, the Rev. Gardner and his wife, Henrietta, were leaders in the black community of Giles County following their emancipation. Gardner operated a store and made loans to other blacks so they could purchase their own land. He also financed the first two-room school for blacks in 1920, then led the effort to secure Rosenwald funds to build a four-room school in 1930.

In 1995, the center prepared the successful nomination that listed the Matt Gardner homestead on the National Register of Historic Places. “The Gardner house and farm are significant for African American architecture, agriculture, and commerce,” Hankins said. “When restored, the house will be interpreted as a museum of African American history for the county.”

In addition to the work day, CHP staff have provided professional services and matching partnership funds for a Web site and brochure, as well as building assessments and restoration guidelines, through the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, which is administered by the CHP.

“The Gardner family has been very determined to restore this farm and tell the story of their family and of other African Americans who have contributed to every aspect of Giles County history,” said Hankins. “The long-standing working relationship between the Matt Gardner Homestead, the Center for Historic Preservation, and the Heritage Area allows both staff and students to learn about the lifestyle of rural black Americans during the transition period in the first decades after emancipation.”



WORK DAY CREW Front row, from left: Antoinette van Zelm, Kira Duke, and Sara Reiger. Second row, from left: Katie Randall, Katie Merzbacher, and Kristen Deathridge. Standing, from left: Ann Hendrix and Jennifer Butt. Second-story window: crew chief Mike Gavin.

Online Resources

The History Department has redesigned the departmental Web site (www.mtsu.edu/history/) and launched a new blog at <http://mtsuhistory.blogspot.com/>. The blog highlights activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni; advertises departmental events; and explores local history. Feel free to leave comments or—better yet—volunteer to be a guest blogger. Also, be sure to visit the Center for Historic Preservation’s Web site at www.mtsuhistpres.org/.

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