

Public History

at Middle Tennessee State University

Vol. 6 No. 2

Spring 2013



Meet Dr. Kelly Ann Kolar



Kelly Ann Kolar joined the faculty in January 2013 to take charge of graduate courses in archival management and also teach Russian history and western civilization. Dr. Kolar holds a Ph.D. in history and a master's in library and information science

from the University of California–Los Angeles. From 2004 to 2007 she served as curator (the first) of the Wende Museum and Archive of the Cold War in Los Angeles, where she was responsible for

collection development, collection management, and museum policy. She also administered an intern program and developed a scholarly outreach program on collecting and preserving Cold War history.

Her research examines modern Russian history through the lens of archival policy and practice. “Russian Archives and Libraries: Their Development Since the Introduction of Technology,” will appear in a forthcoming collection of essays titled *Technology and Libraries in the Twenty-first Century: An International Perspective*, edited by R. N. Sharma (Lanham, Md.: Scarecrow Press). This summer, in addition to getting married and enjoying the mountain air at Big Bear, California, she will begin revising her dissertation, “What Kind of Past Should the Future Have? The Development of the Soviet Archival System, 1917–1931”, for publication consideration. ↗

The Maymester Experience with Dr. David Thelen

David Thelen, distinguished professor emeritus at Indiana University, is in residence teaching Current Issues in Public History Practice during the three-week Maymester term.

A prolific scholar, Dr. Thelen’s wide-ranging publications include one of the most-read books in the literature of public history, *The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* (1998), which he coauthored with the late Roy Rosenzweig. Based on lengthy interviews with more than 2,000 people of Euro American, African American, Mexican American, and American Indian lineage, the book generated vigorous debate among historians and inspired related research projects in Australia



Maymester class l-r: Ashley Bouknight, Josh Howard, Jessica French, Dallas Hanbury, Christina Runkel, Mike Browning, Angie Sima, Thomas Flagel, Liz Lambert, Ali Hoskins, Dr. David Thelen, Lindsey Whitley, Ginna Foster Cannon

and Canada, all of which serve as a springboard for the Maymester course.

From 1966 to 1985, Thelen taught history at the University of Missouri–Columbia where, once upon a time, our own Dr. Robert Hunt

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Mary Kate Stringer
Newsletter
Editorial Assistant

Unlock the Past The Key to Your Future

New Graduate Students, Spring 2013

Master of Arts in History, Public History concentration

David Collyer

Brad Eatherly

Allison Hoskins

Ashley Lancaster

Ashley Layhew

Lindsey Whitley

Doctor of Philosophy in Public History

Robert Beatty II

Christina Runkel

Dr. David Thelen... *continued from page 1*

served as his graduate assistant. In 1985, Thelen moved to Indiana University, where he served as professor of history until 2006 and as editor of the *Journal of American History* from 1985 to 1999. In addition to receiving numerous awards and honors, he has served as a consultant to many museums, historical organizations, and professional societies. Most recently, he served on a task force created as a collaborative effort of the National Park Service (NPS) and the Organization of American Historians. This task force spent nearly three years assessing the research, interpretation, and presentation of history in the NPS, and its findings were published as *Imperiled Promise*:

The Status of History in the National Park Service (2011), which received the 2013 Excellence in Consulting Award from the National Council on Public History.

Dr. Thelen adds visiting distinguished public historian at MTSU to previous visiting appointments at the University of Amsterdam, the University of Manchester, École des hautes études en sciences sociales in Paris, and American University in Washington, D.C. Since 2008, he has also held the title of visiting professor of history at the University of Johannesburg, where he is studying the use of history in postapartheid community rebuilding, the subject of a forthcoming book. ↗

News from the Centers

Center for Popular Music - Lucinda Cockrell

Public History graduate assistants **Elaura Highfield, Josh Howard, and Amanda Schaffer** recently undertook several projects at the Center for Popular Music (CPM).

Highfield cataloged several hundred pieces of sheet music and assisted with accessioning, inventorying, and processing collections. She also developed a web exhibit featuring music from the Cold War era.

Howard worked on a series of exhibits (*America's Music: From Broadway to Bluegrass to Blues*) associated with a festival presented by the CPM in partnership with Linebaugh Public Library and the City of Murfreesboro. The six-week Celebration of America's Music program, funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant, featured documentary film screenings, scholar-led discussions, and concerts by local musicians. Josh also continued to catalog orchestrations of popular music titles for inclusion in the CPM's database and developed lesson plans for teachers to help students better utilize the center's holdings.

Schaffer took charge of Broadway show and movie music in need of processing and cataloging. She also accessioned collections and created the exhibit *Rulers of Rhythm*, which

was mounted in Walker Library for Black History Month. The exhibit highlighted African American artists who not only influenced popular music in the twentieth century, but who also came to be regarded as the "rulers" of blues, jazz, ragtime, rock 'n' roll, soul, pop, and disco.

We are pleased to report that more and more professors and students are using the rich collection of historical music materials available through the CPM in their classes and research. This semester we welcomed students from Historian's Craft, Explorations in Public History, Essentials of Museum Management, Seminar in Public Programming for Historical Organizations and Archives, and Essentials of Archival Management.

Looking ahead, the Center for Popular Music and the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, Mass.) have been awarded a \$128,000 NEH grant to implement a project called "American Vernacular Music Manuscripts, ca. 1730-1910." The grant will enable the center to develop cataloging standards applicable to American vernacular music manuscripts, and then to catalog, digitize, and make publicly accessible through a website its manuscripts and those of the American Antiquarian Society. ↗

Albert Gore Research Center - Jim Williams



Display case for *Uncommon Thread: The Life of Louise Mott Miles*. Above, one of the exhibit's five fabric graphic panels.

Public History graduate assistants were instrumental in moving forward many projects at the Albert Gore Research Center this spring. **Aja Bain**, **Kayla Utendorf**, and **Rachel Smith** brought to fruition an exhibit first conceived last year. Titled *Uncommon Thread: The Life of Louise Mott Miles (Class of 1928)*, the exhibit opened at the end of March and will remain on display into the fall. An online version of the exhibit will be

posted at a later date on the center's website (gorecenter.mtsu.edu).

The center also moved into the age of social media. Tweets from the Miles diary written in the 1920s can be followed @LouiseMottMiles, and graduate assistants regularly post on the center's blog (gorecenter.mtsu.wordpress.com). You can also follow the us Twitter (@AGRCatMTSU) and Facebook, where we all look forward to "Wacky Wednesday"—when we present photos of unusual and strange items from our diverse holdings.

Rachel Smith will stay on during the summer as an archives technician to process the papers of former congressman Bart Gordon (class of 1971). Smith joins **Natalie Goodwin** (M.A. 2011), who has continued as an archives technician processing previously closed portions of the papers of Albert Gore Sr.

The center inaugurated an occasional brown bag series in archival management. Our first six guest speakers hailed from Metro Nashville Archives, Nashville Public Library, Cheekwood Art Museum, Tennessee State Library and Archives, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, and MTSU Information Technology. ↗

Center for Historic Preservation - Stacey Graham

Graduate students have been busy this semester. **Sara Beth Gideon** has been working on a heritage development plan for the Gem Theater in Etowah, Tennessee, and a heritage center design plan for the Sumner County Convention and Visitor's Bureau. As reported elsewhere, **Abigail Gautreau** spent spring semester in Montgomery, Alabama completing fieldwork for the center as part of her professional residency. **Amber Clawson** worked with Dr. Carroll West to host an interpretation workshop for Parker's Crossroads Battlefield interpreters, and drafted parts of the historical significance section for the recently approved Civil Rights Multiple Property Nomination in Selma, Alabama.

Angela Sirna and **Lydia Simpson** continue work on the East Tennessee Marble Survey with program alumna **Susan Knowles**. **Allison R. Hoskins** has been working at the Heritage Center of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County, giving tours to various groups and organizations this semester. **GINNA FOSTER CANNON** worked on CHP's development plan and wrote multiple entries for the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.

David Sprouse and **Amy Kostine** researched and drafted text for interpretive panels to be installed at the Pulaski Trail of Tears Interpretive Center, which will celebrate its grand opening on August 23, 2013. Sprouse also prepared and presented the National Register nomination for Skyline Farms Commissary to the Alabama Historical Commission.

This semester, **Jessica French** continued researching the African American history of Glen Leven Farm in Nashville and presented the center's research on American Baptist College in Nashville to the Murfreesboro branch of the NAACP at Bradley Academy Museum. **Julie Warwick** completed a Historic Structures Report on Gem Theater in Etowah, Tennessee. **Rachael Finch** researched Civil War and Reconstruction history for the Carter's Cotton Gin site in Franklin, and is now working on a Civil War museum exhibit for Travellers Rest in Nashville. **Savannah Grandey** provided staffing for the Heritage Center, assisted in the digitization project *Southern Places*, and developed an exhibit for the Arts Center of Cannon County. ↗

Congratulations to Our Spring 2013 Graduates!

M.A. in History, Public History concentration

Dan Sumner Allen
Matthew Bailey
Dollie Boyd
Rachael Finch
Rachel Knapp
Rachel McCreery
Rachel Meredith
Sarah Jane Murray
Amanda Schaffer
Keith Schumann
Rachel Smith
Jessica White

Ph.D. in Public History

John George
*Dissertation: Stones
River: Creating a
Battlefield Park*

Katherine O'Bryan
*Dissertation: Gender,
Politics, and Power:
The Development of
the Ladies Rest Room
and Lounge in Rural
America, 1910–1945.*

Katie Stringer
*Dissertation: Enriching
the Public History
Dialogue: Effective
Museum Education
Programs for Audiences
with Special Needs.*



*Drs. Martin, O'Bryan, George, and Stringer, Spring
2013 commencement*



*Spring 2013 grads Rachel Meredith, Alisia Linam, Rachel Knapp,
Rachel Smith, Amanda Schaffer, Jessi White, Rachel McCreery*

Ph.D. Alumni in the Spotlight

Eight years ago, in fall 2005, the History Department welcomed the first class of students—thirteen in all—to the Ph.D. in Public History program. Of the thirteen, five were transfers from the existing doctor of arts program, which the department phased out. In transitioning to a Ph.D. program, the department was responding to gradually increasing demand for a more broadly structured program in public history.

Planning a new Ph.D. program also gave the department an opportunity to think deeply about designing graduate education to prepare students for professional practice in a market that was, and still is, evolving. The resulting program entwines scholarship with practice and draws heavily on professional expertise from three campus research centers: the Center for Historic Preservation, the Albert Gore Research Center, and the Center for Popular Music.

During 2005–2006, the Public History program also launched this newsletter to recognize the achievements of our students and to reconnect with the many alumni who are part of the growth and development of public history education at MTSU. In this issue, we salute the eighteen women and men who added Ph.D. to their credentials between fall 2007 and fall 2012. Three more grads who earned their Ph.D.s this spring are recognized elsewhere in the newsletter. In alphabetical order, our Ph.D. alums are:

Heather L. Bailey (2010) is preservation and housing planner for the East Tennessee Development District, a 16-county region. She also serves as a technical advisor for the East Tennessee Preservation Alliance and as a board member of the Tennessee Preservation Trust. A forthcoming article, “Does This Place Really Matter: The Struggle for Meaning in Colorado’s Post–World War II Suburbs” in *Making Suburbia*, Paul Sandul, John Archer, and Katherine Solomonson, eds. (University of Minnesota Press, publication pending), reflects her previous work with History Colorado, where she served as state and National Register historian.

Kevin Cason (2009) serves as archivist for the Tennessee Future Farmers of America (TFFA) and teaches as an adjunct instructor in the History Department. With Reuben Kyle, professor emeritus of economics, he cowrote *From Nashborough to the Nobel Prize: The Buchanans of Tennessee* (Twin Oaks Press, 2013), which



Kevin Cason

traces the historical significance of the Buchanan family in Tennessee history. In recognition of his significant contribution to preserving records and collections, the TFFA board of directors recently presented Kevin with its top award, an Honorary State FFA degree.

Jane Davis (2012) briefly returned to her librarian roots and worked as a cataloger for the St. Louis Public Library before assuming the digital library projects coordinator position in April 2013 at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, where she is responsible for coordinating the expansion of the Federal Reserve’s digital library of historic economic documents. FRASER

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(<http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/>) seeks to preserve and promote access to the nation's economic history through digitization of documents, archival materials, and images held by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and its partners.

Kristen Baldwin Deathridge (2012) spent 2012–2013 as visiting assistant professor at the University of Nebraska–Kearney. This fall, she will join the faculty at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., in a tenure-track position teaching undergraduate and graduate courses and overseeing a concentration in historic preservation at the master's level. In April, she presented "From Sacred to Secular: the Adaptive Reuse of America's Religious Buildings" at the Western Social Science Association in Denver.



Kristen Deathridge, Katie Stringer, and Katie O'Bryan relaxing at the Western Social Science Association Conference, Denver, April 2013.

Brian Dempsey (2009) is with Nashville-based O'Neil Hagaman, which provides a broad range of management services to the music industry. In addition to working with concert tour creative and production teams on media content projects, he co-manages a charitable arm of Tim McGraw's current tour, "Homefront," which is providing mortgage-free homes to military veterans.

Brian Hackett (2009) is assistant professor and director of the public history master's program at Northern Kentucky University. From spring 2010 to spring 2012, he served as director of the Center for Public History. Since taking over directorship of the master's program in 2012, he has expanded the teaching staff, added additional courses, worked on expanding community partnerships, and created a strong advisory committee. The program has approximately 50 students.

Steven Hoskins (2009) is associate professor of religion at Trevecca Nazarene University, a post he has held since 1995. Since graduating in 2009, he has expanded a busy schedule of writing and public speaking and serving as Historian Laureate of the Tennessee District Church of the Nazarene to include directing the American Association for State and Local History's (AASLH) Project Management for History Professionals program, which offers workshops across the country. He wrote "Calculating Risk—A Guide to Managing Risk in History Projects" for AASLH as part of the Technical Leaflet Series published with *History News* (December 2012).



Steven Hoskins

Tom Kanon (2010) has continued in his position as archivist with the Tennessee State Library and Archives. A book in process—*Tennesseans at War 1812–1815: Andrew Jackson and the Southern Campaign*—is scheduled to be published by the University of Alabama Press in spring 2014. He has also made major presentations based on his dissertation, "Material Culture and Public Memory in Nineteenth-Century Historical Societies: A Case Study of the Tennessee Historical Society."

Spurgeon King (2009) until recently was associate director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. In addition to managing a variety of preservation and Civil War-related projects for the Heritage Area, he recently edited *The Civil War in Appalachia*, published by the Tennessee Historical Society in 2012 as part of the society's Civil War Series. He has also contributed several Civil War entries to the *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* (online edition).

Susan W. Knowles (2011) is a research fellow at the Center for Historic Preservation. In this capacity she served as project curator for *Shades of Gray and Blue: Reflections of Life in Civil War Tennessee*, a website and digital collection, which won a 2013 Award of Excellence from the Tennessee Association of Museums. She is directing a historical survey of the East Tennessee marble industry, funded with a grant from the Tennessee Historical Commission. Since 2012, Susan has also worked as a museum consultant for the new Tennessee Judiciary Museum housed in the Tennessee Supreme Court building in Nashville.



Susan Knowles

Ph.D. Alumni in the Spotlight... *continued from page 5*

Tara Mitchell Mielnik (2007) is the federal programs coordinator and historian for the Metropolitan Nashville Historical Commission (MHC). She also cocoordinates the MHC/TSU Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture, held annually in February, and oversees the agency's partnership with the John Early Museum Magnet Middle School in



Tara Mitchell Mielnik

Nashville. She is the Tennessee state representative on the board of the Southeastern Society of Architectural Historians, and during spring semester 2013 she taught the first Introduction to Public History class at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. In 2011, her dissertation was published as *New Deal, New Landscape: The Civilian Conservation Corps and South Carolina's State Parks* by the University of South Carolina Press.

Edward Salo (2009) has continued to work in CRM consulting since graduation. In 2010 he moved from Brockington and Associates, where he was senior historian in the South Carolina office, to his present position as architectural historian with Southeastern Archaeological Research Inc.

Angela Smith (2011) is an assistant professor of history at North Dakota State University (NDSU) in Fargo, where she teaches twentieth-century American history and public history. (There is an undergraduate public history program at NDSU, and the department is opening up a graduate track in public history.) Smith completed two major public history projects this year: a local history website called the Fargo History Project (fargohistory.com) and an exhibit called *Taboo Fargo/Moorhead, an Unmentioned History*.

Michael Strutt (2012) is director of the Cultural Resources Program for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, a position he has held since 2002. He and his staff oversee cultural resources and historic preservation management for an agency that owns or manages 1.5 million acres with more than 2,000 historic structures and 4,000 recorded archeological sites, including twelve state historic sites and 30 CCC-era state parks. He also teaches a cultural resources module in a two-week course on managing state parks.

Gwyneth Thayer (2010) joined North Carolina State University in January 2013 as associate head and curator of the Special Collections Research Center. For several years before that, she worked as an archivist with the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Her dissertation-turned-book, *Going to the Dogs: Greyhound Racing, Animal Advocacy, and American Popular Culture* (University Press of Kansas), appeared in May.

Jane Townes (2011), as planned, immersed herself in pro bono work on local history projects after graduating. Among other things, she has assisted in locating professional conservation for early nineteenth-century portraits, consulted on floor treatments for an early nineteenth-century building undergoing rehabilitation, and suggested projects to promote the agricultural history of Bedford County.

Tara White (2010) has moved from her former position as cultural heritage manager for Alabama State University to Wallace Community College in Selma, Alabama, where she teaches history full-time and continues her research on African American women in historic preservation.

Albert Whittenberg (2012) has continued in his position as director of academic and instructional technical services with MTSU's Information Technology Division.

Michael Strutt giving an impromptu lecture to park superintendents somewhere along the trail at Big Bend Ranch State Park.



Current Student Doings...

Ashley Cole has joined DVL Public Relations & Advertising in Nashville in the position of archival assistant for the Firestone Photograph Collection.

Sara Beth Gideon is the new executive director of Historic Rock Castle in Hendersonville.

Lauren Baud received the Thelma Jennings Scholarship and the James N. Leonard History Scholarship from the History Department. In December 2012, she started working as grants coordinator at the Metro Nashville Arts Commission.

Abigail Gautreau, Elizabeth Lambert, Angela Sirna, Rebecca Duke, and Cyrana Wyker received Bart McCash Memorial Scholarships from the MTSU History Department for 2013–2014.

Amber Clawson, Jessica French, Abigail Gautreau, and Louretta Wimberly presented “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find’: Landmarking the Civil Rights Movement in Selma, Alabama” at the National Council for Public History meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, in April. Gautreau also presented at the 16th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium in May. Clawson presented her research on decorative arts at the 65th Annual Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum and at the regional National Society of the Colonial Dames of America conference, where she was awarded a research scholarship.



Amber Clawson, Jessica French, Mrs. Louretta Wimberly, and Abigail Gautreau at the National Council for Public History Conference, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, April 2013.

Angie Sirna presented “Reconciling Competing Visions in New Deal Parks: Natural Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Recreational Development” at the George Wright Society conference in Denver on March 11, 2013. She also partici-

pated in a working group, “The Challenge of Interpreting Climate Change at Historic Sites,” at the April 2013 meeting of the National Council on Public History in Ottawa, Canada.

Dallas Hanbury presented “Slum Clearance and Economic Expansion: Senator Estes Kefauver and the Quest for Urban Renewal Funds in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, 1950–1956” at the 2013 Graduate History Conference in March, hosted by the History Graduate Association at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Josh Howard presented “Everyone played ball to win’: Northern Industry, Southern Identity, and Late-Nineteenth Century Baseball in Appalachian Virginia” at the 2nd Annual Tri-University Conference for the Trans-Disciplinary Study of Sport, March 21–23, at State College, Pennsylvania. He also presented “Amalgamations and Aggregations: Baseball Team Composition and the Development of Local Identity in Alleghany County, Virginia, 1890–1900” at the 18th Annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference, April 5, at MTSU.

Ben Morrill presented “The Influence of the Baseball Hall of Fame on the Establishment and Development of Private Major League Team Museums and Halls of Fame” at the 18th Annual Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference in April.

Katie O’Bryan presented “Gender, Politics, and Power: The Development of the Ladies Rest Room and Lounge in Rural America, 1910–1945” at the Western Social Sciences Association annual conference in Denver in April.

Katie Stringer presented two panels at the Tennessee Association of Museums Conference in Franklin in March: “Rookie Roundtable: Discussions and Tips for Young Emerging Professionals” and “Acting on Accessibility in a Post-ADA America.” Stringer also presented “Disability and Museum History: Exhibiting the ‘Other’” at the Western Social Sciences Association annual conference in Denver in April. Stringer received a postdoctoral fellowship through the MTSU College of Graduate Studies to prepare her doctoral research for publication. Her article, “Disability, the Sideshow, and Museum Practices,” will appear in the spring 2013 edition of *Scientia et Humanitas*, and the same article received the Dean’s Distinguished Essay Award. Stringer has accepted the position of executive director at the Blount Mansion in Knoxville.

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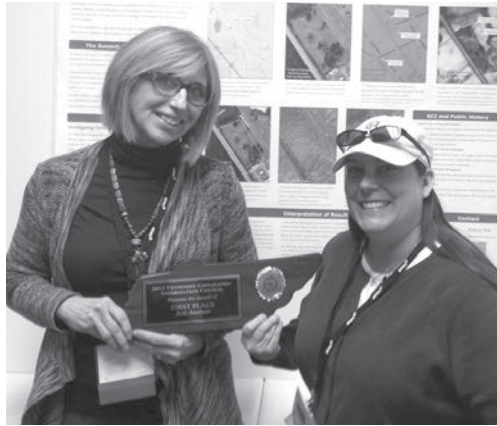
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Current Student Doings. . . *continued from page 7*

Rebecca Duke participated in “Rookie Roundtable: Tips for Success for New Museum Professionals” at the Tennessee Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Franklin. She also presented “Skyline Farms: The New Deal in the Heart of Dixie” at the UAB Graduate History Forum in Birmingham, Alabama, and “The Importance of Local History Museums—Creating Skyline Farms’ Rock Store Museum” at the Alabama Museums Association Annual Meeting in Montgomery.

Zada Law and **Bethany Hall** presented “GIS for Community Memory: A Case Study at an African American Graveyard in Murfreesboro, Tennessee” (Evergreen Graveyard) at the 2013 Tennessee Geographic Information Council Annual Meeting in March. Their map, “GCI: Geospatial Cemetery Investigation,” also received First Place for Best Analysis in the TNGIC Map Contest (<http://www.tngic.org/conference.htm>).

C. Sade Turnipseed has been busy raising public awareness of and financial support for the Cotton Pickers of America Monument Complex project she spearheads as executive director of Khafre Inc. (khafreinc.org), based in Indianola, Mississippi. This spring she made presentations at the National Black Graduate Student Association meeting in Detroit; the St. Louis Art Museum for the Friends of African American



Zada Law and Bethany Hall with their award-winning map at the 2013 Tennessee Geographic Information Council Annual Meeting.

Art breakfast reception, public lecture, and discussion; and at the Salon 53 event, *Delta Experience Enlightenment Tour: A Photographic Journey*.

Doctoral Residencies

Abigail Gautreau began her residency at the Center for Historic Preservation by temporarily relocating to Montgomery, Alabama, to work on projects associated with the Selma Civil Rights Movement (1865–1972) Multiple Property Submission to the National Register of Historic Places. She is working closely with a local grassroots preservationist, Loretta Wimberly, on various community outreach activities and fieldwork. At the end of June she will return to MTSU to begin writing her findings. She is also beginning an oral

history project for Selma residents that will continue through the end of her residency in December.

Hasan Kayaram is in residence at the Center for Libyan Archives and Historical Studies, associated with Tripoli University. He is working in the Division of Oral Narrative under the direction of Ismail Mohamed Ekharzah, with overall supervision by center director Mohammed T. Jerary. The center, cofounded by Dr. Jerary in 1977, has played a crucial role in preserving Libya’s cultural heritage through written records, oral histories, and photographs. Jerary also has been a key figure in efforts to repatriate artifacts stolen during the colonial and postcolonial periods. Hasan’s responsibilities include conducting ten interviews with veterans and politicians about the political situation of Libya in the second half of the twentieth century, then transcribing and translating the interviews into English. He also will transcribe and process previously recorded interviews. ↗

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