



# Common Bond

MTSU Center for Historic Preservation Newsletter

## National Trust VP David Brown Addresses Murfreesboro Town Hall Meeting

At a town hall–style meeting on September 12, David Brown, executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, delivered an address to over 100 local officials, civic leaders, educators, business owners, concerned citizens, and interested property owners at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Murfreesboro.

Brown, who received his B.S. in History with an emphasis in Historic Preservation from MTSU in 1977, began by applauding the work of fellow MTSU graduates Ken P'Poole, who is leading historic preservation work in Mississippi, and Nancy Tinker, a fellow staff member at the National Trust. He also recognized the work of the event sponsors—the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, Main Street Murfreesboro, and the Tennessee Preservation Trust—for their historic preservation efforts.

“Brown is the most illustrious alumnus of our nationally recognized historic preservation program at MTSU,” said center Director Carroll Van West. “He grew up in the East Main historic district. He brings a love of Murfreesboro and its citizens but adds a healthy dose of realism and experience to the issue of balancing the past with the present.” In his presentation,



Several MTSU alumni turned out on September 12 to hear historic preservationist David Brown

Brown recalled his childhood in Murfreesboro, where the sense of community was nurtured by the residential and commercial districts.

Brown went on to explain that sprawl is destroying our countryside and our community character. In Murfreesboro, as elsewhere, Brown pointed out that “subdivisions are built without regard for the historic buildings and land on which they sit.” By reducing opportunities for face-to-face interaction, sprawl makes it difficult to create and maintain a sense of community. “Our general bias in public policies favoring suburban construction over urban reinvestment” has led us to this point, he noted.

Brown believes there are many reasons why citizens, public officials, city planners, and developers should care about what happens to some older buildings when considering the growth of rapidly developing communities such as Murfreesboro. Brown acknowledged that historic preservation supports vital communities and that people value beautiful communities. For these reasons, many people become involved, but what some do not realize is that historic preservation has a powerful impact on local economies. Brown said, “Today, historic preservation is a broad-based, multifaceted movement where historic places are means, not ends.” Brown pointed to research that shows preservation has become a means of downtown revitalization, neighborhood stabilization, affordable housing, luxury housing, heritage tourism, education, and economic development.

Citing Donovan Rypkema, a real estate economist with twenty years of experience studying the impact of preservation on the economy, Brown explained economic development data that indicate the powerful impact of historic preservation on job creation and increased household incomes. “With the average manufacturing concern in Tennessee, for every million

*Brown Address continued on page 2*

## Travel the Historic Iron Furnace Trail from Stewart to Decatur Counties

More than 30 organizations and agencies are involved in a multi-county partnership to tell the story of Tennessee's historic 19th-century iron industry. Leading the effort is the USDA Forest Service, which partially funded the project along with Buffalo Duck River and Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Councils, in cooperation with the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Documented remnants in 12 counties are included in the CHP-produced *Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail: A Guide to Resources on the Western Highland Rim*. The booklet's descriptions and photos of these reminders range from a rare double-stack furnace in Perry County to ironmaster Montgomery Bell's engineering marvel, a tunnel built from 1814 to 1818 that produced enough water to provide power for a major ironworks at what is now Narrows of Harpeth State Park in Cheatham County. The furnaces were at the heart of large, integrated industrial complexes, or iron plantations, where whites, black slaves, men, women, and children worked and lived.

In addition to the guide, a video, Web site, and portable displays for participating counties will be completed in October and provided to the 12 counties along the Iron Furnace Trail to use as tools in their overall heritage development planning and marketing. This project began with

a forum at Montgomery Bell State Park in 2004 and continued last fall with three successful bus tours along the trail.

Michael Gavin, Heritage Area preservation specialist, is the principal researcher for the project, and Caneta Hankins directs it. Copies of the guide are available by contacting the center.

The Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail was officially introduced during the Cumberland Furnace Historic Village Fall Festival in Dickson County on Saturday, October 14. The video was shown in the library and guide books were available in the Iron Museum. Other activities took place during the day from 10:00 to 5:00 and a barbeque lunch was available. All proceeds benefited the programs of the Cumberland Furnace Historic Village Association.



*The remains of the Brownsport Furnace, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, are owned by Decatur County.*

## Brown Address cont. from front page

dollars of production 28.8 jobs are created. A million dollars spent in new construction generates 36.1 jobs. But that same million dollars [spent] in the in the rehabilitation of a historic building? Forty jobs," he said, adding, "A million dollars of manufacturing output in Tennessee will add, on average, about \$604,000 to local household incomes. A million dollars in new construction—\$764,000. But a million dollars of rehabilitation? Over \$826,000."

Downtown revitalization is another important area of economic impact. Over the 25 years of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street program, 1,900 communities like Murfreesboro have reaped benefits totaling \$31.5 billion in public and private reinvestment. According to Main Street program data, "There have been over 72,000 net new businesses created generating more than 331,000 net new

jobs. There have been 179,000 building renovations. Every dollar invested in a local Main Street program leveraged more than \$28 of other investment. The average cost per job generated—\$2,500—is less than a tenth of what many state development programs brag about."

Brown issued a call to action to Murfreesboro and Rutherford County regarding their historic preservation efforts. He suggested the creation of an inventory of historic buildings, a reworking of city and county policies to support suburban development and urban reinvestment more equitably, a renewed appreciation of the Stones River National Battlefield as a economic asset and a sacred place, and a recognition of the right of the community to collectively shape its future while supporting private property rights.

For the complete transcript of David Brown's address, go to <http://histpres.mtsu.edu>.



*David Brown emphasized the tremendous economic impact of historic preservation.*

## Student-Centered Learning

The Center for Historic Preservation has increased its commitment to the Ph.D. in Public History program, now in its second year. As a key institutional partner, the center provides working labs and professional opportunities for students. Four Ph.D. students are working at the CHP this year: Kevin Cason, Brian Dempsey, Spurgeon King, and Susan Knowles.

**Kevin Cason** (B.A. in History, Belmont University; M.A. in History, MTSU) is in his second year in the Ph.D. program in Public History. His research interests include American cultural history and state and local history. Cason works on the Iron Furnace Trail project and for the Tennessee Century Farms program.

**Brian Dempsey** (B.A. and M.A. in History, James Madison University) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public History. Interested in American roots music, he has worked at the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Arts Center of Cannon County. This year, he will be documenting historic sites related to Mississippi Delta blues musical heritage.

**Spurgeon King** (B.A. in History and International Affairs, Florida State University; M.A. in History/Historic Preservation, MTSU) worked for more than 20 years as a preservation consultant in upstate New York and is now a Ph.D. candidate in the Public History program. King is researching Confederate General James Longstreet's campaign in east Tennessee and his headquarters in Russellville.

**Susan Williams Knowles** (B.A. in French and Art History, Peabody College; M.L.S. and M.A. in Art History, Vanderbilt University) is an independent museum curator who has organized exhibitions for the Frist Center, the Tennessee State Museum, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Knowles is continuing research on the marble industry in Tennessee and the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School in Gatlinburg.

Four graduate students and four undergraduate students are serving as research assistants this year.

**Scarlett C. Miles** (B.A. in Anthropology/Sociology, Rhodes College), a graduate student in the Public History program, previously worked in foster care and adoption



*The staff of the Center for Historic Preservation hosted the annual fall orientation on August 25. Pictured are new students (left to right) Brian Heffron, Scarlett Miles, Susan Knowles, and Spurgeon King.*

in Alabama and Tennessee. A native of Nashville, Miles is interested in institutional architecture and preservation of the recent past. She is completing research for the Rural African-American Church Project.

**Sarah Jane Murray** (B.Unv.S., MTSU) has completed her coursework in the M.A. in Public History program at MTSU. A native of Murfreesboro, she is working in Montana on a CHP partnership project with the Montana Governor's Advisory Council on Historic Properties.

**Lauren Nickas** (B.A. in History, MTSU), a graduate student in the History Department, worked previously as an intern for the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Hermitage. A native of Memphis, Nickas is serving as the book review editorial assistant for the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* and as an editor for the revised version of the online *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*.

**Ashley Tate** (B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communications, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill) is a graduate student in Public History at MTSU. A native of Gastonia, N.C., she previously worked as a public relations manager for the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley in Nashville. She is working on exhibits, brochures, and publications for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

**Brian Donegan** is a senior at MTSU majoring in Computer Science. Donegan is from Cleveland, Tennessee, and is a member of the CHP's computer support staff.

*Students continued on back page*

## Around the State and the Country

Center research assistant Lauren Nickas went to **Memphis** to serve as the conference intern for the Tennessee Cultural Heritage Preservation Society, host of the African-American Preservation Alliance Conference held August 3–5 in Memphis. Anne-Leslie Owens, public services coordinator, and Dr. Van West, CHP director, spoke on the Rural African American Church Project.

In an ongoing partnership with the Mississippi River Natural and Recreational Corridor, Elizabeth Moore, fieldwork coordinator, and Dr. Van West participated in a regional planning meeting in **Dyersburg** on October 17.

In **Franklin**, Elizabeth Moore is completing the last stages of a survey and revised historic district guidelines for the Franklin Planning Department and the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County.

In **Lynchburg**, at the request of the Lynchburg Historic District Commission, the center is developing and producing a walking/driving tour of this famous small town. The guide will be available this fall and a special brochure for area students will be available in spring of 2007. The center previously prepared the National Register nomination for Lynchburg's historic district as well as the individual nomination for Miss Mary Bobo's Boarding House.

This summer, the CHP began a heritage development project for **Gatlinburg**, Dr. Van West completed a heritage resource survey, and Ph.D. professional resident Susan Knowles completed a National Register nomination for the Arrowmont Craft School campus in Gatlinburg that merged history, architecture, and the state's craft arts history. This fall, historic preservation fellow Kristen Luetkemeier will complete several more National Register nominations for Gatlinburg.

Funded by a Getty Foundation grant, the CHP is working with the University of Tennessee–Knoxville to develop a historic preservation plan for the University of Tennessee campus in **Knoxville** and prepare a National Register nomination over the next year.

A second CHP/UT collaboration is a major update and expansion of the online *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Working with the university press and the Tennessee Historical Society, the CHP will be involved in this major project through 2007–2008. To view the current *Tennessee Encyclopedia* online, go to <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net>.

Brian Dempsey, Ph.D. professional resident, continues his work in **Mississippi**. Partnering with the Mississippi Blues Commission, Dempsey is surveying sites significant to the blues heritage of the Mississippi Delta region. He plans to develop his dissertation on the issues of heritage tourism and blues culture.

## Recent National Register Work

Center staff members, often working with and assisting students, regularly prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations. The Tennessee State Review Board approved the following CHP-prepared nominations.

### Approved May 2006

Hallehurst, Giles County  
Country Woman's Club, Montgomery County  
Buffalo Valley School, Putnam County  
Hamilton-Brown House, Williamson County

### Approved September 2006

Williamson Chapel CME Church, Wilson County  
Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Davidson County  
Rucker-Mason Farm, Cannon County  
Riverside Farm, Rutherford County

### Trail of Tears

Port Royal Road, Montgomery County  
Rocky River Crossing and Road, Van Buren County  
Kelly's Ferry Road and Cemetery, Marion County  
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, Hamilton County

## Center Staff Updates

**Amanda Holder**, “Mandy,” joined the staff of the Center for Historic Preservation in August 2006. She has previously worked for the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities at the Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville. Outside the historic preservation field, she has worked for the legal department of HCA and for A. O. Smith in La Vergne. Holder is a native of Smyrna and received her B.A. in English from Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.



*Mandy Holder*

**Jennifer Butt**, “JB,” is a familiar face to those who worked at the center when it shared the Vaughn House with the Criminal Justice Administration Department. She joined the staff of the Center for Historic Preservation in September 2006 after completing 30 years of service as a secretary for Criminal Justice. As a program assistant with the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, she will work on exhibits, programs, and publications. A native of Portland, Tennessee, she holds a B.S. in Sociology and an M.A. in History with a concentration in Historic Preservation from MTSU.



*Jennifer Butt*

In May, **Dr. Leslie N. Sharp** left her post as a research professor at the center for a new position as director of special projects for the College of Architecture at Georgia Institute of Technology. In her new role, she will provide leadership in the development of special scholarly symposia and colloquia concerning the built environment and oversee the college’s professional education, publications, and academic outreach initiatives.

**Rachel Martin**, a Center for Historic Preservation Fellow during 2005–2006, has enrolled at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in American History and will be working with the Southern Oral History Program its new initiative, *The Long Civil Rights Movement: The South since the 1960s*.

## Mark Your Calendar

Staff from the Center for Historic Preservation will be at the following events. We look forward to seeing you.

**National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference**  
Pittsburgh, Penn.  
October 31–November 5, 2006  
[www.nthpconference.org](http://www.nthpconference.org)

**MTSU Reception at the National Trust Conference**  
Pittsburgh, Penn.  
Sonoma Grille  
947 Penn Avenue  
7:30–9:30 PM  
November 1, 2006  
<http://histpres.mtsu.edu>

**Tennessee Association of Museums Conference**  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
March 21–23, 2007  
[www.tnmuseums.org](http://www.tnmuseums.org)

**Fourth Legacy of Stones River Symposium:  
Remembering the Civil War in Tennessee**  
Rutherford County Courthouse  
Murfreesboro, Tenn.  
March 31, 2007  
[www.nps.gov/stri](http://www.nps.gov/stri)

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Anne-Leslie Owens, Public Service Coordinator  
Elizabeth Moore, Fieldwork Coordinator  
Nancy Smotherman, Executive Aide  
Mandy Holder, Secretary

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## Student-Centered Learning cont. from page 3

**Brian Heffron** (A.A.S. in Business Technology, Nashville State Community College) is majoring in History at MTSU. Heffron volunteers for the National Park Service and is an active member in local historical preservation efforts. He is working on exhibits, brochures, and publications for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

**Linley Moreland**, a senior from Nashville majoring in Animal Science at MTSU, worked previously for the Smithsonian and Travellers Rest. She is working on visitor orientation projects and exhibit research for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

**Jake Potts**, an East Tennessee native, is a senior majoring in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. He serves as a member of the CHP's computer support staff.

The eighth Center for Historic Preservation Fellow is **Kristen Luetkemeier** (B.A. in History, James Madison University; M.A. in Public History, MTSU). While pursuing her master's degree, Luetkemeier served as a graduate research assistant at the CHP and worked at Stones River National Battlefield. During her fellowship, she is writing National Register of Historic Places nominations for two significant Gatlinburg sites, the Buckhorn Inn and the Gatlinburg Inn.

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