

**Annual Report to the Advisory Board**  
**Albert Gore Research Center**  
**Dr. Lisa Pruitt, Director**  
**FY 2005—2006**

**Acquisitions**

Between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006, the Gore Center received forty-eight donations of materials. Seven donations constituted new collections; seventeen were accretions to existing collections. The rest were individual items such as photographs, publications, or artifacts. Some of the acquisitions merit highlighting. Bill Jakes, a local collector of historic photographs and memorabilia of Murfreesboro, donated four beautifully matted and framed prints of Murfreesboro during the Civil War from *Harper's Weekly*. Ernest Hooper added several items to his collection, among them a rare photograph album of the 1913 Murfreesboro tornado. Gilly and Lois Orr of Shelbyville added to our equestrian history holdings by donating a collection of books and pamphlets primarily related to the Tennessee Walking Horse. Those items were originally collected by Mr. Orr's father, Gilbert MacWilliams Orr, one of the founders of the Tennessee Walking Horse Association. The Smyrna Public Library donated a large clippings file documenting the closing of Sewart Air Force Base, along with a small collection of the records of the Smyrna Hospital Auxiliary from the 1960s and 1970s. Finally, Aaron Todd donated copies of family records related to Andrew L. Todd.

**Interesting Find**

Steve Cates, a retired teacher and member of the Rutherford County Historical Society, has been "rescuing" items of historical interest for several years now and has donated much of this material to the Gore Center. Most of this material comes from family and friends who are downsizing their homes or moving into retirement homes. In one case, Steve acquired a few boxes from the basement of Aultmann's Jewelers, which was closing with the retirement of Doris Bean. Doris Bean had inherited both the business and some other items from Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goldstein. Among the materials that Steve brought to us were some papers and photographs from Goldstein's clothing store, which operated on Public Square for decades. One document of particular interest was an official copy of the Rutherford County Circuit Court judge's declaration of William Goldstein's citizenship in 1894. We previously thought that only one person had ever been naturalized as a US citizen in Rutherford County – Sam DeGeorge in 1924. However, we now know otherwise and suspect that, if someone had time to go through the court records, many others would come to light.

**Collection Management**

We made substantial progress toward improving intellectual access to our photographic holdings. Over the course of the academic year, one academic service student worker, working five hours per week, entered into our database multiple keywords for each of approximately 1500 equestrian photographs from the Warden Collection. Another student processed approximately

1000 photographs transferred to the Gore Center by News & Public Affairs. Processing includes placing the photographs in individual archival sleeves and numbering and scanning each photograph. Several people worked on entering multiple keywords for each of approximately 2000 of the 4000 images in the Hoover Collection.

Graduate Assistant Kim O'Donnell processed a substantial addition to the Theater Collection and continued working on a long-term project to improve the organization and preservation of the Walter King Hoover Collection.

Graduate Assistant Heather Greenemeier processed the Lane and Marguerite Boutwell Collection and created an online subject guide to "History of Medicine" sources in the Gore Center's collections. Heather left us at the end of the fall semester, having decided to pursue a career in public health.

Scott Anderson joined us in the spring of 2006 as Heather's replacement. Among other things, Scott processed the records of the Oaklands Association and inventoried a large collection of records of the Rutherford County Historical Society.

An academic service student worker processed the Goldstein collection.

### **Technology**

Since our computers were upgraded last year, we had been having difficulty with the old scanners that we use for managing our photograph collections. We have now replaced all of those scanners. The technology has improved to the point that we have been able to acquire excellent scanners for about \$99 each. They will only take smaller format items, however. We have a more expensive scanner that will handle documents and photographs up to 8.5 x 14. I am investigating the possibility of acquiring a larger format scanner, which will be a more significant investment but will allow us to scan much larger items.

For our video collection, we had been getting by with a 9-inch television with a built-in vhs player that would not rewind, so we purchased a new, 19-inch television and a vcr/dvd combo. Our collection of videos grew substantially this year when we added Richard Hannah's "Inside Academe" archive. Dr. Bullen has also agreed to transfer his entire "Recollections" series to the Gore Center from AV Services, so this equipment is likely to get an increasing amount of use. [As I write this, a researcher from Connecticut is watching Dr. Bullen's 1984 interview of Albert Gore, Sr.]

Finally, with money provided by the Provost for the "Narrating Katrina Through Oral History" Project, we purchased a minidv camcorder, a digital camera, and some additional tape recorders.

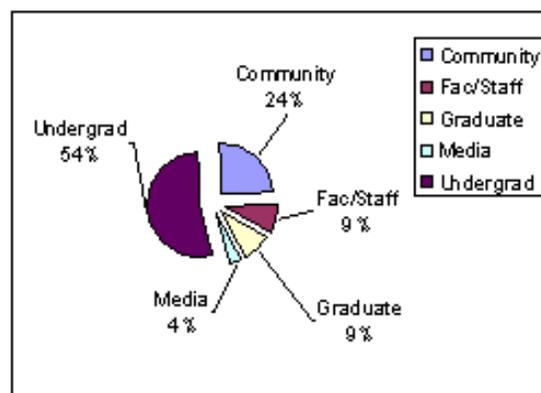
### **Researchers and Classes**

The Gore Center tracked 394 researchers in FY2006. As with the past, we continue to serve more undergraduates than any other group. Please note that these statistics do not necessarily include all uses of Gore Center resources. For example, the Gore Center hosted approximately

twenty class meetings during the year, with a total of about 125 students in attendance [some of whom may have been "repeaters" – my 3010 class, for example, had at least eight meetings during which some portion of class time was devoted to using Gore Center resources].

Highlights of research inquiries include:

- Navigation Advertising -- photographs for a DVD of Rutherford County sports history, the third in the series of local history DVDs that have relied heavily on Gore Center resources;
- Johnny Fleemon -- historic Smyrna photographs for the new Legends restaurant in Smyrna ;
- Children's Discovery Center -- pictures and oral history clips for their new exhibit, entitled "Trains, Tracks, and Tales," which opened February 10.



### Outreach and Public Relations

- July – March – Provided photographs for the *Daily News Journal's* "Snapshot from the Past" feature on Sundays. [Most Sundays featured items from the Gore Center , until they began soliciting submissions from the public at our suggestion.]
- July 18 -- Hosted Rutherford County Historical Society's monthly meeting. Forty+ attended (an overflow audience for our conference room).
- August 6 -- Hosted a reunion for "The Forties Bunch," a group of women alumni who were students at MTSC in the 1940s.
- August 23 – Met with Rosemary Kew and Monique Leroy about possible M'boro sister city program with Cherbourg , France ; discussed possible museum/oral history exchanges. Subsequently, on October 24, an entourage from Cherbourg 's Université De Caen Basse-Normandie toured the Gore Center .
- September 14 – Presentation on MTSU history for HRS's new employee orientation.
- September 24 – Hosted a meeting with AP US History teachers from the Middle TN region. Five in attendance.
- October 27-29 – Holocaust Conference. Prepared display on concentration camp liberators from Middle TN whom we have interviewed for the Veterans History Project.
- October 28 – Appeared on Richard Hannah's *Inside Academia* cable TV show with Dr. Sekou Franklin to discuss oral history projects.

- December 6 – participated in the Todd Hall open house sponsored by the Dean.
- January 14 – Served as judge for the American Legion Regional Oratorical Contest for high school students.
- January 27 – Attended the first meeting of the statewide committee for Tennessee's Interstate@50 celebration.
- March 3 – Hosted the "teachers' lounge" for National History Day.
- March 15 – Spoke to the Murfreesboro Kiwanis about the Gore Center .
- March 22 – Presentation on MTSU's history for HRS's new employee orientation.
- April 5 – Prepared special exhibit and prepped conference room to host 2-hour session featuring French exchange students for the visitors from Cherbourg , France . The session focusing on students, however, was dropped at the last minute in favor of touring the airport.
- April 21 – Presented 3-hour oral history workshop for the Tennessee Storytellers Association at Cannonsburgh.

### **Middle TN Oral History Project**

Gore Center staff, along with volunteers and students, conducted 41 interviews [not including Katrina project interviews] during 2005-2006. In addition, student workers completed initial transcription of 14 interviews. Betty Rowland reviews and edits the students' work on a continuing basis.

### **Narrating Katrina Through Oral History**

Forty-six interviews were completed, with a few still pending. We hope to reach 50 interviews before the project is officially closed. We will complete a final project report at that time.

### **Rutherford County Archives**

The Rutherford County Archives secured a grant of \$4900.00 from the Tennessee State Library and Archives to help purchase shelving for the new facility. After an excruciating five-month process to secure a building permit from the City of Murfreesboro , we broke ground in January 2006. The new \$1.4 million facility is scheduled for completion by mid-August and should be open for business by October 1 at the latest. This is the culmination of an arduous 5-year effort to secure funding for the facility and participate in the selection of architects and the design process. This process involved countless hours sitting in County Budget Committee, Property Management Committee, Public Building Authority, and Commission meetings. During FY05-06, much of my time on this project involved reviewing and giving final approval to the building design, as well as meeting with the interior designers to select finishes and fixtures. Key community members working with me on this project were Ernie Johns and Susan Daniel.

One of the last actions of FY 2005-2006 was the Rutherford County Commission's approval of the budget for FY 2006-2007. For the first time, the new budget funds a full-time county archivist, while also continuing two graduate assistantships. An archivist (my former County Archives graduate assistant, John Lodl) has been hired with a start date of August 21, 2006.

## **Gore Biography Project**

Progress continues apace. Professor Tony Badger was in Nashville and Murfreesboro in January and March. He is supplementing his already extensive research with additional oral history interviews. Betty Rowland, along with several student workers, transcribed oral histories for Professor Badger. In addition, one of our academic service scholarship students, a political science major, transcribed tape recordings of President Lyndon Johnson's telephone conversations with or referring to Gore. Publication of the biography is expected in 2007, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the late Senator's birth.

## **Research, Teaching, Service**

- Research: Paper entitled "'Crippled Utopia: The Chailey Heritage Craft Schools and Hospitals, 1903-1948" accepted and presented at the February 24-25, 2006, meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science, San Antonio.
- Research: Paper entitled "The Memphis Crippled Children's Hospital School, 1919-1982" accepted and presented at the May 4-7, 2006, meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, Halifax , Nova Scotia.
  
- Teaching: History 3010 Fall 2005 and Spring 2006; plus, taught at least six classes for other faculty members.
- Committee Service: History Department's Graduate Studies Committee; participated in writing the report for the MA program review.
- Committee Service: second year of a three-year appointment on MTSU's Institutional Review Board for human subjects research.
- Other Service: Representing MTSU on the statewide "Interstate at 50" committee that is charged with marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the interstate highway system.
- Other Service: See also "Rutherford County Archives."
- Advanced Placement US History Reading , Table Leader – June 1-8