

*Middle Tennessee  
State University*

Albert Gore Research Center  
Learning Resource Center  
Room 111  
P.O. Box 193  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132



Fall 2002

## From the Director



We welcome two new graduate assistants to the Gore Center this fall: Heather Bailey and Kevin Cason. Please take a moment to read their biographies in this newsletter. Each has already embarked on a major project. Heather is revising the collection

guide for the Homer and Mabel Pittard Collection. Kevin is processing the Gene Sloan collection.

Betty Rowland continues to conduct oral history interviews with veterans of World War II. That collection has grown to nearly 60 interviews. To assist in recruiting participants in that project, I spoke on Saturday, September 14, to the WAVES National Volunteer Unit #94. This organization is the Middle Tennessee branch of a national service organization for women veterans of the sea services.

Another important project is being carried out in conjunction with the library at UT-Knoxville. They received a grant from the

Institute for Museum and Library Services to create a digital library of the history of Tennessee. Currently, they are working on the period from 1796 to 1850. A representative for the project visited the Gore Center to exam the James Moore King Collection, which documents Rutherford County in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. He selected 52 letters from that collection for inclusion in the digital library. The graduate assistants have taken charge of supervising the digitization of those letters.

During the summer of 2002, graduate student Nancy Morgan created a photographic and documentary exhibit tracing the history of the June Anderson Women's Center. The Center's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was held in conjunction with Founder's Day on September 6. The exhibit was mounted in the lobby of the James Union Building, where it was available for viewing by approximately 100 guests at the Center's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary luncheon.

Continue to watch for new and exciting developments at the Gore Center in 2002-2003!

Dr. Lisa Pruitt

## Introducing Kevin Cason

Kevin Cason is a Graduate Assistant assigned to the Gore Research Center for the 2002-2003 academic year. Kevin comes to MTSU with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.

As a child growing up in Tullahoma, Tennessee, Kevin learned to appreciate the unique, historical atmosphere small towns have to offer. His love of learning about the social and cultural history of various communities sparked his interest in pursuing a master's degree in public history at MTSU.

Kevin is excited to be working at the Gore Research Center.



## Introducing Heather Bailey



Heather Bailey is a Graduate Teaching Assistant assigned to the Gore Center for the Fall 2002 semester. She comes to us from Tennessee Technological University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 1999. Before returning to school, she worked at Dell Computers as a Senior Technician in Technical Support. After a short stint in the corporate world, she enthusiastically enrolled at MTSU.

Beginning in Spring 2002, Heather was admitted to the Public History program here at MTSU. She is focusing on Museum Studies and has a particular interest in local and living history museums. In the spring, Heather helped to install and create the "Pillars and Foundations: Building Murfreesboro's African-American Community" exhibit at the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center. This summer she completed an internship at the Grassmere Historic Farm in Nashville. While there she rewrote their primary tour script, added holiday scripts, and completed the antique farm implement display.

Heather is looking forward to being a part of the Gore Center team.

## LaVergne High School Students Visit Gore Center



On Thursday, October 3, 2002, the Albert Gore Research Center hosted a group of Advanced Placement English students from LaVergne High School. The visit by the LaVergne students is part of a project for MTSU honors English students who are taking the course "Revisiting and Re-visioning the Hometown." The course, developed by Assistant Professor Ronald E. Kates, calls for writing assignments and working with children at the Campus School and students from LaVergne High School. The LaVergne teenagers are working on a guidebook for the city of LaVergne, and the university students will help them research the project. As an effort to promote the resources on the MTSU campus, the LaVergne students were introduced to the Gore Center and the concept of primary sources. During their visit to the center, the students examined and analyzed photographs, artifacts, and posters from different collections. They then were asked to reflect on what they learned from the activity and how they could apply their experience to their future research.



## "Home and Away" Honoring US Veterans

On November 11, the Albert Gore Research Center premiered its display celebrating United States veterans. The exhibit, entitled "Home and Away," honors the many veterans who served on the home front or overseas during World War I and World War II. It will remain available for viewing Monday through Friday, 8:00 - 4:00, until January.

Items on display include four WWI recruiting posters, as well as a scrapbook and other memorabilia of Aaron Weise, a Murfreesboro resident who trained as one of the first military aviators. Other unique materials include photographs of the Second Army maneuvers in middle Tennessee during World War II. The photographer was Eugene Sloan, longtime public relations director at MTSU, a lieutenant in the Tennessee National Guard, and accredited

Army war correspondent. The exhibit also presents letters, photographs, and other memorabilia donated by veterans who have participated in the Gore Center's Veterans Oral History Project.

Finally, the exhibit includes representations of women in uniform during World War II, donated by Nashville researcher and collector Vickie Riggins. Those images appear in a variety of forms, from magazine covers, to movie posters, to postcards and stamp covers.

