

Middle Tennessee
State University
Albert Gore Research Center
Learning Resource Center
Room 111
P.O. Box 193
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Spring 2000

From the Director



Visitors to the Gore Center will find that it has undergone a transformation in recent months. We have reorganized our work and reading room space and reworked our hallway exhibits in order to create a more pleasant environment. To celebrate the completion of that project, we hosted an open house on January 13, 2000 for members of the History Department faculty, whose students are the most frequent users of the Gore Center. In addition to improving our physical space, we are continuing to work on collections and develop new programs. You will find details of these efforts in this edition of the newsletter.



Middle Tennessee Oral History Project

A new year, a new millennium, a new beginning are all gifts of the year 2000. But new beginnings are driven and shaped by events of the past. As MTSU approaches its 100 year anniversary, the Gore Research Center is embarking on a new phase of the oral history project started in 1995. This project will continue to capture the spoken memories and perspectives of students, staff, and faculty who have shaped MTSU history, but the project now involves uncovering more of the stories of everyday lives that shaped the history of the surrounding region. These memories will personalize and fill in the gaps of existing written histories of Middle Tennessee. The richness and variety found in the oral histories are illustrated below:

"I was tickled that the first time I went to vote for president, my husband and father-in-law were for one candidate and my mother-in-law and myself were for the other candidate. They should have just as well stayed at home that day, because our vote cancelled their votes! I don't know who got elected, I think the one I voted for did"

Mattye Rion remembering women getting the right to vote in 1920.
Q.M. Smith/MTSU Oral History Project 1995

"When I first started teaching it was included that I was expected to see that the fire was built in the big pot-bellied stove on cold mornings.....I remember one year we had an ice storm and it was cold and we were out of coal to burn in the stove. Some of the parents came and went in the woods nearby, cut wood, and brought it in for us to have fire during those cold days."

Vera Covington remembering her first teaching experience in 1932.
Middle Tennessee Oral History Project 2000

"It was a wonderful, wonderful time, because it was a reunion. We all had been gone, scattered all over the war for three years. We came back and we were serious students then....I think that most of the veterans that came back from World War II were excellent students."

Bob Womack remembering returning to MTSU following WWII.
Q.M. Smith/MTSU Oral History Project 1995

"We had all kinds of destructive ships, metal ships, and so on in that convoy. Every night torpedoes, depth charges, we couldn't even get out on deck or anything afraid we would get blown over."

Harry Patillo remembering serving in WWII.
Middle Tennessee Oral History Project 2000

The Gore Research Center is seeking people to interview as part of this project. If you have memories to share or just want to know more about the project and the interview process, please contact Betty Rowland at the Gore Center at 615-898-2632 or browland@mtsu.edu.

Gore Center Photo Database Project

Erin Toomey, Gore Center Graduate Assistant, continues her work this semester on a new, updated photo database. The database consists of the scanned images of ALL the photos in the Gore Center collections and descriptive information for each photo. The ultimate goal is to make all the photos searchable for researchers. In many cases, we can offer reprints of the photos for a small fee. The very large MTSU photo collection is nearly finished and Erin will

soon begin work on the Walter King Hoover collection, our largest collection of community (Rutherford County) photos.

If you have photos that you would like to donate for the database, please contact Erin at the Gore Center, 615-898-2632.



Margaret Lindsley
Warden Collection



Gillespie Collection



Ellington Collection



Walter King Hoover
Collection

Photos like these are available to researchers in the Gore Center Photo Database.

Changing Faces: Civil Rights at MTSU 1965-2000

Siony Flowers and Erin Toomey, Gore Center Graduate Assistants, created a diversity exhibit for the Phi Alpha Theta conference that was held at MTSU in February. The exhibit chronicled integration on campus, Title IX and the effect on women's athletics, and the enrollment of students with disabilities. The exhibit will also be converted to a PowerPoint presentation for use in the local high schools. Watch for the exhibit on our web page later this spring.



Title IX—Students with Disabilities



Civil Rights



Title IX—Women's Athletics