

*Middle Tennessee
State University*

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



Spring 2001

From the Director



The Gore Center is entering upon an exciting period of change in the coming months. We recently learned that we will be acquiring new space in the Todd building, which previously housed the University Library.

We will share the building with the Art Department. The design team is currently working on renovation plans. At this point, we know that we will have approximately 6000 square feet of space--slightly more that double our current square-footage. Currently, the Gore Center has about 2500 square feet and most of our functions must be carried on within a single room. The new space will offer an opportunity to separate some of those functions. For example, we will have a quiet reading room that is separate from bustling and sometimes noisy

work, storage, and office areas. We also hope to have a dedicated classroom that will seat 35 students, allowing professors to bring their classes to the Center for presentations and group projects.

New space will allow us to acquire collections that support our mission of documenting Middle Tennessee's history. We already have agreed to become the archival repository for the Tennessee Folklore Society. Other rich resources will undoubtedly come on the heels of our move.

We hope to be in the new location by the Fall of 2002. Watch for more news on this subject!

Dr. Lisa Pruitt

Al Gore, Jr. at the Gore Center

Al Gore, Jr., the newest faculty member at MTSU, recently dropped by the Gore Center to meet with staff and discuss current projects at the Center. Mr. Gore teaches a class entitled "Community Building: A Comprehensive, Family-Centered Approach." Holly Barnett is excited to be a part of Gore's interactive class. Holly says, "As a historic



preservation student, the interdisciplinary approach to Gore's class has caused me to see community building in a different way. The class has taught me that it is important to involve all parts of the community in the building process, especially families. I have thoroughly enjoyed it."

The Gore Center is home to the official papers of the late Senator Albert Gore, Sr., a 1932 graduate of MTSU. Those papers have become the cornerstone of the Center's mission to document the history of the Middle Tennessee region and its communities. The Center collects the papers of community leaders and civic organizations as well as materials documenting the University and local, regional and state politics and public policy. Individuals are invited to contact the Center about donating personal and family papers, organizational records, photographs, and memorabilia related to the Middle Tennessee region.

Meet Nancy Morgan, GTA



Nancy Morgan is a Graduate Teaching Assistant assigned to the Gore Research Center for the 2000-2001 academic year. Nancy is a native of Marshall County, Tennessee and maintains a family farm there. During

Nancy's 25 year career as a commercial property/casualty insurance underwriter, she obtained Chartered Property/Casualty Underwriter, Certified Insurance Counselor, and Associate in Underwriting professional designations.

Nancy left the insurance field in 1999 to develop a second career devoted to historical research and preservation and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Public History.

Nancy is an active member of the Gore Center team. While familiar with all the collections, she is especially knowledgeable of the Walter King Hoover and Robert Baskin Collections. Her talents are demonstrated in the many exhibits currently on display in the Gore Center. Nancy and Perky Beisel, another Gore Center GTA in the fall semester 2000, were responsible for developing "From Stumps to Web Sites: A History of Political Campaigning in Tennessee" the primary exhibit for the Gore Center during the fall of 2000.

Meet Holly Barnett, GTA

Holly Barnett is a Graduate Teaching Assistant assigned to the Gore Research Center for the Spring 2001 academic year. Holly comes to MTSU with a Bachelor of Arts in History from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. Holly's previous experience includes an Executive Internship with the South Dakota Historical Society, Pierre, South



Dakota where she traveled extensively making site visits performing survey work, and attending public meetings.

Holly is a welcome addition to the Gore Center team as we prepare a pictorial history project with Arcadia press this spring and continue our on-going efforts to process new collections arriving at the Center.

Oral History Project Update

The Middle Tennessee Oral History Project continues in an effort to capture the memories of ordinary people from many walks of life in Middle Tennessee. Interviews with members of the community will be recorded over the next few years. If you are interested in participating in the Middle Tennessee Oral History Project or if you can suggest others who might be interested, please contact the Gore Research Center at (615) 898-2632.

Below you will find a list of the latest interviews in the collection and a link that will allow you to view an excerpt from the interview.

MT2000.001	Clarence Puckett , graduated from MTSTC in 1941 and recalls favorite faculty members and what the campus was like during pre-war years.
MT2000.002	Vera Covington taught school in Rutherford County for forty-four years. She recalls her early teaching experiences and her time at MTSTC.
MT2000.003	Harry Patillo , a WWII veteran, recalls receiving Adeline King's letters during the war, living at Jefferson Springs, and attending MTNS Training School.
MT2000.004	Stan Murphy shares memories from his undergraduate years at MTSU. He remembers the Upward Bound program, playing football, and the racial climate of the campus during the seventies.
MT2000.005	Ruth Bowdoin shares her memories of founding and operating the Classroom on Wheels for underprivileged students in Murfreesboro City Schools from 1969 to 1999.
MT2000.006	Cliff Ricketts , AgriBusiness/AgriScience professor, shares the history behind the development of MTSU's hydrogen fueled car.
MT2000.007	John Harris , director of MTSU Disabled Services, recalls the history of Disabled Services on campus.
MT2000.008	Mary Kate Cope remembers the years spent on campus with her husband Quill Cope, MTSU president from 1958 - 1968.

MT2000.009	Phyllis Hickerson Washington was a student at MTSU during the 1970s. She shares memories of campus activities.
MT2000.010	Patrick Doyle , Biology professor, shares the history behind the MTSU Recycling program.
MT2000.011	C.C. Flowers recalls his years of work with the CCC - Civilian Conservation Corps.
MT2000.012	Harriett Howard , WWII veteran, shares memories of the war years and the history of the WAVES.
MT2000.013	Cliff Gillespie recalls the MTSU campus and student government activities during his undergraduate years in the late sixties and early seventies.
MT2000.014	Jim Free shares memories of the MTSU campus and his time as Student Body President in the late 1960s.
MT2000.015	Bertha Chrietzberg shares memories of her years in the MTSU HPERS Department. She also relates the history behind the Murfreesboro Greenway.
MT2000.016	Tommy Brown , MTSU graduate, recalls the early years of integrated sports at MTSU.
MT2000.017	Gwen Walker , wife of former MTSU president James Walker, shares memories of their years on campus. She also shares her involvement with organ donation programs and the story of her own lung transplant.
MT2000.018	Frank Forgette , MTSU Audio/Visual Services, explains the history behind the Learning Resources Center building on campus.
MT2000.019	Mary Scales recalls her teaching career with Murfreesboro City Schools and as the first full-time African-American faculty member at MTSU. She also reflects on the leadership role of her husband Robert with the Murfreesboro City Council.
MT2000.020	Margaret Lindsey Warden remembers her 55-year career as equine reporter for the <i>Tennessean</i> newspaper.
MT2000.021	Larry Sizemore recalls his undergraduate years at MTSU during the 1960s and discusses the evolution of campus grounds and buildings.
MT2000.022	Judy Smith , former MTSU Assoc. Dean of Students, remembers the changing rules for women on campus in the seventies.
MT2000.023	Buleah Davis remembers her student years at MTSTC and her years of teaching with MTSU HPERS department.
MT2000.024	Sylvester Brooks recalls his leadership role for the African-American community on campus in the early seventies.
MT2000.025	Bryant Millsaps remembers his undergraduate years at MTSU during the late sixties and early seventies.

MT2000.026	J.O. Gist recalls his service in WWII and his return to campus as a student following the war. He also details the development of Auxiliary Services at MTSU.
MT2000.027	Jennings & Rebecca Jones , Murfreesboro community leaders, reflect on WWII at home and in Europe, community planning for roads and schools, Gen. Douglas MacArthur's visit, and the history behind their philanthropic work in Murfreesboro.
MT2000.028	Bob Lamb , Murfreesboro realtor, remembers his undergraduate years at MTSU during the sixties.
MT2000.029	Howard & Gladys Thomas remember his WWII experiences with the SeaBees and her work at Oak Ridge.
MT2000.030	Robert & Pat Sanders
MT2000.031	Billie Little recalls the history behind the establishment of the Children's Discovery House.
MT2000.032	Bud Morris , shares memories from his student years at MTSU in the 1960s as well as childhood memories of Murfreesboro.
MT2000.033	Jerry Gaither
MT2000.034	John Pittard
MT2000.035	Bob Couch

Gore Center Hosts Open House

The Gore Center hosted two open house receptions. The reception on April 16 was for the Rutherford County Historical Society. The participants in the Jefferson Springs History Project were invited to a reception on April 27.



Those attending the events had an opportunity to meet Center staff and see displays from the various collections. Staff also provided demonstrations of scanning photographs and working with digital images.

The Gore Center welcomes community members, researchers, and students to become more acquainted with the wealth of regional history material housed at the Center.



