



Spring 2005

From the Director

It finally happened! After several years of planning and waiting, the Gore Center has moved to spacious new quarters in 128 Todd Hall. We are still getting accustomed to the lay-out and getting settled in, but we are open for business.

The move into a new home opens up fresh possibilities for the future, but it is also a good time to reflect on the past. Please take the time to read in this issue about the history of the Gore Center.

To celebrate the Center's past, present, and future, MTSU President Sidney McPhee is hosting a "Grand Re-opening" event on Friday, April 15, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. So get those taxes filed and come join us for family reminiscences by the Honorable Al Gore (45th Vice President of the United States), tours of the new space and, of course, refreshments!

We look forward to seeing you!

Lisa J. Pruitt, PhD, Director

Gore Center Has a New Location

128 Todd Hall



After much anticipation, movers from Graebel Companies, Inc. arrived on March 1 to begin loading up the archival collections and office equipment. It was a hectic few days, but everything made it over!

Though visitors to our former space in the McWherter Learning Resources Center were often fascinated by the bizarre acoustics and odd shape, we are thrilled to relocate to a section of the newly renovated Todd Hall.



Our new space is divided into several discrete locations, a layout which allows us to better host researchers, present programming, work, and store archival materials. We also expect to benefit from the increased visibility of our new location.



The conference room has already hosted the first of what we anticipate will be many special programs, this one a March 22 lecture by visiting scholar John H. M. Laslett, Ph.D. It is a versatile room, and serves dual purposes as a display space for the Gore Center's long standing MTSU pictorial history

exhibit Reflections in Time.

We still have some settling in to do, but we are ready to serve you. Please come by and visit the new Gore Center!

Moving Day at the Gore Center



Packing boxes for the move.



Ready to go.



Moving with care.

Albert Gore, Sr., Research Center

Grand Reopening

April 15, 2005

Todd Hall 128

Al Gore, Speaker

Call 615-898-2632 for more details.

More Information about the event can be found at the end of this newsletter.

History Day



On March 4, the Gore Center became Command Central for the judges and volunteers working at Regional History Day 2005. Almost three hundred local sixth through twelfth grade students participated in the Middle Tennessee State University hosted event by presenting exhibits, papers, documentaries, and performances. We wish good luck to those selected to go on to the State History Day competition in April!

Exhibits Currently on Display

Old Photos - New Treasure - Showcasing the oldest known photographs of Murfreesboro donated by Don and Sheryl Jones of Arvada, Colorado.

Margaret Lindsley Warden Collection - Highlighting items from the Margaret Lindsley Warden Equestrian Collection.

Senator Albert Gore, Sr. - Featuring memorabilia and photographs from Albert Gore, Sr.'s thirty-two years in Congress.

Telling Everyday Stories - Featuring items from Gore Center collections to tell the stories of the people of Middle Tennessee.

Reflections in Time - A pictorial history of Middle Tennessee State University.

Three Front Doors: The Story of A.L. Todd Hall - A look at the history of the building known as Todd Hall.

What Are Primary and Secondary Sources - Defining and demonstrating the use of primary and secondary sources.

Rutherford County Archives Spring 2005 Update

Over the past months, the staff and volunteers at the Rutherford County Archives have continued to make significant contributions to improve the archives.

As an on-going effort to benefit users of the archives, Graduate Assistants Jeff Sellers and Kevin Cason completed two indexes for the chancery court loose records. One index covers the chancery court cases from 1940-1985. Each index is alphabetized by the last name of the plaintiff and also provides the name of the defendant.

In addition to the chancery court loose records index, Kevin prepared an index for the death records of Rutherford County from the years 1925-1939. Death records include the name of the deceased, date of death, cause of death, and sometimes the town where the person died. For more information on these new research aids please contact the archives or come and visit the archives.

We have also been doing some preservation and conservation for items in the archives. Some of the conservation efforts that have been completed include copying records on

acid-free paper to preserve the original copies of the marriage records from 1881-1889, as well as copying record books 12 and 24 that contain wills, probate information and inventories of estates from the 19th century. Currently, we are re-folding, boxing and removing metal from the chancery court records from 1979.

While the staff and the volunteers continue to improve the intellectual and physical control of the records in the archives, we also continue to work on the new archives building project. In February and in March, the archives committee met to discuss the design and floor plans for the new archives facility. The plans for the building include offices for staff, a reading room for visitors, storage facilities for the records, and a conservation lab. In addition to designing the layout of the building, the archives committee prepared furniture plans for each of the rooms and discussed the need for high-density shelving for the new facility.

Kevin Cason

Albert Gore Sr., Research Center Open House Invitation

*President Sidney A. McPhee
and
Middle Tennessee State University*

*invite you to an
Open House
celebrating
the
Albert Gore Sr. Research Center
in
Todd Hall*

*Friday, April 15, 2005
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.*

*Program to begin at 1:30 p.m.
Tours available after the program*

**Albert Gore, Sr. Research Center Open House
April 15, 2005**

Program

John N. McDaniel Dean of the College of Liberal Arts	Presiding & Introduction
Sidney A. McPhee President	Welcome
Al Gore, 45th Vice president of the United States Visiting Professor John Seigenthaler Chair in First Amendment Studies	Remarks
Lisa Pruitt Director of Albert Gore, Sr. Research Center Associate Professor of History	Remarks
John N. McDaniel	Closing

**History of the Albert Gore Research Center at Middle Tennessee State
University**

Albert Gore, Sr., graduated from Middle Tennessee State Teachers College (now Middle Tennessee State University) in 1932. In 1938, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives. After seven two-year terms as a Representative, the people of Tennessee elected Gore to the United States Senate in 1952. He served three terms as Senator, from 1953 through early 1971.

In November of 1969, MTSU Political Science Professor Norman L. Parks, with advice from colleague David Grubbs and the support of MTSU President Melvin Scarlett, contacted Senator Gore to request that he consider placing his Congressional papers at his *alma mater*. Senator Gore immediately agreed and one year later, in December 1970, the Washington National Records Center transferred his papers to the University. They were stored in a small workroom in the basement of Todd Library. Because Senator Gore retained ownership of the papers, access was initially limited.

In 1980, President Sam Ingram called on professor and historian James H. Neal to improve access to the papers. In January 1984, President Ingram established a committee, chaired by Dr. Neal, to study the feasibility of a Senator Albert Gore Room to house the Gore papers and memorabilia. In May of 1984, Senator Gore and President Ingram signed a deed of gift officially transferring physical and intellectual ownership of the papers to the University. Dr. Neal completed the first comprehensive inventory of the voluminous collection in 1986.

In 1992, the Gore papers were relocated to a room in the Learning Resources Center and in 1993 the Albert Gore Research Center officially opened its doors in affiliation with the Department of History. Dr. Neal was named Director. Along with access to the collection, the Center under Dr. Neal's leadership provided orientation for classes, hands-on learning experiences for students in Archives classes, and document conservation workshops for graduate students.

Dr. Neal also began the effort to build the Gore Research Center into an important regional history archive for middle Tennessee, a strategy initially proposed by History Professor Ernest Hooper in 1977. Dr. Hooper had suggested that the significance of the Gore Papers for the University could be enhanced by adding collections documenting the lives of ordinary Tennesseans and building up a University archive. In his first year as Director, Dr. Neal acquired approximately thirty collections documenting community and University history. He continued developing the collections and programs of the Center until his retirement in 1999. Upon Dr. Neal's retirement, Dr. Lisa J. Pruitt was appointed Director and the Center became a separate unit within the College of Liberal Arts. In March of 2005, the Gore Research Center moved into its new facility, a 5600-square-foot space on the ground floor of Todd Hall. In August 2008, MTSU professor of history Dr. Jim Williams became the third center director, and soon after, Matthew Brown joined the Gore Center staff as its first full-time professional archivist.

Highlights of Past Achievements

Date	Title	Description
1986	Albert Gore, Sr., Papers Project	First comprehensive inventory of the Gore Papers completed
1995-1998	Quintin Miller Smith Oral History Project	138 oral history interviews about Middle Tennessee State College during the presidency of Q. M. Smith (1938-1958)
November 8, 1997	"Albert Gore, Tennessee and the New South: A Conference on the Senate Career of Albert Gore, Sr."	Participants included Albert and Pauline Gore, David Halberstam, John Siegenthaler, and Ned McWherter
1999-2004	"Reflections in Time"	18-panel exhibit tracing MTSU's history; mounted in the Alumni Center annually for both Founders Day and Homecoming
2000, Spring	"Changing Faces: Civil	Exhibit mounted in conjunction with Phi

	Rights at MTSU, 1965-2000"	Alpha Theta's Regional History Conference.
2000, Fall	"From Stumps to Web Sites: Political Campaigning in TN"	An exhibit to mark the Fall 2000 Presidential Campaign
2001, Summer	<i>Middle Tennessee State University: A Photographic History</i>	Prepared by the Gore Center and published by Arcadia Press
2001, Fall	"John Bragg: A Political Life"	Exhibit honoring the long-time State Representative
2002, Summer	"June Anderson Women's Center 25 th Anniversary"	Exhibit mounted in the James Union Building
2003-2004	<i>Rutherford County, Tennessee</i> (2 DVDs)	Bicentennial documentary prepared with substantial assistance from the Gore Center
2003-2004	Homer Pittard Campus School 75 th Anniversary	Exhibit mounted in the foyer of the Campus School; also assisted with the preservation of the school archive
2004, Fall	Blue Raider Hall of Fame	18-panel exhibit mounted for the grand opening of the Rose and Emmett Kennon Hall of Fame
March 2005	"Telling Everyday Stories"	Grand Re-opening exhibit highlighting Albert Gore, Sr.'s populist appeal and social history as portrayed in the Gore Center's collections

Constituencies

The University Community

- **MTSU undergraduates** routinely use Gore Center resources to conduct research for classes and service-learning projects
- **Advanced students** in History and other disciplines use Gore Center resources for Masters and Doctoral thesis research
- **Public History graduate students** receive valuable experience completing internships and assistantships at the Gore Center and County Archives
- **MTSU administrative units**, including Development and University Relations, News and Public Affairs, Alumni Affairs, Blue Raider Hall of Fame, and Human Resources, use Gore Center resources for a variety of projects

The Academic Community

- **Scholars** from all over the United States (and sometimes abroad) regularly conduct research at the Gore Center or through correspondence with the Gore Center

- **Graduate students** from other institutions use the Gore Center's collections for thesis and dissertation research

Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, and the Region Beyond

- **Local and national news media** consult the Center's holdings for stories and programs
- **Smyrna Department of Parks and Recreation** is using materials from the Center's Hoover Collection for greenway signs and for planning a new local history museum in the old Smyrna train depot
- Murfreesboro's **National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate WMOT**, has worked with the Center to develop and broadcast more than a dozen oral history-based radio pieces
- The Center provides the Murfreesboro *Daily News Journal* photographs that it regularly features in its "Snapshot of the Past."
- The *Murfreesboro Magazine* has run several photographic features on local history, entitled "Rutherford Remember" and developed by Gore Center staff
- **The Rutherford County Historical Society** has placed a collection of its publications at the Gore Center and the Center hosts the Society's website
- **Tennessee Arts Commission** has used photographs from the Center's Buford Ellington Collection for a documentary film on Tennessee's Executive Residence
- **The Smith County Museum** has reproduced items from Senator Gore's papers for use in an exhibit on the Gore family

Acquiring Collections

The Gore Research Center acquires collections through the thoughtfulness and generosity of individuals who want to help preserve our region's history. In recent years, collections of photographs and historical documents have come to the Gore Center from as far away as Seattle, Santa Fe, Denver, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Not all of the Gore Center's collections have come "home" to Murfreesboro from such long distances. But they all came to the Center through the generosity of people who value local history.

If you would like information and guidelines for donating historical materials to the Gore Research Center, or if you would like to volunteer (or volunteer someone else!) to participate in the Middle Tennessee Oral History Project, please contact us!

Monetary donations to support the work of the Center are also welcome!

Mission

The Papers of Albert Gore, Sr. The Center preserves and makes available to researchers the Congressional papers of Albert Gore, Sr.

Regional history. The Center is a valuable resource for regional and state history. As an archival repository that acquires, preserves, and makes available to the public unique research collections documenting the middle Tennessee region, the Center provides an important community service in accordance with the University's mission statement. Its collections now encompass 1500 linear feet of manuscripts, 750 audiovisual items, 5000 books and serials, and 12,000 photographs. The collections fall into three categories: Political, Community, and Equestrian.

University Archives. The Gore Center preserves and makes available to researchers University records with permanent historical value. These records currently include the papers of President Q. M. Smith (1938-1958) and an extensive collection of University publications, photographs, and scrapbooks.

Oral history. As part of its mission to document the history of the University and the region that it serves, Gore Center staff and volunteers conduct oral history interviews, prepare transcriptions, and preserve and maintain the collection, which now numbers more than 400 interviews.

Academic excellence and student-centered learning. The Gore Center supports the pursuit of academic excellence and student-centered learning at MTSU by providing unique research resources, working with faculty in all disciplines to enhance teaching and learning, acting as both a sponsor and a venue for service-learning projects, and offering training to graduate students in the Public History Program.

Community service. The Gore Center serves the broader community by offering opportunities for civic education on matters related to the region's and its citizens' history. These opportunities generally take the form of exhibits, lectures, symposia, and oral history projects. Furthermore, through a partnership with Rutherford County, the Center provides advice and consultation regarding the preservation of and public access to county government records of permanent historical value. In this respect, the Gore Research Center Director trains and supervises graduate assistants who staff the Rutherford County Archives and works with the County government toward a plan to provide permanent staff and greater support for the Archives. The Gore Center also hosts the website for the Rutherford County Historical Society.

Al Gore's remarks at the Gore Center Open House April 15, 2005:

Thank you so much, President McPhee. It's an honor for Tipper and me to be here and thank you for your very kind and generous words. I want to thank Dean John McDaniel for being our emcee and for all of his work. I want to especially thank Lisa Pruitt, the director of the Gore Center, and she'll have remarks in a few moments. I also want to thank Faye Johnson for the hard work that she has done on so many things here at MTSU. There are many others that I should probably single out and mention by name but forgive me if I just thank everyone else as a group. Although I would like to mention those at the Gore Center. Kristin Luetkemeier, April McCauley, Jeff Sellers, Kevin Cason, Betty Rowland. Also I want to say a special word to my co-Smith Countians, who have already been acknowledged as a group and Gordon Petty -- we heard your words quoted here. He first gave me medical care when I was born and he just quit practicing full time about a year ago, and he hasn't completely quit yet, I know. Roberta Neal, from Neal Hollow in Elmwood, Tennessee, and Jerry Futrell -- this is part of what my family has referred to as my mother's "posse." And Alberta Armistead Winkler who was my first chief-of-staff in the State and also I do want to thank her for coming over from Smith County. And an honorary Smith Countian, who has roots in Smith county, but like Tipper and me now has a house in Nashville. Jack Robinson Sr. has been such an important figure in my family's life and was my father's key staff person along with Bill Allen, also from Smith County. Jack, I want you to know how much all of us appreciate you continuing to honor my father's legacy by remaining involved on occasions like this. We admire you and respect you and appreciate very much.

I can't tell you how much I appreciate the thoughtfulness and dedication, the time, energy and hard work that have all gone into this rededication event today, to the maintenance of the collection of my father's papers, to the hosting of innumerable scholars who have come from around the world to study the materials that are collected here. What an honor it is, I'd like to say, to have the oral histories, papers and photographs of other distinguished alumni of MTSU and middle Tennesseans and Rutherford Countians and others that are also studied and collected here. I met recently with the eminent historian from Cambridge University in England, Professor Tony Badger, who's interviewed probably everybody here. He's done a lot of work over the last few years, but he was remarking upon how valuable this collection is. It is an honor for our family to know that it is in such good hands.

This rededication today is an opportunity to reflect upon what this institution meant to my father's life and to remark as well that what it meant to him is symbolic of what it means to so many students who come here with native intelligence and energy and creativity and good will and find at MTSU an opportunity to develop their talents -- to become exposed to the universe of knowledge that is accessible here at this great university, the fastest growing institution of higher learning in the state of Tennessee. A place where students of modest means, of no means in some cases, can come and get a world class education. In my father's case it was this institution that gave him the first opportunity to expand his intellectual horizons and come to grips with the fundamental understanding that he had the ability to deal with whatever subject he needed to deal with because knowledge was the key and it opened the door to his potential. My father built on that foundation and grew steadily throughout his life and throughout his career.

I talked to a young college student [at another institution] just a few days ago who was taking a course on the Vietnam War. As some of the educators here know, there has been a new wave of scholarship; enough time has passed now and new courses are being taught on the Vietnam War. This student told me that he was reading about something called the Phoenix Program. The Phoenix Program was, some will recall, a shocking organized assassination program that went into villages and assassinated leaders. It was being explored by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and this student was reading through all of the dry testimony and what he described as "softball" questions from the Senators on the committee until he got

to the time reserved for Senator Albert Gore of Tennessee and all of a sudden the page just lit up with the intellectual firepower that he brought to the question and the righteous fervor that he brought to pursuing the answers wherever they might lead. That is the kind of energy and dedication that he brought to the task of representing the people of Tennessee in the United States Senate. The skill that he had in doing that job with such integrity made me proud as his son and made his family and so many of his constituents proud. That skill was first opened up at home and then developed right here at Middle Tennessee State.

Before I conclude, I want to say one other word. I think we live in a time when the role of knowledge and fearless inquiry, pursuing the facts wherever they might lead is being somewhat diminished. The kind of approach that is embodied in the great universities of our country and the kind of approach that you will find in that *Congressional Record* cited by the student I just mentioned is at odds with the dominant discourse in our democracy today. Instead of relying on words and logic and reasoned inquiry, too much of the conversation of democracy now occurs in 30-second television advertisements that seek to manipulate rather than to inform -- that seek to intimidate and conceal. I say that because, number one I am concerned for my country, but number two, this university is a symbol of how the role of knowledge changed one person's life, the life of my father and changed the lives of so many hundreds of thousands of students who come through this institution. Our nation changed the history of the world because, founded as it was in the wake of the enlightenment (that period of learning, that philosophical movement that came only after knowledge was distributed in books, printed in the languages that people could understand, not the dead languages that had to be interpreted for the people by mediators of knowledge, by authority figures, but rather after the printing revolution), knowledge was widely distributed to the masses. That led to the rule of reason and it led to a new order in the world. It led to the belief by the average person that he or she could, with the kind of industry and commitment that students bring to their time here at MTSU, empower themselves and then use knowledge to mediate between wealth and power so that the natural order of history up until that time was overturned. Those with wealth, those with power, who sought to impose decisions that would allow them to continue to accumulate wealth and power no matter if it was to the disadvantage of the masses, all of a sudden they had to answer to those who empowered themselves with knowledge and learning and communicated with their fellows and said, "We the people will make the decisions because we have inalienable rights." And they enforced their authority with the dignity of themselves as individuals enhanced by the learning that they acquired. And so for the first time in history when that approach to society was codified in the United States Constitution in 1789, knowledge mediated between wealth and power. The great universities of the world, the repositories of that knowledge, opened their doors to successive generations of young people even from the hills of Smith County who could come and get that knowledge and use it themselves to mediate between wealth and power, and to say, "We are going to follow principles of justice and see it come flowing down like mighty waters and we the people will use our knowledge to make a better world."

My father ended his political career in the ballroom of the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville on election night in 1970 (would have been in the Andrew Jackson if it hadn't already been torn down by then). Some of you will recall, he turned the old segregation slogan on its head in defiance of the sentiments that lay not too far beneath the surface when people said "the south shall rise again." He said, "The truth shall rise again." That campaign was the first [in which a] ten-day television ambush ended the campaign with misleading commercial impressions that couldn't be answered. We now take that for granted. It's the order of the day, unfortunately. But as he said then, "the truth shall rise again." As we look out on the political landscape of America, we see the truth obscured, the truth playing a diminished role, decisions made in defiance of the truth. For example, when the U.S. went to war in Iraq, 77%, an astonishing three quarters of the American people, believed that Saddam Hussein was the person who attacked our country on September 11, 2001. That truth did not rise in time. Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia said on the eve of that vote, "Why is this Senate chamber empty? Why are these halls silent?" And the answer may be that some who now serve in that body believe that what is said there is less important than it was in the

days when my father served in the Senate. It may also be that the chamber was empty because the Senators were somewhere else. It may be that they were in small fundraisers, collecting money to purchase 30-second television advertisements because the dialogue that takes place *there* is now seen as more directly relevant to the judgment made by the people at election time than what is actually said and done in the honored halls of our representative democracy on behalf of the American people.

In closing I say to you all, I know in my heart that "the truth will rise again" and that it will rise from institutions of higher learning. It will rise in the minds and hearts of young people who come from the hills of Smith County and all over this State and all over this nation to places where the knowledge is kept and cared for and studied and researched and presented for those who want to open their minds and empower themselves yet again with the truth of our circumstances and the ability to communicate with one another and to say that once again all just power will be derived from the consent of the governed. We will give informed consent only because we will learn the truth; it shall set us free when it rises again. Thank you very much for being here.

Speakers for AGRC Open House Ceremony



John N. McDaniel,
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Sidney A. McPhee,
President Middle Tennessee State
University





Al Gore,
Forty-Fifth Vice President of the
United States
Visiting Professor, John Seigenthaler
Chair in First Amendment Studies

Lisa Pruitt,
Director of Albert Gore Sr. Research
Center
Associate Professor of History



Displays for AGRC Open House



Albert Gore Sr. Display



Al Gore and Dean John McDaniel viewing Gore Display



Telling Everyday Stories Display



Lisa Pruitt and Mary Ella Burke at Margaret Lindsley Warden display.



Reflections in Time - Pictorial History of MTSU

Al and Tipper Gore Visiting the Gore Center



AGRC Open House Events

Program- Reception- Tour

