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Brown, who received his B.S. in History with an emphasis in Historic Preservation from MTSU in 1977, began by applauding the work of fellow MTSU graduates Ken P’Poe, who is president of Tennessee Preservation, Main Street Murfreesboro, and the Tennessee Preservation Trust—for their historic preservation efforts.

“Brown is the most illustrious alumnus of our nationally recognized historic preservation program at MTSU,” said center Director Carroll Van West. “He grew up in the East Main historic district. He brings a love of Murfreesboro and its citizens but adds a healthy dose of realism and experience to the issue of balancing the past with the present.” In his presentation, Brown recalled his childhood in Murfreesboro, where the sense of community was nurtured by the residential and commercial districts.

Brown went on to explain that sprawl is destroying our countryside and our community character. In Murfreesboro, as elsewhere, Brown pointed out that “subdivisions are built without regard for the historic buildings and land on which they sit.” By reducing opportunities for face-to-face interaction, sprawl makes it difficult to create and maintain a sense of community. “Our general bias in public policies favoring suburban construction over urban reinvestment” has led us to this point, he noted.

Brown believes there are many reasons why citizens, public officials, city planners, and developers should care about what happens to some older buildings when considering the future of neighborhoods. Brown mentioned that “neighborhood stabilization, affordable housing, luxury housing, heritage tourism, education, and economic development.”

Citing Donovan Rypkema, a real estate economist with twenty years of experience studying the impact of preservation on the economy, Brown explained economic development data that indicate the powerful impact of historic preservation on job creation and increased household incomes. “With the average manufacturing concern in Tennessee, for every million dollars invested in the National Register of Historic Places, it adds a healthy dose of realism and experience to the issue of balancing the past with the present.”

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Travel the Historic Iron Furnace Trail from Stewart to Decatur Counties

More than 30 organizations and agencies are involved in a multi-county partnership to tell the story of Tennessee's historic 19th-century iron industry. Leading the effort is the USDA, Forest Service, which partially funded the project along with Buffalo Duck River and Five Rivers Resource Conservation and Development Councils, in cooperation with the Center for Historic Preservation (CHP) and the Tennessee-Civil War National Heritage Area. Documented remnants in 12 counties are included in the CHP-produced Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail: A Guided Readership on the Eastern Highland Rim. This booklet's descriptions and photos of these remnants range from a rare double-stack furnace in Perry County to ironmaster Montgomery Bell’s engineering marvel, a tunnel built from 1814 to 1818 that produced enough water to provide power for a major ironworks at what is now Narrows of Harpeth State Park in Cheatham County. The furnaces were at the heart of large, integrated industrial complexes, or iron plantations, where whites, black slaves, men, women, and children worked and lived.

In addition to the guide, a video, website, and portable displays for participating counties will be completed in October and provided to the 12 counties along the Iron Furnace Trail to use as tools in their overall heritage development planning and marketing. This project began with a forum at Montgomery Bell State Park in 2004 and continued last fall with three successful bus tours along the trail.

Michael Gavin, Heritage Areas preservation specialist, is the principal researcher for the project, and Candace Harkins directs it. Copies of the guide are available by contacting the center.

The Tennessee Iron Furnace Trail was officially introduced during the Cumberland Furnace Historic Village Fall Festival in Dickson County on Saturday, October 14. The video was shown in the library and guide books were available in the Iron Museum. Other activities took place during the day from 10:00 to 5:00 and a barbecue lunch was available. All proceeds benefited the programs of the Cumberland Furnace Historic Village Association.

Brown Address cont. from front page

dollars of production 28.8 jobs are created. A million dollars spent in new construction generates 36.1 jobs. But that same million dollars [spent] in the rehabilitation of a historic building! Forty jobs,” he said, adding, “A million dollars of manufacturing output in Tennessee will add, on average, about $604,000 to local household incomes. A million dollars of rehabilitation? Over $286,000.”

Downtown revitalization is another important area of economic impact. Over the 25 years of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Main Street program, 1,900 communities like Murfreesboro have reaped benefits totaling $33.5 billion in public and private reinvestment. According to Main Street program data, “There have been over 72,000 net new businesses created generating more than 331,000 net new jobs. There have been 179,000 building renovations. Every dollar invested in a local Main Street program leveraged more than $28 of other investment. The average cost per job generated—$2,500— is less than a tenth of what many state development programs brag about.”

Brown issued a call to action to Murfreesboro and Rutherford County regarding their historic preservation efforts. He suggested the creation of a groundwork for historic preservation efforts. He suggested the creation of an inventory of historic buildings, a reworking of city and county policies to support suburban development, and urban reinvestment more equitably, a renewed appreciation of the Stones River National Battlefield as an economic asset and a sacred place, and a recognition of the right of the community to collectively shape its future while supporting private property rights.

For the complete transcript of David Brown’s address, go to http://histpres.mtsu.edu.
Around the State and the Country

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Recent National Register Work

Center staff members, often working with and assisting students, regularly prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations. The Tennessee State Review Board approved the following CHP-prepared nominations.

Approved May 2006

Hallehurst, Giles County
Country Women’s Club, Montgomery County
Buffalo Valley School, Putnam County
Hamilton-Brown House, Williamson County

Approved September 2006

Williamson Chapel CME Church, Wilson County
Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Davidson County
Rucker-Mason Farm, Cannon County
Riverside Farm, Rutherford County

Trail of Tears

Port Royal Road, Montgomery County
Rocky River Crossing and Road, Van Buren County
Kelly’s Ferry Road and Cemetery, Marion County
Brainerd Mission Cemetery, Hamilton County

Student-Centered Learning

The Center for Historic Preservation has increased its commitment to the Ph.D. in Public History program, now in its second year. As a key institutional partner, the center provides working labs and professional opportunities for students. Four Ph.D. students are working at the CHP this year: Kevin Cason, Brian Dempsey, Spurgeon King, and Susan Knowles.

Kevin Cason (B.A. in History, Belmont University; M.A. in History, MTSU) is in his second year in the Ph.D. program in Public History. His research interests include American cultural history and state and local history. Cason works on the Iron Furnace Trail project and for the Tennessee Century Farms program.

Brian Dempsey (B.A. and M.A. in History, James Madison University) is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public History. Interested in American roots music, he has worked at the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Arts Center of Cannon County. This year, he will be documenting historic sites related to Mississippi Delta blues musical heritage.

Spurgeon King (B.A. in History and International Affairs, Florida State University; M.A. in History, Historic Preservation, MTSU) worked for more than 20 years as a preservation consultant in upstate New York and is now a Ph.D. candidate in the Public History program. King is researching Confederate General James Longstreet’s campaign in east Tennessee and his headquarters in Russellville.

Susan Williams Knowles (B.A. in French and Art History, Peabody College; M.L.S. and M.A. in Art History, Vanderbilt University) is an independent museum curator who has organized exhibitions for the First Center, the Tennessee State Museum, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Knowles is continuing research on the marble industry in Tennessee and the Pi Beta Phi Settlement School in Gatlinburg.

Ashley Tate (B.A.) in Journalism and Mass Communications, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill) is a graduate student in Public History at MTSU. A native of Gastonia, N.C., she previously worked as a public relations manager for the Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley in Nashville. She is working on exhibits, brochures, and publications for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

Brian Donegan is a senior at MTSU majoring in Computer Science. Donegan is from Cleveland, Tennessee, and is a member of the CHP’s computer support staff.

Students continued on back page
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Brown Address cont. from front page

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Mark Your Calendar

Staff from the Center for Historic Preservation will be at the following events. We look forward to seeing you.

National Trust for Historic Preservation Conference
Pittsburgh, Penn.
October 31–November 5, 2006
www.nthpconference.org

MTSU Reception at the National Trust Conference
Pittsburgh, Penn.
Sonnoma Grille
947 Penn Avenue
7:30–9:30 PM
November 1, 2006
http://histpres.mtsu.edu

Tennessee Association of Museums Conference
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 21–23, 2007
www.tnmuseums.org

Fourth Legacy of Stones River Symposium
Remembering the Civil War in Tennessee
Rutherford County Courthouse
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 31, 2007
www.nps.gov/stri

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