The exhibit “From the Nations Capitol to Neighborhood Classrooms: Rutherford County Women, Past and Present” honors ten significant local women and their accomplishments.

Linley Moreland, student research assistant, sets up the exhibit on Rutherford County women at the Heritage Center in Murfreesboro.

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Visitors are invited to check in regularly to watch the progress and enjoy exhibits and new program offerings. The center’s hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Heritage Center is located at 225 West College Street in Murfreesboro, on the corner of Walnut and West College. Contact the Heritage Center at (615) 217-8013 or by e-mail at heritage_center@bellsouth.net for more information or to schedule a group visit and tour.

The Heritage Center Tells the Stories of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County

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The Roy Bailey African American History Center and Wilson County Black History Committee contacted the Heritage Area concerning Pickett Chapel in Lebanon. Center director Van West and preservation specialist Michael Gavin guided the work of Ph.D. and M.A. students Donna ... structure report that provides documentary and graphic information about the property’s history and existing condition.

Local preservationists in Russellville with the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association sought out the Heritage Area’s assistance after they acquired the house where General ... opportunities with the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area.

One of MTSU’s strongest partners is the Stones River National Battlefield. This collaboration resulted in the fourth Legacy of Stones River Symposium, “Remembering the Civil War,” held at the battlefield and at the Rutherford County Courthouse in Murfreesboro. Antoinette Van Zelm, TCWNHA historian, and Van West, center director, have served on the planning committee for this conference since it began in 2002. Center graduate assistant Ashley Tate coordinated the marketing and publicity effort for this year’s symposium.

Center director Van West traveled to Billings, Montana in mid-March to deliver the opening address at the city’s 125th anniversary celebration. Prior to working for the CHP, West worked in Montana and wrote several books documenting the state’s history.

In December 2006, AkinsCrisp Public Strategies contracted with the CHP to develop a heritage tourism plan for Oak Ridge. Working in partnership with AkinsCrisp, the Oak Ridge Convention and Visitors Bureau, the City of Oak Ridge, and Cockrell Design and Planning, CHP director Van West and TCWNHA manager Laura Holder helped create a report containing practical, cost-effective strategies and specific action items designed to increase heritage tourism and visitation and generate excitement about Oak Ridge’s unique history. This project also identified the key historic resources and interpretive themes necessary to provide visitors with an authentic and memorable heritage tourism experience.

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New National Trust Advisor

On January 31, the National Trust for Historic Preservation appointed center director Carroll Van West to the Trusts Board of Advisors. West joins William Kennedy, M.D., from Jersey borough as Tennessee’s two advisors. In addition to directing the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, West is a leader in heritage development and brings a great deal of experience to the National Trust. He currently serves as director of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, one of the member organizations of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas. He has served as chair of the Heritage Development Institute and is chair of the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference, both educational initiatives of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas.

Center Staff Update

Stacey Graham joined the center as a research professor in the spring of 2007. A Murfreesboro native, she had previously served as the center’s first fellow in the summer of 2003. She contributed historical research to reports on the Fort Blount site in Jackson County and on the Nashville Christian Institute and wrote a brief history of Rutherford County for Murfreesboro Magazine.

Her interest in local historical issues has remained constant throughout her life, even as she pursued majors in medieval European history and Latin and conducted research as a Fulbright Scholar in Paris. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1998 and her M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of California Los Angeles in 2001 and 2005, respectively. Her dissertation, “The Dispensation of Christian and Intellectual Culture in Late Antiquity North Africa, A.D. 430-695,” traces manuscripts of intellectual and theological texts from their origins in Christian North Africa to the monastic centers of Europe.
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