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Tennessee Preservation Trust Presents Honor Award to CHP

At its annual awards program, the Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT) recognized the Center for Historic Preservation’s long-term commitment to the state’s historic resources and its outstanding track record of partnering with preservation groups around the state. Richard Moe, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was the featured speaker and presented the award. The ceremony took place November 4 in the newly restored Silver Ballroom of the Read House Hotel in Chattanooga.

TPT noted the center’s leadership in developing the Heritage Development Institute, the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, and the Century Farm program and its undergraduate and graduate education programs. The CHP has assisted TPT with a comprehensive survey of civil rights sites in downtown Nashville and an economic impact study detailing the contributions of the state’s historic resources to the economy. Copies of the economic impact study, “Banking on Tennessee’s History: The Economic Value of Historic Preservation to the People of Tennessee,” are available by calling TPT at (615) 259-2289.

Meet CHP’s Newest Fellow: Susan Knowles

Art historian and exhibit coordinator Susan Knowles is the CHP’s Spring 2005 Historic Preservation Fellow. She is researching the Tennessee connections to the United States Capitol. Part of her work involves documenting the Tennessee materials and craftsmanship used in the capitol building. Recently, Susan traveled to Bellevue, Tennessee, with Drs. West and Sharp and graduate student Steven Smith to look at the artwork at the Pillars of the historic house which is owned by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities. She gave a local chapter president joy Grubbs insight into the nature, care, and quality of its collection. The center is excited about having Susan on board and is already benefiting from her expertise.

Introducing New Staff and Students

Betty H. Johnson, the new TCWHA secretary since December, recently worked for two local law firms after spending over ten years at Vanderbilt University as an administrative assistant in the School of Engineering. Her undergraduate degree is from Murray State University in Kentucky and her master’s degree is from MTSU in organ and choral conducting.

Tina Morris joined us this spring as our receptionist. She also assists with administrative support for the CHP staff.

Bud Alley, a graduate student in the History department and former plant manager in the packaging industry, works with the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference staff. In this role, Bud combines his interest in history with his background in sales and marketing.

Lauren Grisham is an undergraduate Anthropology major with a double minor in History and English. Coming to us from Athens, Alabama, Lauren is learning the ropes of the National Register process through her work with the Cates Farm in Rutherford County.

Holly Nelson, a Psychology undergraduate student from Albuquerque, New Mexico, joined the administrative support staff of the CHP this spring.

Sheryl Hankins has joined the staff of the 2005 International Heritage Development Conference. Having worked in the airline industry, Hankins brings valuable skills to the IHDC team. Hankins plans to enter the Anthropology program at MTSU this fall.

Center Builds “Toolbox” of Programs and Services for Farmers

The Center for Historic Preservation is producing a guide to programs, services, and opportunities of benefit to farmers. The goal of this project is to provide “tools” to help farmers stay on the farm and keep agricultural lands in production. The idea for a “toolbox” to assist farmers and those who work within the agricultural community originated with a group of individuals who meet monthly to listen, learn, and consider how to support farms and farming across Tennessee. Calling themselves the Farmland Preservation Coalition, the ad hoc group includes representatives from government, business, education, and the not-for-profit sector.

The CHP is coordinating the research, data compilation, and production of the printed guide and Web site. Joining the CHP as cosponsors of the project are Central Basin Resource Conservation and Development Council; Cumberland Region Tomars; Greater Nashville Regional Council; the Land Trust for Tennessee; and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Nancy Adger Morgan, Marshall County farmer and principal researcher; and Conata Hankins, member of the coalition and director of the Tennessee Century Farms Program, anticipated that the printed publication and Web site will be available in late spring.

New Partnership with General Services Administration

One of the most exciting new initiatives of the center is its partnership with the Southeast Sunbelt Region of the United States General Services Administration (GSA), which owns and manages federal buildings. Under the leadership of Dr. Leslie Sharp, the center is working with historic preservation and fine arts specialist Jeffrey Jerman out of the Atlanta office of the GSA on a major research and documentation project for the Federal Courthouse and Post Office in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Second Empire-style building was originally designed by U.S. architect Alfred B. Mullett and constructed in 1874. Graduate research assistant Sarah Jane Murray is assigned to the project that will include a historic paint analysis, treatment, and future recommendations, and a history of the building. Anne Leslie Owens, Murray, and Sharp traveled to Raleigh the first week of March to begin work on the project. Owens oversaw the taking of paint samples in the main lobby space while Murray spent most of her time in the basement organizing and recording floor plans and construction documents for the building.
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