Formers’ Corner
Jessica White is the historic preservation consultant for the City of Huntsville, Alabama. After working as a GRA with the CHP and graduating in 2013 with an M.A. in Public History, Jessi worked on fieldwork projects for the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area. Her current job involves working with municipal leaders, preservation professionals, and local community members to identify and address preservation needs and opportunities in Huntsville. Click on the photograph at left to access the video, or click here.

Scholars
Gatson Presents at Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum
CHP graduate research assistant Torren L. Gatson, a Ph.D. student in MTSU’s Public History Program, recently delivered a paper at the 69th Annual Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum. Gatson’s paper, titled “Dr. Who? Apothec-What? The Birth of the Modern Pharmacy, Through the Lens of an Eighteenth-Century Apothecary Chest,” was a perfect fit for the forum’s theme of “Early American Craftsmanship: Influence and Innovation.”

Gatson researched the paper last summer while participating in the Summer Institute at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA). CHP director Dr. Carroll Van West serves as the visiting scholar for the institute, and several CHP scholars have presented at MESDA seminars in recent years.

CHP graduate research assistant Torren L. Gatson presenting at the prestigious Colonial Williamsburg Antiques Forum.

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The apothecary chest that Gatson analyzed is dated to about 1795 and attributed to Baltimore, although there is no conclusive evidence about its craftsmanship or ownership. In his paper, Gatson examined how the contents of such chests were used to treat both free and enslaved Americans during the eighteenth century. Gatson looked at how these chests served “to maintain the economic stability of a plantation, through the upkeep of slave health, just enough to ensure that work continued in the fields.” He concluded, “By studying this chest in depth, one gains a greater understanding of not only the craftsmanship of the 18th century but the life blood of its economic existence, slavery.”

Gatson will soon complete his residency at the Spelman College Archives in Atlanta and return to MTSU as a Dissertation Fellow.—Antoinette G. van Zelm, assistant director

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**Partners**

**Apply for New Professional Services Partnerships**

The CHP is reaching out across the state to support projects in local communities. We invite local governments, state agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups to submit applications for five Professional Services Partnerships for the 2017-2018 academic year. The partnerships will provide the chosen applicants with professional services at no charge, with the expertise provided by the CHP’s staff and graduate research assistants.

We are particularly interested in projects that can be completed within one year; address a significant historic property, event, or issue; are located within a 300-mile radius of MTSU’s location in Murfreesboro, TN; demonstrate community need; and demonstrate the sponsoring group/agency’s own commitment of time, effort, and support.

Potential projects include historic structure reports, heritage development plans, history exhibits, heritage tourism driving tours, historic cemetery assessments and preservation plans, and heritage publications. Our Partnership Projects Database contains many examples of these types of projects.

Specific details about the application requirements can be found [here](#) on our Web site. Proposals are due June 1, 2017, and the awarded partnerships will be announced on August 1, 2017. For more details, please contact either Antoinette van Zelm, assistant director, at antoinette.vanzelm@mtsu.edu, or Lydia Simpson, programs manager, at lydia.simpson@mtsu.edu. Both can also be reached at 615-898-2947. —Antoinette G. van Zelm, assistant director

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**Leaders**

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Supporting Critical Thinking Skills in the Classroom

Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU, the Library of Congress professional development program for educators that is administered in Tennessee by the CHP, presented two sessions at this year’s Tennessee Council for the Social Studies (TCSS) conference in Gatlinburg. First, educational specialist Kira Duke joined with the 2016 TPS-MTSU Educator-in-Residence, Brandi Love of Kirby High School in Shelby County, for a session titled “Using Primary Sources in a Group Project Setting.” Second, project coordinator Stacey Graham presented a session, “Building Historical and Critical Thinking Skills in an Age of Fake News,” building on some of the strategies TPS-MTSU has been developing as part of its media literacy materials. Graduate research assistant Ethan Holder managed our booth in the vendors hall and took advantage of many networking and learning opportunities.

TPS-MTSU has presented at the TCSS conference every year since 2009 and owes part of its statewide prominence to the teachers attending the conference. This year, both of our sessions were so well attended that some participants had to stand. In addition to reaching new educators, TPS-MTSU uses the opportunities presented by these sessions to try out new lesson ideas and strategies for critical thinking that we can then incorporate into products to publish on our Web site. —Stacey R. Graham, research professor

Upcoming

June 1: Teaching with Primary Sources—MTSU Workshop: "Teaching History Today: Content and Strategies for U.S. and World History," mini-conference in partnership with the MTSU Department of History, MTSU McWherter Learning Resource Center, Murfreesboro.


A ribbon-cutting was held recently for the new signature exhibit at the McLemore House Museum in Franklin. The exhibit was developed by graduate research assistants Torren Gatson and Marquita Reed and staff of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, in partnership with the African American Heritage Society of Williamson County. The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays from 10 to 2.