

WAR STORIES

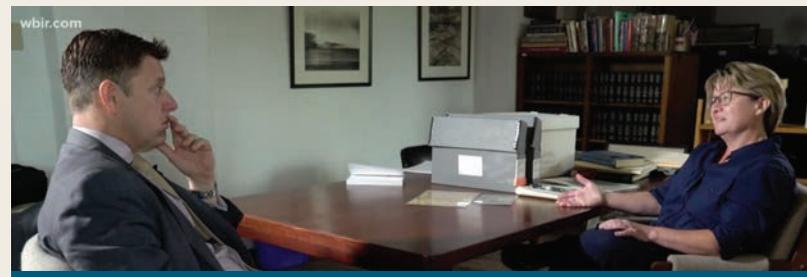
An Inside Look at the Center for the Study of War and Society



Since the Center for the Study of War and Society opened in 1984, we have amassed various collections and grown as a base for research and public service. The UT Special Collections Library and CSWS are making UT-Knoxville a nationally prominent center for military records on America's battles, victories, crises, and other major events. We are collecting letters, interviews, diaries, photos, memoirs, and small unit histories so they can be preserved and made available to the public. A typical day at CSWS consists of a variety of activities from conducting interviews to receiving donations of personal service-related items from veterans or their families. Numerous undergraduate student interns have passed through our doors in the past 36 years. While at the center, all of these students participate in conducting and transcribing interviews, as well as other activities. Recently, our students had the opportunity to interview one of the last surviving World War II veterans in East Tennessee, Henry Cooper of Sevier County, and Vietnam War veteran Capt. William Beaty. They also conducted research for the new UT Armed Forces Memorial, which CSWS staff continued for a memorial that will be placed on the campus pedestrian walkway. The Armed Forces Memorial will feature all UT staff and alumni who gave their lives while in military service from World War I to the present. Our next newsletter will feature an update on this tremendously important project.

Our work also extends beyond our university. As part of the center's vital public outreach, last year we partnered with the East Tennessee Historical Society to bring Francis Gary Powers Jr. to speak about the U-2 incident and his father's controversial Cold War legacy. The 75th anniversary of D-Day special by WBIR Channel 10 News featured our program coordinator, Cynthia Tinker, who talked about the center, the significance of preserving the individual histories of America's veterans, East Tennessee D-Day stories, and shared archival items like handwritten letters, official military telegraphs, and even a gold-plated Bible carried into battle.

We also brought our expertise to Karns High School for the Knox County Schools In-Service District Learning Day, where Ernie Freeberg, UT history department head, and Vejas Liulevicius, CSWS director, lectured on strategies for teaching on the World Wars under the theme of "Americans at War." This spring, teachers also heard from Robert Bland on the Civil War and Victor Petrov on the Cold War. Our director introduced best-selling author Erik Larson when the Friends of the Knox County Public Library hosted him at the Bijou Theater to launch his latest book, *The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz*.



Finally, we aided WBIR Channel 10 News in tracking down the origins of a mysterious German journal brought back to East Tennessee by a World War II veteran. Our undergraduate interns and graduate assistant are working to scan, decipher, and translate the journal with aim of returning it to its rightful owner. While the typical day at the center can vary, we are always open to educational and public opportunities to raise awareness on the social, cultural, and political impact of war.



FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

In these uncertain times, we can be even more sure of the significance of the work of the Center for the Study of War and Society because we keep inspiring memories alive for the long term, indeed for generations hence. Amid turmoil, the records we preserve show examples of determination and endurance against all odds. In that spirit, we are glad to share good news of students getting outstanding teaching positions, visits by best-selling authors, and ever new generations of interns gaining experience in our mission of public service education. Thank you for supporting our vision.

Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius
DIRECTOR

UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHTS

Vital Service Beyond the Battlefield

“ I had the privilege of transcribing an interview with Captain Robert Moore, US Army, who left for one of the deadliest combat zones in all of Vietnam in 1968. Willingly putting oneself in that sort of danger takes a great deal of courage, but what really stood out for me is the fact that Captain Moore volunteered to serve overseas knowing that he might not return to his wife and two children. Despite the terror he saw overseas, he still recounts that the separation from his family was worst of all.

US Navy Captain William Beaty sharing his remembrances with Cynthia Tinker, Zachary Brooks, and Bryson Williams as part of the Veterans Oral History Project.



Captain Moore will likely never have a movie made about his life or a statue erected in his honor, but the true beauty of the work accomplished at the center is that his stories and experiences can live on and give him the recognition he deserves for valiantly serving this country. It is of unequalled pertinence that these memories stay available to the public as a reminder of the sacrifices made and effects that war has extending beyond the battlefield.”

By Bryson Williams

To read his account of the entire experience, please visit tiny.utk.edu/Bryson-Williams

A History Not Forgotten

“ Instead of dealing only with war’s geopolitics and the great men who conducted campaigns, the center relates the stories of the men and women on the ground. One such story is that of Donald Hahn, who answered his country’s call in 1966. In Vietnam, Hahn would distinguish himself and join the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol teams. On these missions, Hahn and his team members frequently engaged vastly superior numbers of enemy and this necessitated them being roped out via helicopter. Upon his return to the United States in 1968, Sgt. Hahn did not talk about his experience in Vietnam until his twilight years because of the public’s aversion to the Vietnam War and the trauma he suffered while in country.



Center interns Bryson Williams (left) and Zachary Brooks (right) along with Cynthia Tinker attended the East Tennessee Military Affairs Council (ETMAC) Veteran’s Day Luncheon.

It is stories like Sgt. Hahn’s that the center endeavors to record and make available to Americans. The center has allowed me to contribute to a field that I am extremely passionate about as well as enrich my own experience. Though much of history is lost to us, my experience at the center is one I will not soon forget.”

By Zachary Brooks

To read his account of the entire experience, please visit tiny.utk.edu/Zachary-Brooks

Family of Triple War Veteran and UT Alum Donate His Collection

The most recent collection we received was donated by Steve and Kathy Zuck. Kathy donated her father, Daniel J. Kuchta's, memoir, medals, photographs, and even a film reel from his illustrious service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Kutcha's parents immigrated from Czechoslovakia and he was a proud first-generation American. He enlisted in 1942 in the US Army Air Corps, where he flew C-47s and C-46s in the China-Burma-India Theater and was later stationed in Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan. His last two major military assignments were as head of Brown University Air Force ROTC (1969-70) and UT-Knoxville ROTC (1970-74). Colonel Kuchta retired from the US Air Force after having served for more than 31 years. He later worked for the University of Tennessee, Knoxville for about 10 years as the director of non-credit programs and received his EdD from UT.



Colonel Daniel J. Kuchta's donated collection of memoir, medals, photographs, and even a film reel from his illustrious service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

John W. Nipper, World War II, European Theater; P-47D Thunderbolt pilot; 371st Fighter Group. He was a Knoxville native and attended UT. He shared his story with us in 2001. The interview transcript and audio is available on our website: tiny.utk.edu/Nipper

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CSWS Associates' Achievements



Bradley Nichols, who was an active participant in our AfterWars Research Seminar, has been offered a tenure track assistant professor position in History at the University of Missouri. Brad accumulated a striking record of grant successes during his time at UT, including the prestigious Berlin Program, UT Humanities Center Dissertation writing fellowship, a research fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, and the UT Thomas Dissertation Completion Fellowship.



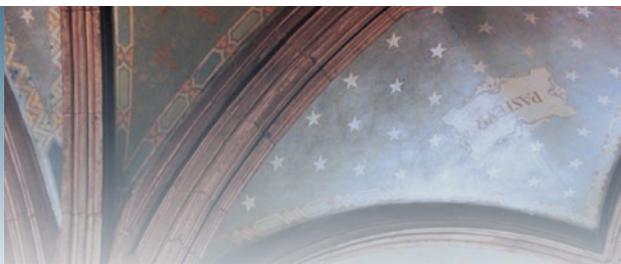
Dominick Bucca, who worked as an intern at CSWS, has been accepted to the master's program at Clemson University to study 19th Century America, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.



Peyton Snyder, who worked as an intern at CSWS, has been accepted to the doctoral program in history at the University of Iowa. His research interests focus on religious life and emigration in modern Germany.

CSWS STAFF

Vejas G. Liulevicius, Director
Cynthia L. Tinker, Program Coordinator
Alyssa N. Culp, Graduate Assistant





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Join the Friends of the Center

Your donation to the Center for the Study of War and Society will be used to help a dynamic organization dedicated to the study of the relationship between war and society. We undertake a mission of public service education through our study and research in the human experience of war and peace, international conflict, and diplomatic cooperation. The center also works to preserve the voice of the American veteran through an ongoing oral history program and a large World War II archival collection. The center administers several graduate fellowships and offers an internship program for undergraduates. It is also very active in community outreach and sponsors public lectures, as well as other events and conferences.

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We are a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. All gifts are tax deductible.

For more information, visit csws.utk.edu