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The Moorland

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MOORLAND-SPINGARN
RESEARCH CENTER

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to "The Moorland", the newly revived MSRC monthly newsletter. We are thrilled to bring back this mode of communication to keep you informed on everything happening at Moorland Spingarn Research Center (MSRC). As we sit in our 50th year of operation our minds are set on development and progress as we continue to champion MSRC as one of the essential sites responsible for the preservation of the global Black experience.

In this issue, we present the Black Press Archives Digitization Project. The Black Press project is the newest major initiative MSRC has been supporting since the fall of 2022. We caught up with the project manager, Brandon Nightingale, and a dynamic group of student interns. Our student interns play a key role in the project's success, and we trust you will enjoy reading their perspectives.

-Signed by the Editors
Rebecca Haynesworth
Jonathan Logan
Tewodros "Teddy" Abebe

THIS ISSUE

LETTER FROM
THE EDITOR

CELEBRATING 50
YEARS OF MSRC

MEET THE BLACK
PRESS ARCHIVES

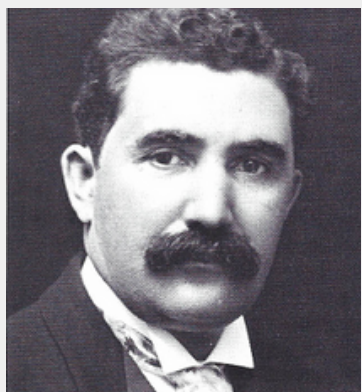
UPCOMING PROJECTS
& EVENTS



A LOOK AT MSRC HISTORY CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE VISIT:
[HTTPS://DH.HOWARD.EDU/](https://dh.howard.edu/)

EXCERPTS FROM "A PAST REVISITED,
A PRESENT RECLAIMED" 1974



Dr. Jesse E. Moorland



Arthur B. Spingarn



Dorothy B. Porter

A people without a remembered heritage, bereft of any sense of a past, cannot achieve a sound understanding of the present. Collective forgetfulness mocks the human urge to achieve permanence and stability in a world of inexorable change. The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, which is a part of the rich heritage and tradition of Howard University, is recognized as being one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repository of the history and culture of Black people in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States. In his letter of December 19, 1914 announcing the gift, Dr. Moorland said that Howard University was "the one place in America where the largest and best library on this subject should be constructively established". In recognition of the size and significance of Dr. Moorland's gift, the University established "The Moorland Foundation, A Library of Negro Life".

The appointment in 1930 of Dorothy B. Porter as curator of the Moorland Foundation was the beginning of a new era. Mrs. Porter devoted 43 years to the development of the collection. In addition to creating a new classification system suitable for a special collection, she developed a wide variety of research tools based on her encyclopedic knowledge in the field, including authoritative bibliographies that have been invaluable to scholars. Substantial expansion of the collection was made possible by the opening of Founders Library in 1939. A turning point in the history of the Moorland Foundation was the purchase in 1946 of the unique collection of Arthur B. Spingarn. The Spingarn Collection comprised works by Black authors in more than 20 languages, including Arabic, Latin, Greek, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Finish, Yoruba, and Zulu.

BLACK PRESS DIGITIZATION PROJECT



The Black Press Archives, a newspaper collection of titles by black journalists, editors and publishers, initially started out as a vision. In 1965, William O. Walker, Publisher of the Cleveland Call and Post, saw the need to create repository for black publishers in America. The concept came to be known as the Black Press Archives and Gallery of Distinguished Newspaper Publishers. The demand for an archive that would contribute to the management of historical record keeping related to the Black Press in America quickly became a reality. The newspapers would not only be collected and preserved, but the goal was to make them accessible to scholars around the world.

After years of hard work and dedication to this project, on July 12, 1973, The Black Press Archives found a home at Howard University. The joint project between Howard University and the National Newspapers Publishers Association (NNPA) authorized the collection to be held inside the University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC). Nearly 50 years after the collection landed at the university, The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center received funding from the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation to support the preservation and digitization of the Black Press Archives.



STAY CONNECTED!

 @hu_blackpress

 @hu_blackpress

 Howard University
Black Press Archives

The Black Press Archives now displays more than 2,000 newspaper titles from the United States, Africa and the African diaspora. The collection has 2,847 microfilm reels of newspapers, totaling over 100,000 individual issues of newspapers. The digitization project will take place over the next five years and will grant access to a portion of the collection via the MSRC website.

MEET THE LEADERSHIP

BRANDON NIGHTINGALE

BLACK PRESS PROJECT DIRECTOR

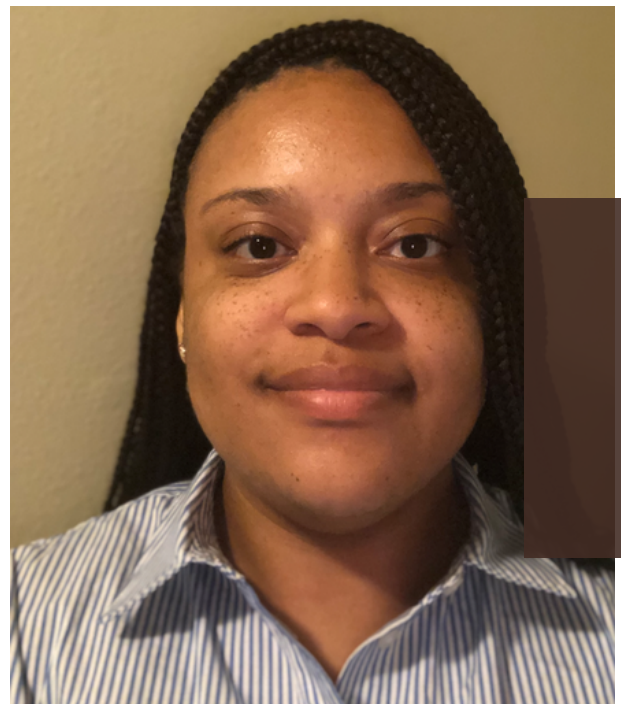
Brandon Nightingale is the Project Manager for the Black Press Archives Digitization Project at Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. In this role Brandon leads a team of 14 Howard students in digitizing the university's historic Black newspaper collection, which will give access to researchers across the world. Nightingale received his bachelor's and master's degree in history from the University of Central Florida. He recently obtained his master's in library science from Florida State University, and this upcoming Fall semester, he will begin the history doctoral program at Howard.



CAMILLE VINCENT

GRADUATE ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER

Camille Vincent is a second-year Ph.D. student studying United States History on the Public History Track. She was raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Camille holds a B.A. in African American History and United States History from Spelman College and an M.A. in Learn, Design, and Technology from Georgetown University. She is the Assistant Graduate Project Manager for the Black Press Archives Digitization. Camille is looking forward to working with students and seeing the creative work they produce. Each student has a newspaper that they will work on and creative ideas for other projects like our podcast, social media platforms, exhibits, and public programming.



BLACK PRESS ARCHIVES DIGITIZATION PROJECT: STUDENT INTERNS



"Being able to be a part of something that is so important, not only for future generations, but also for our ancestors who worked so hard "

LEONA
LAVONG

Leona Lavong is first year Communication Sciences and Disorders graduate student. She is excited to be on the Black Press Archives Team! For her being able to be a part of something that is so important, not only for future generations, but also for our ancestors who worked so hard to write, print and distribute these papers. This is their legacy and throughout this project we will be immortalizing it for generations to come. I feel blessed that I'm able to honor them while also learning from them and preserving their work.



JUSTINA BLANCO



"I believe that Black newspapers hold the missing piece of the puzzle"

Justina Blanco, is a Senior Political Science major, African-American Studies and Philosophy double-minor from Prince George's County, Maryland. I wanted to become a part of the Black Press Archives Project because I wanted to learn more about and help preserve a medium which provides something the Black community cannot survive without, connection. In a time when technology and social media has brought us closer together and farther apart, I believe that Black newspapers hold the missing piece of the puzzle.

Justina states, "I am so excited to be part of preserving this invaluable source of Black community so that we can build off of the incredible work of Black journalists who have left us real time connections to our ancestors' experiences. I am particularly excited to assist in making these resources accessible online so that they can serve to inform and connect a global Black community as it fights to remember itself."

BRANDON BROWN

Brandon has worked as a higher education scholar-practitioner in the functional areas of academic affairs, student success, student affairs, and multicultural/diversity affairs to increase access, retention, and persistence of underrepresented college students on various campuses for over a decade. He graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Communication Studies: Public Relations from James Madison University, then went on to pursue an M.S.Ed. in Higher Education Administration from Old Dominion University. He is currently a doctoral student in the Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies Program at Howard University in Washington, D.C. In his free time, Brandon enjoys listening to music, writing (scholarly and creatively), watching documentaries, docuseries, and discovering/re-enjoying great tv shows, traveling, and spending time with loved ones.



Currently a doctoral student in the Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies Program at Howard University

AMBER NUNNERY



Amber Nunnery is a Graduating Senior Honors Sports Medicine Major, Sociology Minor from Houston, Texas. After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in Social Media and Marketing. Amber is elated to be serving as the Social Media Intern for the Black Press Archives' Digitization Project. She stated that "The work we are doing on this project is crucial to the preservation of Black history and voices". In her role as Social Media Intern, her goal is to ensure that the public is up to date on The Black Press Archives project's progress and educated on the mission through quality and interactive content.

**OLAWÁLÉ
KUPONIBE**

Olawálé Dupeolu Kuponibe, is a proud Nigerian (with roots in Osun and Ekiti State to be exact!), born and raised in east London, United Kingdom. Currently, he is a second-year master's student in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) program at Howard University. Olawálé looks forward to working on blogs, podcasts, conferences, campus involvement and creating collaborations where the historical and current validity of the project and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center can be showcased to the masses and local communities who look like us for decades to come.



CHARLES ANDERSON

A Ph.D. student at Howard University, Charles A. Anderson III is a dedicated education professional who is determined to increase access to education for Black students and students of other minoritized groups and work for the betterment of Minority Serving Institutions. Charles went to attend Tennessee State University in Nashville, TN where he majored in English and History. After six years of working in journalism and for the state of Tennessee in data analysis Charles graduated with a M.Ed. in Higher Education administration from Middle Tennessee State University. In his spare time Charles enjoys sporting activities and museums.



KAITLYN RODGERS



Kaitlyn Rodgers is a second-year graduate student, earning her Master of Arts in history at Howard. She is originally from Madison, Wisconsin, where she attended university and worked for several years in the nonprofit sector. After discovering her true passion for history, she was thrilled to have the opportunity to study under the pre-eminent faculty in Howard's history department. While in graduate school, she hoped to gain experience in public history and archival work, so joining the Black Press Archives Digitization project is a realization of this dream. She is excited to join this important work, providing a resource that she, along with millions of other scholars, will continue to use in the coming years.

AJALI JONES



Ajali Jones is a second-year Ph.D. candidate studying Sociology. She was born and raised in Topeka, Kansas, and has enjoyed utilizing her desire for higher education to explore new cities and cultures. As a student, she recognizes the significance of this project due to the range of information that can be useful for academic purposes. As a Black person, she recognizes the weight of the project as a tool to show reverence to our predecessors and their contributions to society. She looks forward to creating innovative methods to expose all generations and demographics to the information held within the Moorland-Spingarn Center.



Here The HU Black Press is pictured visiting the Library of Congress, touring the library's vast holdings, including the historical newspaper and microfilm and houses.

JOSEPH STURGEON



Joseph Sturgeon is a junior history major and intern with the Black Press Archives digitization project. One thing he is looking forward to on the project is getting to look at a bunch of newspaper material originating out of Africa and the Caribbean and seeing how the press reflects our history. His primary research focus is on the experience of Black workers in the Caribbean, so he's interested in seeing if the newspapers we have reflect any of the perspectives held by regular Caribbean people, outspoken writers, and the day-by-day happenings in the West Indies. He is also really looking forward to getting involved in the podcast.

MIRRIAM HAGAN



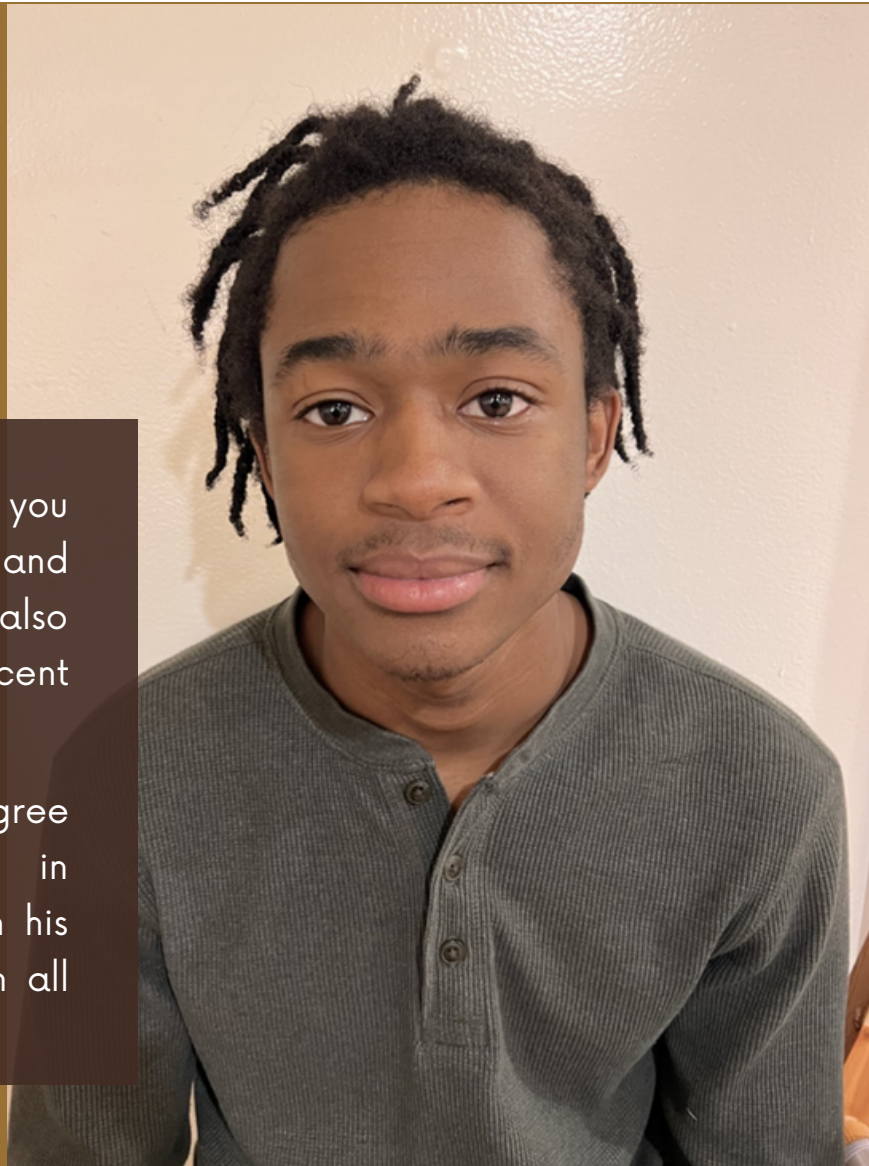
Miriam Hagan is a PhD student in Nutritional Sciences. When she saw the notification about this project, she knew she wanted to be part of the team to execute it. This project is to her is a solution to the preservation and restoration of our history, the African American history. She is looking forward to working within teams to digitize history from the Black Press Archive resources to reach the world.

TO DONROY FERDIINAND ...



MSRC would like to send a warm thank you to Donroy for all his diligent work and dedication at Black Press Archives. We also want to congratulate Donroy on his recent commencement.

Donroy holds a Bachelors of the Arts Degree in Political Science with a minor in Sociology. We wish Donroy, along with his graduating HU 23' class, the best with all future endeavors.



Donroy Ferdinand is a graduate political science major and sociology minor from Worcester, Massachusetts. As an undergraduate intern on the Black Press digitization project, he has already learned so much that excites him for the potential that it holds. Donroy before his graduation was working on a podcast for the project to highlight the important and interesting stories Black Press Archives will uncover. He states, "I am excited to be part of a team that is committed to amplifying Black voices!"

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

MOORLAND MONDAYS

*PRESENTED BY
THE GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL*

Moorland Mondays is a project that highlights the Association for the Studies of African American life and history in relation to the annual theme of Black History Month. This February's theme is Black Resistance. Each Monday in February the research center will host in person event and follow with a reception. All events will be held in the Reading Room, which is pictured below.



DATE & TIME

FEB. 6 @ 12PM

MSRC University Archives, Library, and Black Press Archive Divisions Video Presentations with Q&A and reception

FEB. 13 @ 12PM

MSRC (Library, Manuscripts, University Archives, and Black Press Archive Divisions) & MFA Art and Artifacts pairing and reception

FEB. 20 @ 12PM

MSRC Manuscripts Division Video Presentation with Q&A and reception

FEB. 27 @ 5:30PM

MSRC (Library, Manuscripts, University Archives, and Black Press Archive Divisions) & MFA Art and Artifacts Pairing with HU Musical Performance and reception

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

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 Moorland-Spingarn
Research Center at
Howard University

**MOORLAND-SPINGARN
RESEARCH CENTER**

**500 HOWARD PLACE NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001**