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The Moorland

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER

MOORLAND MONDAYS

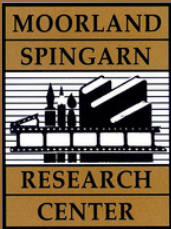
PRESENTED BY THE
HOWARD UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE STUDENT
COUNCIL

MSRC SCHOLARS

HOST "I AM BLACK HISTORY"
DOCUMENTATION PROJECT

JANUARY RECAP

MSRC HONORS DEAN LUCY
DIGGS SLOWE & A HISTORIC
VISIT FROM DR. MICHEAL R.
WINSTON



Letter From the Editor

Welcome back to *The Moorland*, the newly revived monthly newsletter of the Moorland–Spingarn Research Center (MSRC). We are thrilled to bring back this mode of communication to keep you informed on everything happening at MSRC. As a research center, we acknowledge the importance of the designation of February. However, we stand firmly in our belief that Black History should be continuously taught and celebrated throughout the year, as it is inseparable from world history.

“Black Resistance” was the theme for this year's Black History Month. Throughout the month we have highlighted the legacy of our trailblazing forebears. At the beginning of the month, the Graduate Student Council kicked off the well-anticipated event series, Moorland Mondays, which consisted of four distinct events.

Throughout the month, MSRC Socials led an interactive digital campaign to promote our Hilltop Digital Archive. It explored the deeply rooted connection Howard University has to Black Resistance. This month our MSRC Scholars pioneered the “I am Black History Month” Documentation Project, held in the university’s Blackburn Center.

In this month’s issue, we seek to encapsulate just how active each division at the Moorland–Spingarn Research Center has been in the protection and preservation of the global Black experience. MSRC hopes you had an enjoyable Black History Month, and trust that you will enjoy reading how exciting the month of February was for us!

Signed by the Editor
Rebecca Haynesworth

HER TRUTH & SERVICE

PART ONE

January 11, 2023, MSRC launched the Dean Lucy Diggs Slowe exhibition. The immersive display was organized and spearheaded by Dr. Amy Yeboah, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, and curated by Jade Flint, Artist-In-Residence Curator at Amistad Research Center and Rivers Institute. This photo and art showcase of the life and work of Dean Slowe would not have been possible without the artistry of Raya Henderson and MSRC's partnership with the Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Lucy Diggs Slowe was one of the sixteen founders of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and the first president of the Alpha Chapter. She was appointed the first Dean of Women at Howard in 1922, making her the first African American woman in the country to be appointed as a university dean.



HER TRUTH & SERVICE

PART TWO

Dean Slowe used her collegiate leadership position to advocate for women within higher education. She also led two associations to support college administrators. In and out of the academy, Lucy Diggs Slowe was a champion. She won the first American Tennis Association championship; in doing so, she became the first African American woman to hold a major sports title. The legacy of Dean Slowe and her tireless advocacy on behalf of women continues to thrive at Howard today. One example of this is the ten outstanding women deans leading the different schools and colleges.

The exhibition will remain on the ground level of The Undergraduate Library (UGL), through the month of March. It has drawn inquisitive visitors from across the nation. Students, faculty, and the broader community are encouraged to visit this exhibit, which illuminates Dean Slowe's trailblazing work and accomplishments both in and outside of the academy.



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JANUARY 24,
2023

50 YEARS IN THE MAKING

EDITION #2



The final week of January proved to be historic at The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, as we kicked off our celebrations for our 50th anniversary. Dr. Michael R. Winston, the first Director of MSRC, visited and toured the center on January 24, 2023. Dr. Winston was appointed Director in 1973 and remained in that role for 10 years.

During his visit, Dr. Winston met with current MSRC Director, Dr. Benjamin Talton, who showed him recent significant initiatives, including a newly revived University Archives Office, the Black Press Archives Digitization, the new Prints & Photographs Room, and the soon to be open state-of-the-art archival storage space. Throughout his visit, Dr. Winston shared many gems and insights into the unique history of MSRC and Howard University.



Dr. Winston earned a bachelor's degree in history, magna cum laude, from Howard University in 1962. He studied at the University of California, Berkeley, obtaining a master's degree in French History in 1964 and then a Ph.D. in European History in 1974. In 2008, Rollins College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Dr. Winston is co-author with Rayford W. Logan of *The Negro in the United States, Vol. II* (1970) and author of *The Howard University Department of History, (1913-1973)*. He is also co-editor with Rayford W. Logan of *The Dictionary of American Negro Biography* (1982), and co-editor with Genna Rae McNeil of *Historical Judgments Reconsidered* (1988). During his tenure as director, Dr. Winston established the Manuscript Division, Research Department, Oral History Department, the University Archives Division and the Howard University Museum.

MOORLAND MONDAYS



This February, the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Reading Room in Founders Library held space for a dynamic month-long Black History Month event series. Moorland Mondays acquainted students, faculty, and community members with the work being done at Moorland Spingarn Research Center to preserve fragments of the Black Experience, in its global entirety. The event series was spearheaded by the Howard University Graduate Student Council, as a way to increase community engagement with our center's collections and to celebrate our Library, Manuscripts, and University Archives divisions.



STAY CONNECTED!



DAY 1 FEB. 6TH

EXPLORING MOORLAND A SHORT RECAP



February 6th kicked off the first day of Moorland Mondays. The event opened up with words from our Curator of the Manuscript Division, Lela Johnson Sewell-Williams, who introduced the history of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and its significant collections. Following Mrs. Sewell-Williams', staff members from each division spoke on their unique roles within MSRC and how their work impacts the Black community. In this dynamic setting, students and community members in the audience engaged in a rich and informative Q&A regarding personal collections obtained by MSRC, how to access our digitized archival collections using Digital Howard, and the overall archival process.

The event concluded with a presentation from the University Archivist, Sonja N. Woods, on the origins of Black History Month, formally known as Negro History Week. With an emphasis on Dr. Carter G. Woodson's intentionality behind this annual observance, Ms. Woods made it clear that Black History is to be studied yearlong. The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center serves as an integral resource in upholding that standard.

DAY 2 FEB. 13TH

ARTS & ARTIFACTS MFA ARTIST CORNER



Miguel Davis Jr. is a First year MFA grad student (concentration in painting) from Washington D.C.

Words From Miguel

This piece titled "still" reflects inner peace through meditation. The flat background along with the small movements of the smoke evoke a sense of quietness and stillness.

This event was so important because it brought the community together to celebrate Black art. Additionally, it highlighted how art has changed over time, yet has continued to share the same sentiments and experiences of Black life.

My art is Black history because all of my paintings are created from my experience. When I look at one of my finished pieces, I am looking at a time capsule. I am revisiting old memories, emotions, and senses.



DAY 2

FEB. 13TH

ARTS & ARTIFACTS

MFA ARTIST CORNER



Siah Prince is an MFA candidate focusing on electronic studio from Tampa, Florida.

Words From Siah

Working with Moorland Mondays has allowed my art to communicate with artifacts and archives that have inspired me to make my art unbeknownst to me. This opportunity has connected my art to the greater ecosystem of African American Art history and shown me my place.

It's been a beautiful experience pairing my pieces with work I had initially never heard of. I am seeing the connections within our community and how the past has blossomed into multifaceted visions of our future.

The very essence of my art is to explore: The Role of Glass as a Symbol in African American and Caribbean History: Exploring its Relationship with Technology and Art. Creating art that inspires me to motivate and make a positive call to action in our community is my part of Black History, and only love and time will tell how that is received.



DAY 3 FEB. 27TH

ARCHIVAL VIDEO PRESENTATION ARTS & ARTIFACTS & MORE

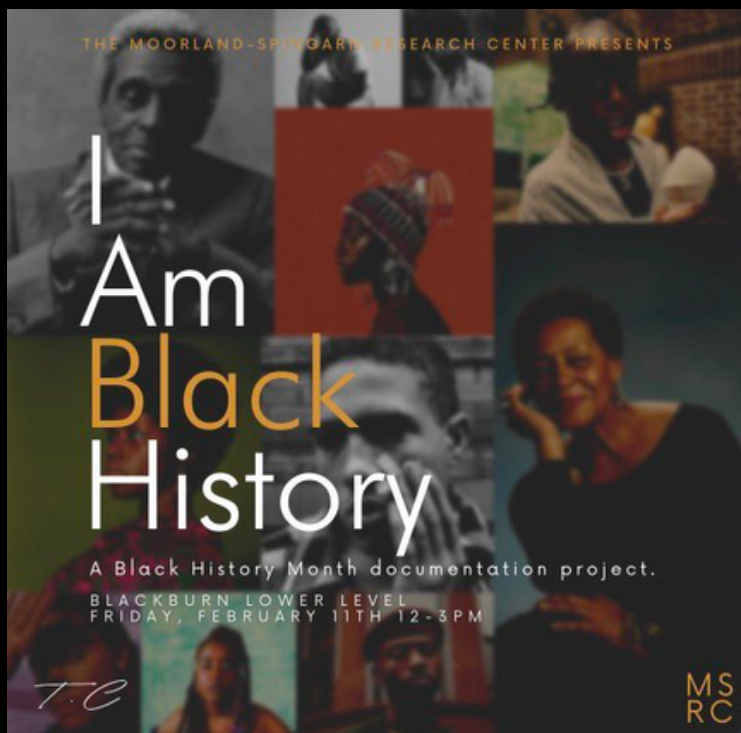


Our Manuscript and University Archives, divisions introduced the final Moorland Mondays. Manuscript Division presented a video with voice-overs by several team members that highlighted resistance stories from the Division's collections. University Archivist Sonja Woods presented a compilation of slides titled, "Black History Month, Howard University Archives and Scholarly Resistance for the Community".



Arts & Artifacts & More was another success. The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and the Howard University Graduate Student Council paired with Howard University Master of Fine Arts Student Artists and Musical Performers, to put on a lively production.

I AM BLACK HISTORY



On February 17th, in unprecedented fashion, MSRC student interns and staff gathered their personal belongings and workplace keepsakes and headed for the lower level of the university's bustling student hub, Armour J. Blackburn University Center. Their goal was to meet the student population where they were and find more personable ways to increase student engagement with MSRC. The event entitled "I am Black History Month" was spearheaded by Manuscript Intern, Brooklyn Knight. The goals of this Black History Month documentation project was to boost student interaction with MSRC and to promote its historic Reading Room as a collegiate study space.



Words from Brooklyn King

Hello! My name is Brooklyn King (BK) and I am a junior English major, Secondary Education and Photography double minor from Capitol Heights, MD. I am a Manuscript Division Intern at MSRC I have always loved the work that MSRC does, but just wished more people on campus knew about it. When I got hired, I knew that outreach would be a goal of mine, thus the creation of the tabling + documentation was created. With the help of the Manuscripts and Archive Divisions backing me, the help @TCSHOTIt, and all of the dope interns, we had a successful day of outreach. Stay tuned for more!

The Student Photographer Who Captured the Event



Words From TC

Hey my name is Latrell "TC" Caton and I am junior at Howard University. Working with Moorland on the Black History Event was an amazing opportunity that I am truly grateful to be a part of. It was an honor to inspire others to look into Moorland and tell the story of Old Howard as we captured the faces of New Howard. I believe it will be these types of events between organizations and students that will keep the Howard legacy ongoing.



NATIONAL BLACK PRESS DAY

A MESSAGE FROM BLACK PRESS ARCHIVES



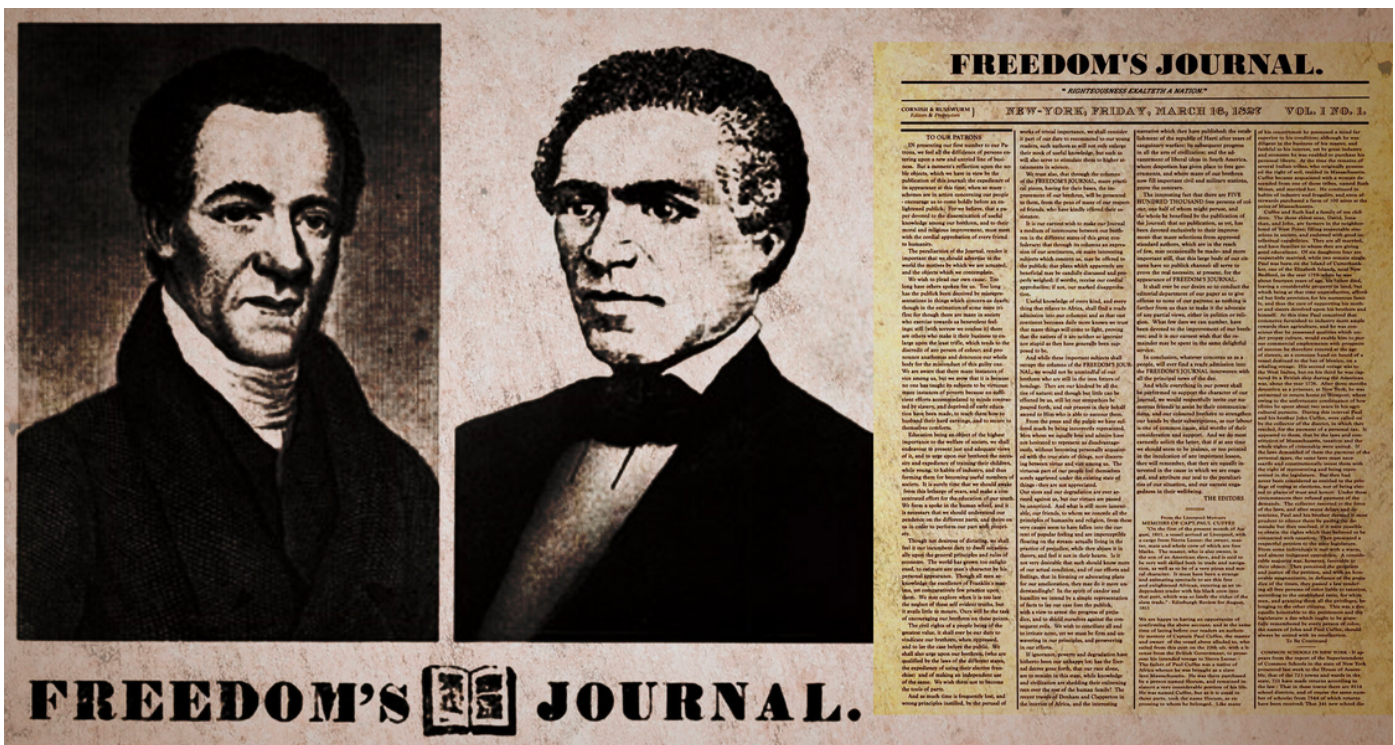
Brandon Nightingale, Program Manager

“ THIS IS A TIME WHERE WE ARE REFLECTING ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BLACK PRESS FROM 1827 TO NOW ”

"Black Press Day falls on March 16th and this annual event seeks to commemorate the start of the Black Press. The Freedom Journal, which began in 1827 in New York was the first Black newspaper publication in America. Therefore, March 16th is a time when we are reflecting on the accomplishments of the Black Press from 1827 to now. We have two major projects taking place in March, in relation to National Black Press Day.

The first project revolves around our students and what National Black Press Day means to them! Each person was tasked, when they first joined the team, with selecting a National Newspaper Publisher Association (NNPA) publisher to learn more about. So with being tasked to follow that publisher throughout their time here, we are going to give our team members the opportunity to speak about the publisher they chose, why they chose that publisher, and what they really think about them on our social media. We will also do a digital countdown for National Black Press Day, starting with the men and closing out with the women, to also honor March being Women's History Month.

A second project is an event that will actually be held on National Black Press Day, which will take place at Howard University's Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership. This project is currently being run by two of our team members, Brandon Brown and Evangeline Duppins. They are the masterminds behind this; I'm just helping out secure rooms and things like that! They have been on it, and are looking to highlight Black women in the press from a Howard perspective. The best part is that you are going to get those quality scans. My team right now is going through microfilms and the physical newspapers, while the scanners are getting tuned, and they are picking out stories written by Black Women in the press.



We are going to select about 10 to 15, and then enlarge them and set them up around the event space. You will see the different headlines and also a slide show that unveils what we are pulling from the physical papers and what we are scanning from the microfilm. We are bringing in scholars from around the campus, the event will be in person and also live streamed and you can tune in via zoom. In summation for the month of March, we are focused on National Black Press Day and everybody is playing a role. March 1st we will begin rolling out our promotions and begin passing out flyers, so be on the lookout!"

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROJECTS



March is Women's History Month! The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center will celebrate Black Women Writers and their great contributions to world literature. Throughout the month, we will highlight those less recognized and seldom spotlighted women writers. The month will also include a Poetry Slam Competition, co-hosted by The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and the Africana Studies Department.

The competition will celebrate the Black Radical Tradition through a tournament of student rhythmic renditions. This event will be free and open to the public, and food and refreshments will be served. Students who are interested should be on the lookout for flyers and updates on how to enter the contest and the parameters of the competition. We look forward to seeing you all there!

MSRC Poetry Slam

**March 24
5:30-9pm**

@Reading Room

National Black Press Day

March 16th

**Honoring Black
Women Writers**

MSRC Digital Campaign

All Month

**Black Women
Writers Archives
Collaboration**