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VOLUME 3

MARCH 2023

The Moorland

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MOORLAND-SPINGARN RESEARCH CENTER

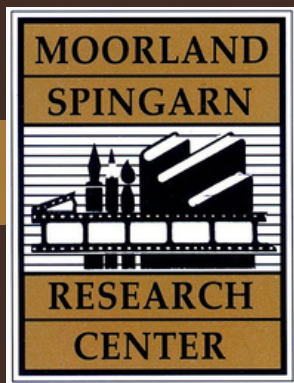
HONORING
OUR
PHENOMENAL
WOMEN AT
MOORLAND

MSRC POETRY SLAM

CHRISTOPHER TYSON VISITS MSRC

NATIONAL BLACK PRESS DAY

UPCOMING PROJECTS & EVENTS



Letter From The Editor

We're back! Welcome to *The Moorland*, the newly revived monthly newsletter of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC). As we conclude another great month, we want to ensure you are kept up to date about everything happening at MSRC. In doing so, we are thrilled to bring back this mode of communication.

March was an exciting month for the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center; not only did we celebrate Women's History Month, but also National Black Press Day. MSRC's Black Press Archives curated its first annual National Black Press Day Symposium, a collaborative program showcasing the contributions of Black women in the Black Press. In addition, MSRC Director, Dr. Benjamin Talton introduced keynote speaker and National Newspaper Publisher Association President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., at the National Newspaper Publisher Association: State of the Black Press Luncheon. To wrap up the month, in partnership with Howard University's African American Studies Department, MSRC Scholars facilitated a first-of-its-kind MSRC #HERSTORY Poetry Slam Tournament. The competitive evening gave students the creative authority to express their interpretations of womanhood and celebrate women as a whole.

In this third volume of *The Moorland*, we reflect upon the importance of women ensuring that our collective stories are told and transmitted to succeeding generations. We trust that you will enjoy reading this celebratory piece that entails just how exciting the month of March was and some exciting events we have lined up for next month.

Signed by the Editor

REBECCA HAYNESWORTH

CHRISTOPHER TYSON VISITS MOORLAND

MSRC UPDATE



On March 20th, the MSRC staff and students welcomed University Trustee Christopher Tyson (BArch '98) to the Center. He spent the afternoon visiting each of MSRC's divisions and the Black Press Archive Digitization Project. We are grateful for Trustee Tyson's enthusiasm for MSRC's initiatives and his continuous support. Accompanied by MSCR Director, Dr. Benjamin Talton, and Black Press Archives Digitization Project Manager, Brandon Nightingale, Mr. Tyson was able to observe the day-to-day operations for the scanning and inventory teams.

Christopher Tyson is a Howard Alum who received his Bachelor of Arts in Architecture in 1998. At Howard University he was an active member of the Gentlemen of Drew Social Club, Undergraduate Student Assembly, Campus Pals, and the Beta Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He served as Mr. Howard University from 1996-1997. After graduating from Howard, he then went on to obtain his Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. Mr. Tyson also holds a Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center.



HONORING OUR PHENOMENAL WOMEN AT MOORLAND



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*A COLLECTION OF
HEARTFELT MESSAGES TO MS. WOODS AND
MRS. SEWELL-WILLIAMS,
FROM THE MSRC FAMILY*



MS
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To Our Phenomenal Women,

I first met Ms. Woods at my initial interview with Howard. It will always be a comforting experience meeting a fellow archivist. At that time, Ms. Woods explained how she finished processing President Nabrit's collection. Immediately, I was impressed at such a gesture, as the workload of an archivist is often underestimated. I instantly saw Ms. Woods was committed to all the positive aspects of preserving Black History. I saw her passion for the job, beyond compensation. When I was offered the opportunity to work at Howard, I simultaneously learned that Ms. Woods had been promoted to University Archivist. This would mean I get to work with her and learn from her. When I finally met Ms. Woods in person, she greeted me as my family would! She called me John Richard. A name only my family says. This was further confirmation that I was home and that Ms. Woods, along with the rest of Moorland, was my new family. I am a better, more conscious archivist and historian because of Ms. Woods. I hope she understands I consider it a very high honor to work with her.

Authentic, is the word I would use to describe her. Ms. Woods is completely genuine. Her authenticity is in all things. She personifies Black Culture, love for Black History, and the intentionality of preserving both. Ms. Woods serves as an example to us all. Primarily, we should lead with love, encourage each other, and hold to good work. Ms. Woods is authentic, and being in the same space with her ushers the same likeness to those around her. My short time at Howard has been a joy because of Ms. Woods.

John Richard Kennedy, University Archives

My first time meeting Mrs. Sewell-Williams was a great way to get a deeper understanding of the center and how MSRC operates. Being an intern for her has taught me the importance of being a woman in this kind of study. By the way that she carries herself and the way she runs Moorland, she has shown me the importance of a woman's presence in the History field. Being a Manuscript intern has taught me so much, in terms of professionalism and how to carry yourself. I've learned so much from her that has helped me, I admire her and love working under her.

Brooklyn King, Manuscript

STAY CONNECTED!





MSRC

Ms. Woods and Ms Williams are two leaders that make me incredibly proud to be a part of the MSRC community. These two women have the brightest smiles that are gifts to the soul of everyone around them. They radiate gratitude, love, and positivity all while working so diligently at their craft, which inspires me to make my impact in the best way I can. Ms. Williams, my supervisor in the Manuscripts division, has been a great leader who never fails to make work fun while directing all of us in the right direction. Whether cracking a joke about me or being proud of me as a close friend would, Ms. Williams has always made me smile. The community these two women have formed in the archives/manuscripts division can not be overstated, and they deserve all the respect in the world. I truly believe their work is a blessing to the community, and I know the rest of the student interns can confidently say the same.

Rashad Freeman, Manuscript

I met Ms. Woods during the summertime when I started working at MSRC. Ms Willams introduced us as I had several questions regarding different collections and ultimately tried to find more information regarding my project researching the history of Howard's Homecomings. Many days when I would walk from G10 to make my way down to where I was seated before I would stop by to say hello and just check in. On one random day, Ms. Woods pulled the only available annual report from HUSA from 1973 that gave me one of the first in-depth looks at the budget breakdown for the year. It wasn't just simply the fact it was delivered but the consideration and thoughtfulness to hear me and without question just find a way to help. I always try my best to reflect those qualities but working under Ms. Woods reminds me each day to put those sentiments into action. To listen to what people are passionate about and extend a hand as best as possible to support them. working in University Archives has been some of the most fulfilling moments when looking at my whole time at Howard. It's sad to know that I will be leaving soon but I wouldn't trade anything for the type of love, support, and encouragement that Ms. Woods has given me from the moment I became a part of the family.

Jonathan Logan, University Archives

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I met Ms. Woods in the Fall when I first began working as an intern at MSRC. I was immediately struck by her knowledge of the history of Howard and the African diaspora as a whole. I admire her dedication to Moorland and how quickly she took her interns under her wing. The knowledge that I have gained working with her in the University Archives Division is invaluable and I am very grateful that I have been able to work with someone so great.

Sanaa Palmer, University Archives

Since coming to Manuscript Division Mrs. Sewell-Williams has made me feel welcomed and more comfortable in terms of finding things within Moorland that align with my interests. She has made it easy to stand in my agency as a student and has made interning a positive experience.

Jasmine Bannerman, Manuscript

Sister Woods first greeted me when I worked for the Library Division. She was very welcoming and I already felt the love she was giving to this great place. When I started to work in the University Archives Division, I only felt closer to the love from Sister Woods. She instantly showed that she trusts me to complete tasks well, and demonstrates a form of leadership that I admire and aspire to be like one day.

Noah Wright, University Archives

Ms. Woods is my supervisor, mentor, sister, and inspiration all in one. The work that she does as a university archivist for the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center is beyond compare, and I am grateful to experience her talent from behind the scenes, too. It's an honor to work and learn under her, and I aim to honor her legacy as time progresses.

Zoe Coker, University Archives

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Black Press Week 2023



VISIT [HTTPS://NNPA.ORG](https://nnpa.org) FOR FULL COVERAGE OF THE EVENT



THE STATE OF THE BLACK PRESS



This year The National Newspaper Publisher Association (NNPA) declared the week of March 13th Black Press Week. National Black Press Day fell on Thursday, March 16th, and on Friday, March 17th, the NNPA held The State of The Black Press Luncheon. In celebration of 200 years of The Black Press, the event also honored current CEO and President of the NNPA, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

At the Luncheon, MSRC Director Dr. Benjamin Talton introduced the keynote speaker Dr. Chavis and also discussed the importance of the Black Press, highlighting the amazing work taking place within the MSRC Black Press Archives Division. Accompanying Dr. Talton was MSRC Scholar Rebecca Haynesworth, who described the event as showcasing "the evolution of Black penmanship", and noted how The Black Press is "an essential force for captivating the Black masses through storytelling".



VISIT [HTTPS://NNPA.ORG](https://nnpa.org) FOR FULL COVERAGE OF THE EVENT



MARCH 16TH

National Black Press Day



UN(COVERING) THE STORY:

The Contributions of Black Women in Press and Media

Presented By



Supported by Howard University Cathy Hughes School of Communications and the Center for Women, Gender & Global Leadership

Words From One of The Curators

“ *The National Newspaper Publishers Association designated National Black Press Day on March 16th. MSRC Black Press Archives held the first inaugural Black Press Day symposium. We wanted to host an event, because it was both Women’s History Month and Black Press Day, looking at the intersection of Black Women in the Press. This was an idea born about by conversations between my amazing colleague, Evangeline Duppins, and myself. We were discussing how we should do a Black Press Day Event and with the digitization project, this is our first year being in the public eye on campus and we wanted to take advantage of that. We knew we wanted to bring awareness to the work, and also celebrate the wealth of resources and people we have here. Following that we started conversing with leadership and our team, and also reached out to the Cathy Hughes School of Communications Media Journalism and Film Communications (MJFC) Department.*

We worked closely with Professor Ingrid Sturgis, who is the chair of MJFC. She was a great resource to us in determining who should be a part of the event or whom we could tap in with within the Howard community. My first assumption was to pie the sky and reach out to people we see on national tv or larger platforms, but then the thought of how many great people we have right here on campus that we do not even know about came to mind. Keeping in mind how we can support them and honor what they have contributed to the field and the work continued to snowball. We wanted to have an event that was accessible and purposeful, and just as intentional as it could be, to not only bring awareness to National Black Press Day but to honor and give flowers to the Black Women that participated, from the panelist to the honorees, to the students who moderated the panel.



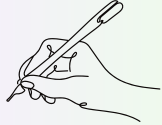
The Hilltop came to support our event, as well as an Annenberg Scholar from the School of Communications who conducted the oral history session with Professor Thomas. I’m glad we were able to involve the students, to create this intergenerational dialogue between Black Women about their experiences, their accomplishments, and their struggles, because we know they are present and we should do a better job of highlighting just what those experiences are for Black Women so that we can continue to lift them and support them in these spaces, ultimately changing the narratives that exist.



Quote From Brandon Brown
Black Press Archives Division

#HERSTORY

MSRC SLAM POETRY TOURNAMENT



RECAP



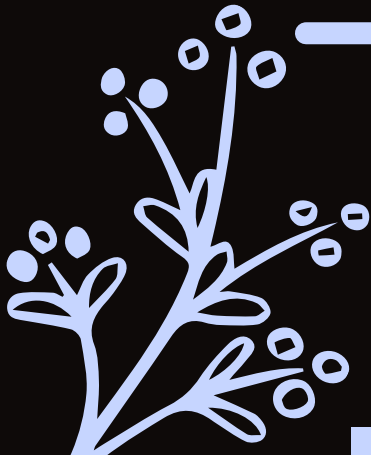
After weeks of anticipation, promoting the event on our social media platforms, and canvassing the university with colorful flyers, MSRC held its first Poetry Slam Tournament. In honor of Women's History Month, the HERSTORY Poetry Slam was held Thursday evening, March 30th in the MSRC Reading Room, in Founders Library. As students filled the space to show support for their fellow student creatives, they were simultaneously transforming the academic space into a dwelling of vulnerability and passion.

After three compelling rounds and some tough decisions from three MSRC Scholar judges, our contest winners were announced. Winning first place was Camille Ross, in second place was Ife Martin, and coming in third place was Meron Campbell.

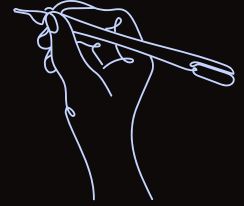
Special thanks to our lovely Emcee, Jaziyyah, and all of the talented women who competed in the poetry slam. We at MSRC champion our student's artistic endeavours, so please be on the lookout for our next bit!



MSRC



The Mind Behind the Poetry Slam



Blake Spencer is a Junior Nursing Major from Flint, Michigan. He is a former Brave New Voices Poetry Slam Competitor and NAACP ACT-SO Poetry-Written Gold Medalist.

Curating the Poetry event with Rebecca was one of the most fulfilling and satisfying things that I've ever done.

Long hours after work, meticulous planning and organizing went into this event. This event was for Women's History Month, and I wanted to make sure that was emphasized throughout the event. But also, I want to bring back a certain type of culture and recognition to Moorland, and to Howard itself. This event was so important for such a task.

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UPCOMING EVENTS & PROJECTS

TUESDAY
APRIL 11TH, 2023
3:30 P.M. EST
FOUNDERS LIBRARY
BROWSING ROOM

THE SALVAGE SLOT *TECHNOLOGY AND THE ECOLOGIES OF THE AFTER- AFTERLIFE IN NEOLIBERAL GHANA*



DR. KWAME EDWIN OTU

In Celebration of Howard University's "Year of Ghana," Professor Otu's lecture will present an ethnography on waste. He will draw on his ongoing ethnographic fieldwork among a community of e-waste workers on a dump: Agbogbloshie and Sodom and Gomorrah, two contiguous suburbs of Accra, Ghana's capital city. Through this example he will show Africa's paradoxical emergence as a site of extraction and the ways that Ghana/Africa epitomize what he refers to as ecologies of the after-afterlife.



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