

**PAUL SPRINGER, JR.**

Robert F. Smith Applied Public History Fellow  
National Museum of African American History and Culture

**CONTACT:**

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**EPortfolio:** <https://pjs4a2.wixsite.com/paul-springer>

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**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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U.S History, African American History, Historic Preservation, Libraries and Archives , Public History

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**EDUCATION**

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**M.S.I.S, Information Sciences** 2024-present

University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Knoxville, TN

**M.A., Public History** 2022-2024

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN

**B.A., History (Honors)** 2018- 2022

Fisk University, Nashville, TN,

GPA 3.83, *Summa Cum Laude*

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**TEACHING POSITIONS/ASSISTANTSHIPS**

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**University of Tennessee at Knoxville** 2024- present

**School of Information Sciences**

*Graduate Teaching Assistant*

**Wilberforce University** 2023-2024

**College of Arts & Sciences**

*(Online, OS Canvas) Adjunct Professor*

Courses Taught:

- *HST 225: African American History (1619-1900)*
- *IDS 185: History of Wilberforce University*

**Fisk University** 2022

**School of Humanities & Social Sciences**

*Teaching Assistant (TA)*

Professor: Dr. Brandon Owens

Courses Taught:

- *CORE 360: World and Its Peoples*

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**RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS**


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**Robert F. Smith Applied Public History Fellowship Program** 2024-present  
**National Museum of African American History and Culture**

*Curatorial Fellow*

Project: “Gunnison, MS: Landscape and Monument of the Jim Crow South and the Mississippi Delta”

Project Supervisor: Doretha Williams

**Black Teacher Archive Summer Research Institute** 2024  
**Harvard University**

*Research Intern*

Project Supervisors: Dr. Jarvis Gidens, Dr. Imani Perry, Micha Broadnax

**Middle Tennessee State University** 2022- 2024  
**MTSU Center for Historic Preservation**

*Graduate Research Assistant*

CHP Director/Supervisor: Dr. Carroll Van West

**Vanderbilt University** 2021  
**Leadership Alliance Virtual Research- Early Identification Program**

*Research Intern*

Project Faculty Coordinator: Dr. Celso Castilho, Professor in Latin American Studies

**University of Kansas** 2021  
[HBCU Library Alliance Summer Conservation/Preservation Internship](#)

*Student Intern*

Project Coordinator: Whitney Baker, Head of Conservation Services at KU Libraries

**Emory University** 2020  
**UNCF Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Summer Institute**

*Fellowship intern*

Program Coordinator: Dr. Cynthia Neal Spence, Spelman College

**Jefferson Street Tour/ Nashville Sites** 2021  
**Metro Historical Commission Foundation**

*Student intern*

Project Supervisor: Kayleigh Whitman, Vanderbilt University

**Alabama A&M University** 2023  
**Alabama State Black Archives Research Center and Museum**

*Summer Internship/Research Assistant*

Project: Alabama Black History Timeline (1819-2019)

Project Supervisor: Dr. Brandon Owens

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## PRESENTATIONS

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### Virtual Leadership Alliance National Symposium

July 31, 2021

Research Project: *Black Press's Response to the Crimean War (1853—56) present in the Frederick Douglass Papers*

### HBCU Library Alliance Summer Conservation/Preservation Internship

July 14, 2021

Research Project: *Archival Collection of Fisk During the Covid Era*

### Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Southeast Regional Undergraduate Conference,

November 5, 2021

Research Prospectus: *Residuals of Blaxploitation in 21st Century Film/Media*

### Fisk University Research Symposium

April 6, 2022

Research Project: *20th Century Nigerian Popular Culture Through the Lens of Cinema*

### Western Kentucky University History Undergraduate Research Conference

April 18, 2022

Research Paper: *20th Century Nigerian Popular Culture Through the Lens of Cinema*

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## PUBLICATIONS

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Springer, Paul. "Nashville's First Public Historian: Jessie Carney Smith at Fisk University," Master's thesis. Middle Tennessee State University, 2024.

"Centering Voices: Undergraduate Preservation Internships for Students of Color," *AIC News* 48, no. 3 (May 2023): 6-13.

Springer, Paul and Carroll Van West, *West Gaines School: Historic Overview and Preliminary Conditions Assessment*. Murfreesboro, TN: MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, 2022.

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/2c253136/files/uploaded/West-Gaines-School-Historic-Overview-and-Preliminary-Conditions-Assessment.pdf>

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Nashville Public Library

2023-2024

Program Specialist 2

#### Responsibilities:

- Serves as Person in Charge (PIC) in Branch Manager's absence
- Assists with development and design of program objectives and content.
- Researches and recommends alternative methods of program management to identify possible alternative approaches or to evaluate current techniques.
- Performs general administrative duties.

**Fisk University** 2022-2023

**John Hope & Aurelia E. Franklin Library**

*Library Assistant for Technical Services*

Responsibilities

- Assist with collection development, cataloging, and source preservation
- Assist in Access Services as needed
- Collect data and upload library and archives environmental monitoring files
- Engage in scholarly activities, provide services for the university
- Repair damaged books and materials

**Boys & Girls Clubs of Middle Tennessee** 2019-2020

**Andrew Jackson Boys & Girls Club**

*BGCA Club Assistant/ Youth Basketball Coach*

Responsibilities:

- Developing lesson plans/afternoon activities
- Assisting with children's school assignments
- Providing guidance for troubled youth
- Creating a culture of positivity
- Accompanying children on school bus
- Coaching 7-8 yr. old children and holding practices every week

**Footlocker** 2017-2022

**OakCourt Mall/ Wolfchase Galleria**

*Sales Associate/Lead*

Responsibilities:

- Providing a comfortable environment with customers
- Working with team members
- Due to my long tenure, I assisted management with phone interviews for new employees
- Providing effective customer service

**Fisk University** 2021-2022

**New Livingstone Hall**

*Resident Assistant*

Responsibilities:

- Developing relationships with students
- Creating/Hosting Activities for Residents
- Supervising the residence area
- Mentoring incoming freshmen/new students

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## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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**Fisk University**

**John Hope & Aurelia E. Franklin Library**

*Library Desk Assistant*

Responsibilities:

- Front Desk Service
- Book sorting
- Checking in and checking out books
- Document Scanning/Printing

**Reading Scholars Program  
Independent Nonprofit***Student Volunteer*

Supervisor: Imani H. Campbell

School: Jones Paideia Elementary School

Responsibilities:

- Assisting with children's school assignments
- Providing guidance for school age children
- Mentoring designated children under my care

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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**National Council of Public History (NCPH)****American Library Association (ALA)***Membership ID: 2348355*

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**COMMITTEES**

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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (Nashville Public Library)

2023-2024

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**AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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-Robert F. Smith Applied Public History Fellow

-[Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow](#)

-Fisk University W.E.B Du Bois Honors Program

-*Summa Cum Laude*, Fisk University-1<sup>st</sup> Place Oral Presentation at Fisk University Research Symposium

-Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society

-[\(NAAAHF\) Participant](#)-[NAAAHF Debate Team Member](#)-[NAAAHF Debate Team Champion](#)

-Fisk University Leaders &amp; Scholars Award Recipient (\$7,500)

-[May Dean Eberling Public History Scholarship](#), Middle Tennessee State University (\$3,000)-[Theodore S. Currier](#) Scholar, Fisk University (\$500)

-Master of Ceremonies &amp; Response Speaker to Nikole Hannah Jones at the Fisk University -Honors Convocation

-KYB Caregiver Appreciation Response Speaker

-MTSU History Department Constitution Day Panelist

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**REFERENCES**

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**Dr. Brandon Owens**, Wilberforce University*Provost, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs*[bowens@wilberforce.edu](mailto:bowens@wilberforce.edu)**Dr. Carroll Van West**, Middle Tennessee State University*Director of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation, TN State Historian*[carroll.west@mtsu.edu](mailto:carroll.west@mtsu.edu)

**Linda Wynn**, Fisk University and Tennessee Historical Commission  
*Lecturer; Assistant Director for State Programs*  
[lwynn@fisk.edu](mailto:lwynn@fisk.edu)

**Whitney Baker**, University of Kansas Libraries  
*Librarian; Head, Conservation Services*  
[wbaker@ku.edu](mailto:wbaker@ku.edu)

**Cloreace Eppenger**, Nashville Public Library  
*Branch Manager at North Branch Public Library*  
[Cloreace.Eppenger@nashville.gov](mailto:Cloreace.Eppenger@nashville.gov)

**Dr. James Quirin**, Fisk University  
*Professor of History, Emeritus*  
[jquirin@fisk.edu](mailto:jquirin@fisk.edu)

**Dr. Patrick Rasico**, Fisk University  
*Professor of History*  
[prasico@fisk.edu](mailto:prasico@fisk.edu)

**Joshua Williams**, Fisk University  
*University Archivist*  
[jawilliams@fisk.edu](mailto:jawilliams@fisk.edu)

**Diona Layden**, Fisk University  
*Special Collections Librarian*  
[dlayden@fisk.edu](mailto:dlayden@fisk.edu)

**Priscilla Anderson**, Harvard University  
*Head Conservationist*  
[priscilla\\_anderson@harvard.edu](mailto:priscilla_anderson@harvard.edu)

**Savannah Knies**, MTSU Center for Historic Preservation  
*Fieldwork Coordinator*  
[savannah.grandey@mtsu.edu](mailto:savannah.grandey@mtsu.edu)

**Dr. LaTanya Rogers**, Fisk University  
*Director of the Honors Program & Assoc. Professor of English*  
[lrogers@fisk.edu](mailto:lrogers@fisk.edu)