

HOWARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Wilbur Patterson Thirkield Historical Essay Contest

ESSAY TOPIC: The 2010 essay topic will be any “Pre-1910 African American History” as revealed by holdings of Howard University Libraries (HUL) or the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC).

ELIGIBILITY: Howard University Undergraduate students in all schools and colleges are invited to participate in the Wilbur Patterson Thirkield Essay Contest.

PRIZES:

First Prize - \$300

Second Prize - \$200

Third Prize - \$100

GUIDELINES: Each essay is to be no fewer than 1,500 words (6.5 to 7 pages) or no more than 2,000 words (about 9 pages) in length (excluding the endnotes and bibliography). The essay must be typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced, on one side only of 8 ½” X 11” paper. Quotations from other writers are encouraged but must be acknowledged and should be used with discretion. The title page must have the following:

- The contestant’s name, address, and telephone number
- The name, address, and telephone number of the faculty sponsor
- The name, address and telephone number of the school or college and department represented.

Students are to seek the support of a faculty member in developing their historical essays.

Research must involve the use of the materials in Founders Library and/or the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Information must come from a reliable source (magazine/book/newspaper/manuscript/report, etc.) and the student must acknowledge the author and publisher.

Students must follow the format and documentation style of their discipline, i.e., *The Chicago Manual of Style* or *Modern Language Association (MLA)*, etc. Guidelines for citations are available by [clicking here](#).

The essay may be hand-delivered, mailed, or submitted electronically as noted below under “Deadline.”

JUDGING: Each essay will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Originality

The essay contributes to an original interpretation of “Pre-1910 African American History” as revealed by holdings of Howard University Libraries (HUL) or the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC).

- Scholarship

The essay exhibits the use and interpretation of expert and varied primary and secondary resources.

- Composition

The essay is well-written in accordance with standard English procedures (correct punctuation, spelling, and grammar), logically composed, and presented in accordance with all entry format rules.

- Bibliography

The bibliography includes Howard University: The Capstone of Negro Education by Walter Dyson and Howard University: The First Hundred Years, 1867-1967, by Rayford L. Logan. (Portions of these books, which correlate to “Pre-1910 History of Howard University,” will be accessible under “Course Reserves” on the website for [Howard University Libraries](#).)

The winning essays will be chosen by a panel composed of faculty and student representatives of the departments from which essays have been submitted, the Friends of the Library, and the directors of Howard University Libraries and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. **Winners will be announced at the 14th Annual Faculty Authors Reception which will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010.**

DEADLINE: **Entries must be submitted on or before midnight on Wednesday, April 7th, 2010.** Copies may be sent electronically by clicking here [Thirkield Essay Contest](#) or mailing to the following address:

The Thirkield “Pre-1910 African American Historical Essay Contest” Committee
Founders Library
500 Howard Place, N.W., Suite 203
Washington, D.C. 20059

INQUIRIES: Please submit any inquiries by clicking here [Thirkield Essay Contest](#) .

SPONSORS: Pamela Thirkield Lavin & The Thirkield Family
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[The Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer](#)
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ABOUT THE THIRKIELD ENDOWMENT

Wilbur Patterson Thirkield served as the ninth president of Howard University from September 1906 to September 1912. The Thirkield Administration is most notable for its attainment of Howard University's first library building, the Carnegie Building, and the development of sciences and Thirkield Hall. Thirkield was also notable for his work as a Methodist minister.

The Thirkield Endowment was established by the Pamela Lavin Thirkield, the granddaughter of former President Thirkield, in appreciation of historical research conducted at Howard University which reveals the extensive work on the part of former President Thirkield, his administration and the Board of Trustees over a four-year period to attain the University's first library building in 1910.

The purpose of the "Wilbur Patterson Thirkield Historical Essay Contest" is to encourage undergraduate students of all disciplines to explore a "Pre-1910" topic of history that demonstrates the players and key events in Howard's past.

It is hoped that the topic chosen will stimulate the thinking and inspire the actions of young people at Howard University, who will assume responsibility for affairs on local, state, national, and international levels in the future.