The Wilbur Patterson Thirkield Historical Essay Contest

First Prize - $500
Second Prize - $200
Third Prize - $100

ESSEY TOPIC
The 2011 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 are invited to participate in the Wilbur Patterson Thirkield Historical Essay Contest.

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 bibliograpy). The essay must be typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced on one side only of 8.5” X 11” paper. Quotations from sources and writers are encouraged but must be well-annotated 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 HUL 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 at:
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/educat/uses/citations.html

The essay may be handwritten, typed, or submitted electronically as noted below.

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

ORIGINALITY
The essay contributes to an original interpretation of "Pre-1910 History at Howard University"

SCHOLARSHIP
The essay exhibits the use and interpretation of expert and 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). 

DEADLINE
The deadline includes Howard University, The Captain of Negro Education by Walter Dyon 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 from the departments from which essays have been submitted. The Friends of the Library and the Friends of Howard University Libraries and Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION
Entries must be submitted on or before midnight on Friday, April 1st, 2011.

Entries may be sent electronically to stokes-hammond@howard.edu or by mail to the following address:

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

INQUIRIES
Please submit any inquiries to stokes-hammond@howard.edu.

SPONSORS
Pamela Thirkield Lavin & The Thirkield Family
The Office of the President
The Office of the Provost and Chief Academic Officer
University Libraries
Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
The College of Arts and Sciences
The Friends of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and Peabody Libraries

ABOUT THE THIRKIELD ENDOWMENT
Wilbur Patterson Thirkield served as the 9th president of Howard University from September 1966 to September 1972. The Thirkield Administration is most notable for its expansion of Howard University’s role in the teaching and the development of science and Thirkield Hall. Thirkield was also notable for his work as a Methodist minister.

The Thirkield Endowment was established by the Howard Board of Trustees to honor the great grandson of former President Thirkield, in recognition of his support for Howard University. Thirkield Hall was named in honor of the late Howard University President after a $20 million pledge to expand the University’s first dormitory building.

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 influence and impact upon Howard University.

It is hoped that the topic chosen will demonstrate the thinking and inspire the students of their potential Howard University, which assumes responsibility for offering a liberal, basic, national, and international level in the future.

Poster designed by Miream Ahmed