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**“Legacy: Treasures of Black History” Named Best Book of 2007 by MARAC:**  
*Howard University’s Dr. Thomas Battle and Donna Wells to Receive Award in November*

**Washington, D.C., October 25, 2007** – “Legacy: Treasures of Black History,” edited by Thomas C. Battle, Ph.D., director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) at Howard University, and Donna M. Wells, curator of Prints and Photographs, MSRC, has been selected as the recipient of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference’s (MARAC) Arline Custer Award for the best book of 2007. The award will be presented during MARAC’s Nov. 3 meeting in Williamsburg, VA.

Nationally acclaimed “Legacy” represents a major contribution to African-American history and a riveting exploration of the Black experience and its impact on the nation’s culture and character. In twelve chapters, the book chronicles ancient Africa and the slave trade to such key eras as the Civil War, Emancipation, and Reconstruction; the Harlem Renaissance and the Jim Crow Era; and the modern Civil Rights and Black Power/Black Arts movements. It includes expert insights from more than two dozen Black scholars and activists, complete with an introduction by the distinguished Dr. John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History.

“It is such an honor to receive the Arline Custer Award from MARAC. “Legacy” was a labor of love and it is indeed a privilege for it to be recognized by our colleagues in the field, said Wells.”

The book features over 150 historic items including documents, letters, images, and artifacts from Howard’s very own Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, many never before published: 18th-century maps of Africa; the pincushion of Elizabeth Keckley, Mrs. (Abraham) Lincoln’s seamstress; a Langston Hughes letter in which he first shares his famous poem *I, Too, Sing America*; a unique daguerreotype of Frederick Douglass in profile; a bell belonging to Sally Hemmings, Thomas Jefferson’s slave and companion; and NAACP membership buttons from the 1960s.

Honoring the memory of Arline Custer (1909-1975), MARAC member and editor of the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, the award recognizes the best books, articles, and exhibition catalogues published by MARAC members and other individuals and institutions in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. Evaluation criteria include relevancy both to the archival community and the general public, originality and quality of scholarship, style of writing, presentation and layout.

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“Legacy” is a wonderfully written and beautifully illustrated book that brings the African and African-American experience to life, through the wonderful collections of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, said Tom Frusciano, chair, Custer Awards Committee.

*Howard University is a private, research university that is comprised of 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, a Marshall Scholar, 19 Fulbright Scholars and 11 Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D. recipients than any other university in the United States. For more information on Howard University, call 202-238-2330, or visit the University’s Web site at [www.Howard.edu](http://www.Howard.edu).*

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