The Wilbur Patterson Thirkield Historical Essay Contest

ESSAY TOPIC
The 2009 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 bibliography). The essay must be typewritten or computer-generated, double-spaced on one side only of 8 1/2” × 11” paper. Questions 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-Springarn 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/instruct/guides/citations.html

The essay may be hand-delivered, mailed, 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 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-Springarn Research Center.

DEADLINE and SUBMISSION
Entries must be submitted on or before midnight on Friday, April 9th, 2010. Entries may be sent electronically to sstokes-hammond@howard.edu or by mail 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 to sstokes-hammond@howard.edu.

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

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 accomplishment in the history of Howard University, the Carnegie Building, and the development of science. Thirkield Hall, Thirkield and the Board of Trustees over a four-year period to attain the University’s first library building. 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.