

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

November 19, 2009

Barbara A. McKinzie, CPA, LHD
Centennial International President
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
5656 South Stony Island Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Ms. McKinzie:

I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to your recent letter in which you expressed concerns about conflicting media reports regarding the possible closure of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) at Howard University. Please rest assured that the University has no intention of closing one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories for the preservation and study of Black history and culture in the United States.

According to President Sidney A. Ribeau in a press release issued on Monday, November 16, 2009, "Without question, Moorland-Spingarn is a Howard treasure as well as a national treasure and the University is unequivocally determined to preserve it." Please know that despite the challenging economic climate, there has been no reduction in the resources allocated for the Center. The University plans to conduct a national search for a permanent director to continue the exceptional work that Dr. Thomas Battle has accomplished for more than two decades.

It is our intention to expand the "Friends of MSRC" fund-raising program launched in 1996 in an attempt to attract additional financial support for a stronger Moorland-Spingarn. We are deeply appreciative of the significant role that Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. has played over the years in the growth of the Center through its academic, research and scholarship endeavors. AKA has a special place in our hearts as it was founded on the campus of Howard University over a century ago and continues to guide and shape countless lives.

Enclosed, please find a copy of the letter that was sent to the University community by President Ribeau, which is pertinent to the topic. In addition, please know that I have requested the information that you inquired about and will follow up with you as soon as I have received it. Howard University is committed to satisfying all of its obligations as promised.

Sincerely,



Nesta H. Bernard
Interim Vice President
Development and Alumni Relations

NHB:ah

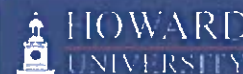
cc: Sidney A. Ribeau, President
Deborah Dangerfield, Executive Director

Enclosure



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Office of the President



November 16, 2009

Dear University Community, Alumni and Friends,

As you know, the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) is a preeminent repository of memorabilia and collections chronicling the lives of African descendants throughout the Diaspora.

Without question, Moorland-Spingarn is a Howard treasure as well as a national treasure and the University is unequivocally determined to preserve it.

MSRC houses 175,000 bound volumes, tens of thousands of journals, more than 17,000 feet of manuscript and archival collections; nearly 1,000 audio tapes; hundreds of artifacts including the desk on which the University's charter was signed.

The recent article "Moorland-Spingarn May Be Forced to Close" published in *The Hilltop* questions the future of the MSRC. This story sparked articles and outcries across the country. We have received your letters, emails and Facebook messages. Please be assured that the University will not close Moorland-Spingarn and there were never plans to do so.

Despite recent budget cuts across the University to weather the economic downturn, we have not reduced funding to the Center. In fact, a national search will begin shortly to find a permanent director to continue the stellar work Dr. Thomas Battle has done for more than two decades. The new leader will also expand the "Friends of MSRC" fundraising program launched in 1996 and explore ways to attract additional financial support for a stronger Moorland-Spingarn.

The vision for Moorland-Spingarn is to further increase its scope and reposition its relevance as Howard strengthens its research agenda. Again, I would like to abate your individual and collective fears about Moorland's sustainability and its preservation for other generations of scholars.

Thank you for your support of this great University.

Sincerely,

Sidney A. Ribeau
President

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