Don José Martí Award

Purpose: This annual award is to recognize an undergraduate student who exemplifies the life of Don José Martí.

Don José Martí, “El Apostol,” devoted his life to the independence of Cuba. His teachings and writings on the socio-political injustices of Spanish Colonialism led to his exile from four different countries. Still, he continued to fight against the oppression of his people, not just in Cuba, but also in all of Latin America. He believed in the ideal of “Pan Americanism”: the unification of Latin American countries. Don José Martí was an intellectual, his most potent weapon was his pen…and it is for this reason that the scholarship is named in his honor.

Eligibility: Any undergraduate male/female, with a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA is eligible to apply.

Award: $250.00

Procedure for Applying:
- Service and contribution to the Latino community
- Submit one letter of recommendation from a faculty, employer, or staff member
- Submit an official copy of your undergraduate transcript
- Submit a typed essay of 2-3 pages on how your hard work and dedication to the Latino community exemplifies the life of Don José Martí. (12 pt. Times New Roman Font, double spaced)

All Documentation is to be handed in no later than Monday October 18, 2010 @ 5:00pm

Scholarship will be presented to the winner at the HHM Closing Ceremony

Please send to:
Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Beta Chapter
Student Activities Center, Suite 218
Stony Brook, NY 11790
NAME: ________________________________________________________________

DATE OF BIRTH: _______________________________________________________

ACADEMIC STATUS:  
☐ Freshmen  
☐ Sophomore  
☐ Junior  
☐ Senior

ADDRESS: ______________________________________________________________

CITY: ___________ STATE: _________ ZIP: ___________

HOME PHONE: ______________________________

SCHOOL PHONE: ______________________________

CUM GPA (4.0 Scale): ___________

ETHNIC BACKGROUND (Optional): __________________________________________

By signing this application, I affirm that the documentation I am submitting is accurate to the best of my ability. If any information is found to be inconsistent or inaccurate, I do understand that I will be disqualified from the competition.

____________________________________  ___________
Signature                      Date

PART I – GENERAL INFORMATION
Don José Julián Martí (1853-1895)

Jose Marti was born in Havana in 1853. At seventeen he was exiled to Spain for his opposition to colonial rule. There he published a pamphlet exposing the horrors of political imprisonment in Cuba, which he himself had experienced. Upon graduating from the University of Saragossa, he established himself in Mexico City, where he began his literary career. His objection to a regime installed by a military coup led him to depart for Guatemala, but government abuses forced him to abandon that country as well. In 1878 he returned to Cuba under a general amnesty, but he conspired against the Spanish authorities and again was banished. He fled exile in Spain and came to the United States. After a year in New York he left for Venezuela, where he hoped to settle, but yet another dictatorship forced him to depart. Marti went back to New York where he lived from 1881 to 1895. In that year, he left to join the war for Cuban independence which he had so painstakingly organized. There he died in one of its first skirmishes.

Jose Marti is considered one of the great writers of the Hispanic world. His significance for the American Reader, however, stems from the universality and timelessness of his thought. Marti devoted his life to ending colonial rule in Cuba and to preventing the island from falling under the control of any country (including the United States) whose political ideologies were inimical to the principles he held. With those goals, and with the conviction that the freedom of the Caribbean was crucial to Latin American security and to the balance of power in the world, he devoted his talents to the forging of a nation. Thus, the scope of his work: he was a revolutionary, a guide, and more importantly, a mentor. His vast experience and education enabled him to move comfortably in the most diverse fields, which is what makes his teachings so rich to us indeed.