

1093-01-140 **Karen V. H. Parshall*** (khp3k@virginia.edu), Departments of History and Mathematics,
University of Virginia, P. O. Box 400137, Charlottesville, VA 22904. *Mathematics and the Politics
of Race: The Case of William Claytor (Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1933).*

William Claytor (1908-1967) entered the graduate program in mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania in 1930 after spending one year in the newly inaugurated doctoral program at Howard University. A student of J. R. Kline who was himself a student of R. L. Moore, Claytor embraced the point set topology that was then quickly becoming an American area of expertise thanks to the active research program and effective mentorship of Moore and his mathematical “family.” By 1933, Claytor had earned his Ph.D. for what Kline praised as “a very fine thesis . . . perhaps the best that I have ever had done under my supervision” and began the process of trying to turn that promising beginning into a productive career as a research mathematician. This talk will trace the efforts of Claytor and his supporters as it explores the politics of race that “colored” American academia in the 1930s. (Received August 09, 2013)