Discussion Questions
Historical Detective: Edward Bouchet

1. How do you think the personal lives of Washington and Du Bois influenced their position on the debate over African-American education?

2. What was Du Bois’ critique of Washington’s theory of education?

3. What were race relations like in the United States and particularly in the South during the time of this debate (late nineteenth and early twentieth century)? How do you think race relations influenced the debate?

4. Based on Edward Bouchet’s life history, what do you think his position would have been on this debate? Why?

5. What is an “industrial education”? What is a “classical education”? How would a physics class be different in an industrial vs. a classical curriculum? Do you recognize elements of either style in your own education?