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Service a Prime Focus for Scholarship Winner Moon

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Not only has Jina Moon '06 won the University's prestigious Asian-American scholarship for next year, she may have launched a potential political career.

Moon, who is majoring in political science and communication with a minor concentration in Asian Studies, told the scholarship selection committee that in addition to her many activities on behalf of Boston College's Asian Caucus, she hopes to someday become the mayor of her hometown of North Brunswick, NJ.

Whether or not she might actually win a mayoral election, one BC administrator says Moon's public service aspirations are well founded.

"What impressed us about Jina was not only her involvement in community service, but that she was able to articulate political and cultural identity issues and how Asian-Americans could become more involved in political processes of different kinds," said Associate Academic Vice President for Undergraduate Programs J. Joseph Burns, chairman of the Asian-American Scholarship selection committee. "That's something that the scholarship is meant to emphasize."

"North Brunswick is not a heavily Asian area, but even when Jina was a student at North Brunswick Township High School, she was very concerned about enhancing diversity there. Both in her actual behavior and her ability to articulate things, she really has a good grasp on what the Asian identity really is, what kinds of issues they face and what the value of bringing that to the larger society is."

The Asian-American Scholarship was established by the University's Jesuit Community in 1995 to recognize the accomplishments of students who represent the highest ideals and aspirations of the University and the Asian-American community. The scholarship award covers up to 75 per cent of the winner's senior year tuition.

Moon has been active in the Asian Caucus, the umbrella organization for seven smaller Asian student clubs, and has participated in cultural programs sponsored by the Korean Students Association, the Philippine Society of Boston College and the Chinese Student Association. She also has participated in Appalachian service trips and PULSE volunteer service programs.

Her long-range plans include graduate school and a career in education - as well as a dabbling in New Jersey politics.

"I'm so happy that the University has such a scholarship," Moon said, "because it shows the importance of serving our own, the Asian-American community. It's not just something that you do to put on your resume, it's something that you really have to have a passion for."

She is quick to share the honor with her family, who she says helped steer her on an educational course to Chestnut Hill.



Jina Moon

"I feel that this award is even more for my parents than it is for me, because it acknowledges their support and all of the things that they have done for me so that I can be in this situation."

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