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News

WILLIAM F. CONNELL SCHOOL OF NURSING

THAMARAH CREVECOEUR AWARDED AMANDA V. HOUSTON FELLOWSHIP



April 20, 2005

In a modest yet moving ceremony Wednesday, **Thamarah Crevecoeur CSON '06** became the 10th recipient of the Amanda V. Houston Fellowship. Originally from Haiti, Thamarah (pictured at left with her advisor, CSON Assistant Professor Holly Harner) has maintained her aim of returning to her homeland to provide service to her community. This August, she will be

returning in an academic role that blends her Hatian heritage with her School of Nursing education - she will be serving as Primary Investigator for her own nursing research project.

Described by her Advisor as "outgoing, hardworking, and enthusiastic," Thamarah, who had at one time considered returning to Haiti as a missionary, will be working in a local birthing center where she intends to spend her time following home health nurses on their visits to clients. As the majority of these clients will be women who have recently given birth, during these visits Thamarah will be able to observe local Hatian cultural customs, beliefs and practices related to the childbearing period.

From these observations and by identifying these local customs, Thamarah hopes to identify factors which could contribute to current high instances of maternal or infant mortality in Haiti.

Thamarah's research will also be aided by the the awarding of an Advanced Study grant from the Univeristy.

Amanda V. Houston Fellowship : A Brief History

Best known at Boston College as the woman who built and energized its Black Studies program, who initiated and organized six conferences treating Blacks in Boston, and who mentored faculty, staff, administrators, and students during her twelve year directorship (1981-1993), Mrs. Houston was phenomenally talented. As one of her many friends recounted, "She was a factory worker, a college administrator, a teacher, an official, a political insider, a mother to two, and a den mother to half of Roxbury."

Along the way, she never abandoned her love of learning, whether as a successful participant in the Harvard Business School Management program or as the recipient of a Master's Degree in Education from Harvard University in 1973. Before her untimely passing, Mrs. Houston remained actively involved in the pursuit of social

justice, equal access, and opportunities for a wide array of constituencies, including the physically challenged.

Mrs. Houston was highly regarded as an innovative and resourceful administrator and educator. Upon her retirement in 1993, the establishment of the Houston Traveling Fellowship reflected Mrs. Houston's lifelong credo: "We are connected to the progress of all people."

One of her particular concerns was that BC students of African descent prepare themselves to engage national and international issues as informed leaders and citizens of the world. Her generosity of spirit is reflected in this gift of travel.

Boston College established the Amanda V. Houston Fellowship, named in honor of the University's first Black Studies Program Director, on June 10, 1993. The purpose of this highly prestigious University award is to further prepare Boston College Undergraduates of African descent for leadership in the United States and the world at large by enriching their personal and educational development through travel.

Consistent with its namesake's lifelong role as a universal educator, community leader, and mentor, the Houston Fellowship underwrites travel-study experiences that contribute to the personal and intellectual growth of its recipients

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