

Junior Wins Amanda V. Houston Award

By Sean Smith
Staff Writer

Alecia Walters '99, a political science major whose activities range from student government to leadership and volunteer programs, is the recipient of the 1998 Amanda V. Houston Memorial Fellowship.

Walters was presented the \$3,000 fellowship by Academic Vice President and Dean of Faculties William B. Neenan, SJ at an April 29 ceremony in O'Connell House. The event also featured a presentation by the 1997 winner, Khalilah Gambrell.

Named for Boston College's first Black Studies Program director, the fellowship is awarded annually to an undergraduate for a travel-and-study experience. Walters plans to use her grant to help support a visit to Ghana, which she believes may have been her ancestors' homeland. Once there, she hopes to explore various historical and cultural sites, and speak with Ghanians from many socioeconomic backgrounds.

"I hope to have dialogue with the people in Ghana by asking them to share their experiences," said Walters. "This will teach me more about African history, the slave trade and the political, economic and social structure of the country."

Born in a rural part of Jamaica - where she walked seven miles to school each day - Walters moved to Hartford when she was 11. At Boston College, she has earned recognition as a Dean's List student and AHANA Scholar, and was a finalist for the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship. She also won the Black Student Forum Award for Community Service and is listed in *Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities*.

Walters is the AHANA Leadership Council co-director for student and community issues, and served in the Cabinet and Senate of the Undergraduate Government of Boston College. A member of the Jenks Leadership Program, she also has been active in the Caribbean Club and Black Student Forum. Her volunteer work includes the Samaritans suicide prevention hotline and Rosie's Place.

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