

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship Application Form

Deadline: 26 February 2010

Type or print legibly using a dark ink pen:

1 Name: _____
Last First MI

2 Class of _____

3 College (*check one*):

College of Arts and Sciences

Lynch School of Education

Connell School of Nursing

Carroll School of Management

4 Grade Point Average: _____

5 Local Address: _____

6 Local Phone: _____

7 Fellowship Goals:

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship provides up to \$3,500 toward domestic or international travel, including transportation, lodging, meals, and research-related expenses. The award must be used between 1 June and 20 January of the fellowship year to facilitate a research project of at least 20 double-spaced pages. This project can be the result of either an independent study under the supervision of a faculty member or a research project conducted while participating in a BC recognized study abroad program. If applicant will be studying abroad, then the paper can be the result of approved course work as long as the research as described in the project proposal is completed by the end of the fellowship year.

(Applicant's name)

8 Proposed destination: _____

9 Title of Project:

Brief description of project or recognized study program (75 words or less)

Faculty Supervisor _____
(name)

(Department of Program Affiliation)

10 Name and Affiliation References (*one must be a BC faculty member*):

A _____
(Name) (Department)

B _____
(Name) (Department, or affiliate if not BC faculty Member)

(Applicant's name)

The applicant is responsible for submitting a complete packet of application materials on or before the deadline. Incomplete packets will not be considered. A complete packet must include the following materials:

1. Completed application form
2. Official academic transcript
3. 1000-1500 Word Project Proposal that must include the following components:
 - a. Detailed Project Description: What do you want to study? Why? How will you organize this project? What are its major components? How, if not apparent, does this project relate to the proposed travel country?
 - b. Method(s): How do you intend to study your proposed subject? List and briefly describe 3 likely sources. These can include but are not limited to books, library collections, museums, historic sites, archives, people or groups you will contact.
 - c. Qualifications of Applicant to Undertake This Research: Describe any previous research experience and/or previous stay in proposed country, and/or any other relevant experience that will enable the successful completion of proposed research.
 - d. Likely result of the research: What, if anything, do you intend to do with this research?
 - e. Approximate budget
4. 600 Word Personal Essay addresses the following:
 - a. Does your personal history relate to your proposed research project?
 - b. Does your personal history demonstrate a commitment to African diasporic communities?
 - c. How does this research project relate to your future plans?
5. 2 Letters of Recommendation
 - a. One from the professor who will be supervising the project, if applicable, or who has worked with the applicant.
 - b. The other letter can be from anyone who can attest to the candidate's commitment to the African Diasporic community and/or the feasibility of completing the proposed project.

DEADLINE: 26 February 2010

Applications and all supporting materials must be received on or before this date.

Submit to:

Amanda V. Houston Fellowship Committee
c/o African & African Diaspora Studies Program
Lyons Hall 301
Boston College

Name: _____ Student ID # _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship

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For a number of reasons, financial problems being the most significant, few black college students have been able to enhance their education through travel –whether to the King Center in Atlanta or to the West African village, university or museum... The award's purpose, I hope, would be to ensure that money would no longer be an obstacle to this very important aspect of developing African American leadership.

-Amanda V. Houston-

About Amanda Verdell Houston (1926-1995)

Best known at Boston College as the woman who built and energized its Black Studies program, who initiated and organized six conferences on the theme of “Blacks in Boston,” and who mentored faculty, staff, administrators, and students during her twelve year directorship (1981-1993), Mrs. Houston was phenomenally talented.¹ As one of her many friends recounted, “She was a factory worker, a college administrator, a teacher, an official, a political insider, a mother of 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 1973.² 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 those living with physical challenges.

Mrs. Houston was highly regarded as an innovative and resourceful administrator and educator. Upon her retirement in 1993, the Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship was established to reflect Mrs. Houston's lifelong credo: “We are connected to the progress of all people.”³ 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.

1. Ben Birnbaum, “Indomitable,” *BC Magazine* (Fall 1995):10.

2. Sean Smith, “Amanda Houston Dies; Helped Shape Black Studies,” *Chronicle IV* (Sept. 7, 1995).

3. Amanda Houston, “Beneath the El,” *BC Magazine*, p. 23.

