

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship BROCHURE AND APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline: Wednesday, 28 March 2018



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 black 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.

About the AVH Traveling Fellowship

Boston College established the Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship on 10 June 1993, in honor of the University’s first Black Director. The purpose of this award is to prepare Boston College students for leadership in the United States and the world at large by enriching their personal and educational development through travel. Consistent with the namesake’s lifelong role as a universal educator, community leader, and mentor, the Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship underwrites travel/study experiences that contribute to the personal and intellectual growth of its recipients. Thanks to the financial support of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Committee, as of 2011 there will be 2 AVH Traveling Fellowship issued each year.

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship provides up to \$3000 toward domestic or international travel, including transportation, lodging, meals and research-related expenses. The successful recipients can use the award for either an Independent Research Project under the supervision of a faculty member or a Research Paper attached to an approved course in a BC recognized study abroad program. If the applicant will be studying abroad, then the Research Paper can be result of approved coursework. **The content of either the Independent Research Project or the Research Paper must significantly focus on African or African Diaspora Communities.** The award must be used during the summer or fall semester of the fellowship year.

1. Ben Birnbaum, “Indomitable,” *BC Magazine* (Fall 1995):13.

2. Sean Smith, “Amanda Houston Dies; Helped Shape Black Studies,” *The Boston College Chronicle* 4.1 (Sept. 7, 1995); http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/rvp/pubaf/chronicle/v4/S7/HOUSTON.html, accessed 15 December 2011.

3. Amanda Houston, “Beneath the El,” *BC Magazine* (Summer 1988): 23.

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If the applicant plans to conduct an Independent Research Project, she/he must consult with the Boston College Institutional Review Board (IRB) to determine if the Project needs IRB approval.

Eligibility Requirements

Boston College sophomores and juniors who have a grade point average of 3.0 or greater are invited to apply.

Fellowship Requirements

Upon Completion of the Independent Research Project or Research Paper attached to an approved course, the recipient will:

- Submit a 500-word summary of her/his study abroad experience
- Submit a final paper (a minimum of 10-15 double-spaced pages)
- Participate/present at BC's Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Participate in the AVH Traveling Fellowship Award Ceremony
- Be available to prospective AVH applicants to answer general questions about the application process.

Application Instructions

- Completed Application Form
- Official Academic Transcript
- Project Proposal
 - Detailed Project Description
 - Methodology
 - Likely Independent Research Project or Research Paper findings
 - Budget
- Personal Statement (3-4 pages)
- Letters of Recommendation (2)
 - 1st Reference must be from a BC Faculty member
 - 2nd Reference can be from anyone within or outside BC who can attest to the candidate's commitment to Africa or African Diaspora communities, and/or who can speak toward the merits and feasibility of completing the proposed project.
- Resume (1-2 pages)
 - Make sure to list all relevant coursework, volunteering activities, and previous research experiences.

Submission

Submit by Wednesday, 28 March 2018 to: Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship Committee
c/o African & African Diaspora Studies Program, Lyons Hall, 301

**To learn more about the Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship contact
African & African Diaspora Studies Program**

Lyons Hall, 301

aads@bc.edu

<http://www.bc.edu/aads>

617-552-3238