The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship

Application Form

Deadline: 10 February 2012

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: ______________________ Email: ______________________

7 Fellowship Goals:

The Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship provides up to $3,000 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 between 15 and 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 sponsored or 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 fewer)

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Faculty Supervisor ________________________________________________________________

(name)

(Department or Program Affiliation)

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

A

(Name) (Department/Program)

B

(Name) (Department and Institution 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, individuals or groups you will contact.
   c. Applicant’s Qualification to Undertake this Research: Describe any previous research experience or experience with 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 that addresses the following:
   a. Does your personal history relate to your proposed research project?
   b. Does your personal history demonstrate a commitment to African or African Diaspora communities?
   c. How does this research project relate to your future plans?
5. 2 Letters of Recommendation
   a. One from the professor who will supervise 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 African or African Diaspora communities and/or the feasibility of completing the proposed project.

DEADLINE: 10 February 2012

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: ________________________________
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 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.

Boston College established the Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship on 10 June 1993, in honor of the University’s first Black Studies Program Director. The purpose of this award was 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 Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship underwrites travel/study experiences that contribute to the personal and intellectual growth of its recipients.

**Fellowship Goals**

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**Application Materials Available**

Interested students can locate Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship applications at the following locations: online at the African & African Diaspora Studies Program (AADS) website and in the AADS office, the Deans’ Offices for A&S, CSOM, LSOE, and CSON; the University Fellowships Office; as well as the Offices of AHANA Student Programs (OASP), Office of International Programs (OIP), the Office of the Dean for Student Development (ODSD), and Learning to Learn (LTL).

**Eligibility Requirements**

Boston College students with a minimum 3.0 grade point average, who will have completed their sophomore year by 1 June 2012, and who have an exemplary record of service to the university’s and/or local black communities are invited to apply.

**Fellowship Requirements**

At the end of the fellowship year and research, the recipient must write a 500 word description of how the award enhanced her or his educational experience, prepare a 20-minute presentation of his or her research for AADS’s Works-in-Progress Series the year after research is completed, and recipient agrees to make him- or herself available to prospective AVH applicants to answer general questions about their experience.

**Deadline**

Completed application packets submitted by **10 February 2012** to:
Amanda V. Houston Traveling Fellowship Committee
c/o African & African Diaspora Studies Program (AADS)
Lyons Hall 301
Boston College
Past Recipients

Adizah Eghan: India (2011)
Nicole Joseph: Jamaica (2011)
Faith Goronga: South Africa (2010)
Sarah Onori: Italy (2009)
Sheneita Graham: South Africa (2008)
Alexandra Griffen: Japan (2007)
Thamarah Crevecouer: Haiti (2005)
Mario Powell: St. Louis, MO (2001)
Cietta Kiandoli: Ghana (1999)
Juan Concepcion: Egypt (1996)

Application and Supporting Materials

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   g. 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, individuals or groups you will contact.
   h. Applicant’s Qualification to Undertake this Research: Describe any previous research experience or experience with proposed country, and/or any other relevant experience that will enable the successful completion of proposed research.
   i. Likely result of the research: What, if anything, do you intend to do with this research?
   j. Approximate budget
4. 600 Word Personal Essay that addresses the following:
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5. 2 Letters of Recommendation
   c. One from the professor who will supervise the project, if applicable, or who has worked with the applicant.
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