

**AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT
THE BLISS VERDON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Bliss Verdon Memorial Scholarship is available annually to an outstanding student at Stony Brook University in recognition of strong academic performance and demonstrated commitment to African issues. This scholarship was established to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Bliss Verdon, a 1995 graduate Stony Brook, who completed her BA in Africana Studies and Anthropology after spending a semester in Accra, Ghana. Ms. Verdon had planned to begin her graduate studies in International Relations with a focus on African issues in the fall of 1997. Tragically, on June 10th of that year, she was murdered in Jackson Heights, Queens, by an ex-boyfriend who was a New York City police officer.

ELIGIBILITY

The Bliss Verdon Memorial Scholarship is open to full-time, upper-division students (junior or senior standing). Candidates must demonstrate an academic focus on and commitment to African issues in their university coursework, a need for financial assistance and a commitment to helping others. Candidates may be nominated for the scholarship or may apply directly.

AWARD

The scholarship carries an annual award of \$500 per student. The award may be used to supplement costs to pursue study abroad in Africa.

SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCEDURE

Commitment to African issues and qualities of academic performance and service to one's community are important criteria reflected by the life of Bliss Verdon. An applicant should submit:

- a) Completed application form
- b) A 1-2 page essay/ statement of eligibility
- c) A résumé
- d) A transcript
- e) Two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a faculty member at Stony Brook, and one may be from outside the Stony Brook community.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS/APPLICATIONS

Nominations or applications must be received by **Friday, May 12, 2023**. Applications should be submitted electronically to Ann.Berrios@stonybrook.edu

SELECTION

1. Candidates will be screened by a selection committee and finalists submitted to the Stony Brook Foundation.
2. Awards will be announced in the month of May, before the end of the Spring semester and presented at the Africana Studies Graduation Ceremony May 19th, 2023.

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APPLICATION FORM**

Name of Applicant:	
Address	
Cell Phone #	
Major:	Class
Current GPA:	GPA in AFS
Academic honors (please list)	
Extracurricular Activities:	
Documentation included: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Essay2. Resume3. Transcript4. Letters of support (2)	
Signature of applicant:	
Send completed application to Ann.Berrios@stonybrook.edu	

