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Donkor burnished an already impressive resume — which also includes a Gates Millennium Scholarship and two scholarships from the Magic Johnson Foundation — last month by winning the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship, presented annually to a BC junior who reflects King's philosophy in his or her life and work. Although she wasn't at the Feb. 15 King Scholarship Banquet to formally receive the honor — she's studying at Peking University in Beijing this semester — Donkor was elated nonetheless.

"When I attended the MLK Scholarship banquet as a freshman, I was amazed at the accomplishments of the finalists," says Donkor, a Bronx, NY, resident majoring in political science and international studies. "I promised myself that I would work just as hard and that I hoped to earn a place among these scholars. This honor means that I am on my way to accomplishing what I came to BC for, which was to be the best student I can be while serving those in need."

But while she takes pride in her achievements and endurance, there is a sincere sense of both humility and determination about Donkor, qualities she says stem from being an immigrant.

"I have been able to learn and grow in part because when I've arrived at a new place, people have educated or corrected me to help me adjust," says Donkor. "Yes, being an immigrant means there is a struggle, but this struggle does not define your life — not if you don't let it. There is the moment when God gives you a test, to stand on your own. Can you rise to that challenge?"

"When I think about the similarities between Dr. King's life and mine, I think about using the challenges life throws at us as empowerment. I wanted to be thought of as a conqueror, not a victim. If my story can perhaps empower others to work for diversity, then it is all for the good."

Donkor's story began in the village of Konongo, in southern Ghana, where she and her twin sister Angelina, and her brother Alex, were born. Their parents, trying to make a better life for the family, found work in Italy and left the children with Angela's grandmother. Angela, two months old when they left, met them for the first time when she was six years old. Their next meeting would come two years later, when Angelina died.

"My sister's death was a painful reality," says Donkor. "I had seen Angelina vanish from my life, so I knew nothing was permanent. Since there was no guarantee of tomorrow, you should always strive to do your best."

The loss of her sister, and her grandmother shortly thereafter, brought about a permanent reunion with

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