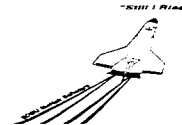


# San Diego State University



## McNair Memo



Issue Number 00065

Monthly

June 2000



Valita Jones keeps her life balanced and busy.

### McNair Scholar Does it All

Valita Jones has stated that she likes to keep busy, multi-tasks, get involved but knows her limits. We have not found her limits. Valita is a double major (Psychology and Africana Studies), single mother of 3, researcher, is a co-founder of the Our School Saturday Tutoring Academy, coordinator at Burbank Elementary NIA Program, student member of the SDSU faculty senate, develops outreach and retention programs at the African Cultural Center, a McNair Scholar, HCOP student, member of the Black Students in Science Organization, and still has active roles in many of the other clubs and organizations, she belongs to. If that is not enough to tire you out she has many plans for future activities and organizations she wants to create.

Currently Valita is conducting research with Dr. Roberto Velasquez. Her research is a critical analysis of the cultural aspect of the MMPI-2 scale. She would like to offer a cultural perspective for MMPI-2 by defining normalcy, tradition and general roles of behavior and gender issues of African Americans. Valita has done previous preliminary work on this issue and has discovered that the MMPI-2 scale is culturally sensitive but when it was developed they used acculturated African Americans as models. She is using several scales to compare and contrast and to find indications that the MMPI-2 scale may not be providing a true reading of African Americans that take the test.

The MMPI-2 research is not her only interest. Education, outreach, and retention are areas that she is currently involved in. The development of the Our School Saturday Tutoring Academy entails working with students that are K-3 and subjects including English, math, and basic skills. She sees the Academy growing into a full time school in the future.

Valita plans on obtaining a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. She likes to intertwine her interests in education, psychology, and multi-cultural issues. Universities that have programs that connect all of her interests are her top choices for graduate school.

Valita's role as a mother keeps her busy with 2 boys and 1 girl ages 16, 11, and 8. Providing a positive role model for her children and others is important to her. She sees it as planting seeds. Although you may not see it grow for a while if you

### Please Mark Your Calendar

June 30, 2000	Stipend Payment
July 6, 2000	Seminar, featuring Nora Dresser, "Preparing Your Oral Presentation"
July 21, 2000	Stipend Payment, Rough Draft Due
Aug. 3, 2000	Seminar, "Writing the Journal Article"
Aug. 17, 2000	Stipend Payment, UCSD Summer Research Conference

Please reserve the first Thursday of every month for McNair seminars.

water, nurture, and let it grow you eventually get your best results. Valita's confidence in herself comes from her family and upbringing. Her role as a mother has also contributed to how she defines herself. She exclaimed that, "I created life, I am a mother, I'm the bomb."

Although she likes to keep busy she says, "you have to have balance in your life". If she is involved with something that is working against her spirit then she must have something that is working for it as well. She is balanced, confident and she is the bomb.

### Kudos Korner

**Adam Leaché** decided to accept the offer from Louisiana State University's Biology Ph.D. Program. He will study systematics and evolution. Adam and his new bride Ann will be settling in their new home this summer.

**Claudia Valencia** has been accepted to SDSU's School Psychology Master's Program. Congratulation Claudia!

**Hilde van der Bergh** has completed her Master's in Physics at SDSU. Way to go Hilde!

### GRE Word of the Month

**Vicissitude** (vi SIS uh tood) *n* upheaval; natural change; change in fortune

The *vicissitudes* of the stock market were too much for Penny; she decided to look for a job that would stay the same from one day to the next.

The *vicissitudes* of the local political machine were such that one could never quite be certain whom one was suppose to bribe.

*Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous intellect.*

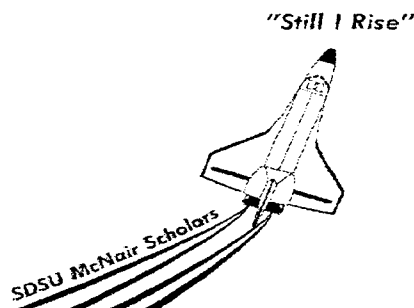
-Samuel Johnson

*When work is a pleasure, life is a joy! When work is a duty, life is slavery.*

-Alexander Bakshy

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### The SDSU McNair Scholars Present...



McNair Scholars and their mentor at the WPA Conference in Oregon. L-R Standing, Mayela Daza, Shameika Logan, Keyondria Bunch, Vanessa Malcarne and Vivian Vaccarino. Seated, April Elias and Sandra Contreras.

A salute to the scholars listed below who presented at the annual convention of the Western Psychological Association, Portland, OR. **Contreras, Sandra**, Fernandez, S., & Malcarne, V. L., "The relationship of perceived discrimination to self-esteem in four ethnic groups", **Vaccarino, Vivian E.**, Fernandez, S., & Malcarne, V. L., "Relationship of acculturation/generation to anxiety and depression in Mexican American college students", **Daza, Mayela**, & Malcarne, V. L. "Mothers' and children's health locus of control: Ethnicity, age, and gender differences", **Logan, Shameika**, & Malcarne, V. L., "Locus of control in children: Age, gender, socio-economic status, and ethnicity", **Bunch, Keyondria D.**, & Malcarne, V. L., "The role of ethnicity in children's attitudes toward people with mental illness", **Elias, April, Daza, Mayela, Logan, Shameika**, Fernandez, S., & Malcarne, V. L. (2000, April). Performance, social, and appearance self-esteem: Ethnic and gender differences. Vanessa Malcarne is their mentor and Senaida Fernandez is a McNair alumna in the SDSU/UCSD Psychology joint doctoral program.

**Sandra Contreras** presented at the Society of the Psycho-

logical Study of Social Issues (SPSSI) Convention at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis in June. She presented, "Factor Analysis of the Beck Depression Inventory in Three Ethnic Groups. **Ulla Anderson** completed her study and presented, "Validation of the MMPI-2 Masculinity-Femininity Scale With Latino Men and Women", in Minneapolis at the MMPI-2 Conference. Congratulations to you all!

### Summer 2000 Research Scholars

Congratulations to the McNair Scholars and their mentors that have been selected to research this summer. They are:

- Janet Abou**, Psychology, Dr. Philip Langlais, mentor
- Ulla Anderson**, Psychology, Dr. Roberto Velasquez, mentor
- Patricia Celaya**, Psychology, Dr. Audrey Hokoda, mentor, (Child and Family Development)
- Sandra Contreras**, Psychology, Dr. Vanessa Malcarne, mentor
- Mayela Daza**, Psychology, Dr. Vanessa Malcarne, mentor
- Angela Doucette**, Psychology, Dr. James Sallis, mentor
- April Elias**, Psychology, Dr. Vanessa Malcarne, mentor
- Regina Favors**, English and Comparative Literature, Dr. William Rogers, mentor
- Oscar Gutierrez**, Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Robert Pozos, Biology
- Genaro Hernandez**, Chemistry, Dr. Douglas Grotjohn, mentor
- Jessica Hernandez**, Biology, Dr. Chris Gelmbotski, mentor
- Linda Jazo**, Psychology, Dr. Radmilla Prislina, mentor
- Valita Jones**, Psychology, Dr. Roberto Velazquez, Psychology
- Diane Laureano**, Psychology, Dr. Roberto Velazquez, Psychology
- Cynthia Lehman**, Microbiology, Drs. Boris Kuperman and Victoria Matey, mentors
- Trevor McCardle**, Cell/Molecular Biology, Dr. Chris Glembotski, mentor
- Felicia Miles**, Communication, Dr. Patricia Washington, mentor, Womens Studies
- Jenny Nguyen**, Psychology, Dr. Patricia Scollay, mentor
- John Ryan**, Geography, Dr. Douglas Stow, mentor
- Mercy Somera**, Psychology, Roberto Velasquez, mentor
- Vivian Vaccarino**, Psychology, Dr. Vanessa Malcarne, mentor

