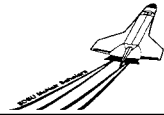


San Diego State University



McNair Memo



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Monthly

December 2000-January 2001



Dr. McLean-Cole celebrates with her son.

Dispelling the Myths

by Juanita McLean Cole, Ph.D.

Don't believe the myths, graduate school is attainable for those of us with less than stellar GRE scores and who choose not to delay other pursuits of happiness such as marriage and family. The key is faith in God, persistence, and dedication. How do we know this??? because Dr. Juanita McLean Cole has proved it. She is the first McNair Scholar from SDSU to receive her Ph.D. from Howard University (a historically Black college) in Washington, DC and has dispelled MANY myths about entering and successfully completing a graduate program.

Juanita beat the odds by being the first person in her family to go to college. While matriculating at SDSU she had many positive experiences that helped her realize the power and value of higher education. These realizations made her determined to ensure her younger sister and brother would have the same opportunities. She succeeded in this mission; both siblings graduated from SDSU and went on to pursue Master's Degrees! Her mission didn't just stop there, even her mother returned to college and recently graduated from SDSU with her Bachelor's Degree.

Providing encouragement and academic support to her family was just one example of how Juanita helped others. As a student at SDSU, she recognized the need for an academic support group for other African American students interested in careers in psychology. So she helped form the Africana Psychological Society (A.P.S.). It was through her involvement in A.P.S. that she understood it would be advantageous for her to pursue an advanced degree. Juanita participated in numerous research activities in order to prepare for graduate school, but on particular project made a significant impact on her, Project STARRT. Dr. Cathie Atkins, project director, immediately recognized Juanita's academic potential and dedication. She believed that if Juanita received the proper type of support she would be successful in any graduate program. Dr. Atkins encouraged Juanita to apply to a new pro-

Please Mark Your Calendar

- Feb. 1, 2001 New Scholar Orientation
- Feb. 2, 2001 Seminar, featuring Marilyn Hall, "Services and Resources available at the SDSU Library"
- Feb. 2001 CSU Research Competition Call for Papers
- Feb. 28, 2001 Deadline, Quest for the Best Nominations
- Mar. 1, 2001 Seminar, featuring Provost Nancy Marlin, "Structure of the University"
- Mar. 9, 2001 Deadline, College of Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium Submission
- Mar. 12-18, 2001 Spring Break
- Mar. 30, 2001 Cesar Chavez Holiday

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

gram called the Ronald E. McNair Scholars. The McNair Scholars program provided Juanita with the necessary tutoring, mentoring, and research experience required for graduate school.

When Juanita received her GRE scores and they were deemed "not-competitive" enough for a Ph.D. program, it was her McNair mentor, Dr. Walden Miller from UCSD, who offered guidance in alternative roads to doctorate programs. Not attending a doctoral program immediately after undergraduate school was a major disappointment for Juanita, but her faith in God kept her motivated and determined to attain her goals. After being accepted into the Master's program at Pepperdine University, Juanita again defied the odds and finished the entire two-year program in a record number of 13 months with an 3.87 grade point average.

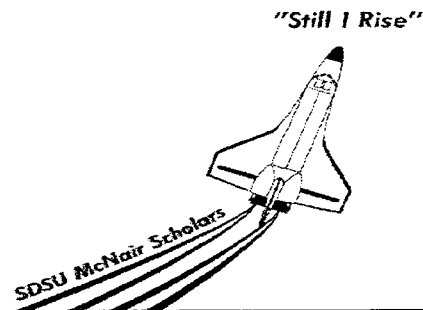
The saying "All things happened for a reason" was never more true in describing Juanita's academic journey. Had Juanita entered a doctorate program immediately after undergraduate school, she would not have attended Pepperdine University and would have missed out on her blessing. For it was at Pepperdine University where Juanita met her soul mate, and now husband, Mr. Ayodele Cole. Ayodele demonstrated his love and commitment to Juanita when the time came for her to select a doctorate program. Without hesitation, Ayodele postponed his career, left the sunshine of southern California, and accompanied Juanita to Washington, DC for a doctoral program in developmental psychology.

The demanding curriculum at Howard University forced Juanita to stretch and prove herself once again. With the assistance of her research advisor, Dr. A. Wade Boykin, Juanita further developed and sharpened her research skills. She helped advance a paradigm, which examined how cultural factors and affective state might be used to facilitate the cognitive performance of African American children

Juanita's choice to specialize in developmental psychology became even more meaningful when she naturally birthed a beauti-

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Kudos Korner

Congratulations go to Angela Doucette who has been accepted to present her research findings in Seattle, Washington at the Behavioral Medicine Conference in March. Ulla Anderson, Mercy Somera, and Diane Laureano also are to be congratulated on their acceptance to present at the 36th Annual Symposium on recent Developments in the MMPI-2 and MMPI-A in Safety Harbor, Florida in March. In addition Shameika Logan, Angela Doucette, and April Elias are presenting at the 81st Annual Convention of the Western Psychological Association in Maui, Hawaii in May.

Big Kudos goes to Ulla Anderson who has co-authored three book chapters. They are: Velasquez, R.J., Maness, P.J., Anderson, U. (In press). *Personality Assessment of Hispanic Clients*. In J.N. Butcher (Ed.), *Clinical Personality Assessment, 2nd Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press, Velasquez, R.J., Anderson, U., Maness, P.J. (In progress). *Ethnic, Racial, and Cultural Factors in Interpreting Forensic Interview and Testing Data*. In Sparta and Koocher (Eds), *Forensic Assessment of Children and Adolescents: Issues and Applications*. Boston, MA: Oxford University Press, and Velasquez, R.J., Anderson, U., Maness, P.J. (In progress). *MMPI-2 Research with Latinos in the US and Puerto Rico*. In R.J. Velasquez, and M. Garrido (Eds.). *Handbook of Latino MMPI-2 Research and Application*. Boston, MA: Lawrence Erlbaum Publishers.

ful baby boy while completing her doctoral program (son, now 3 years old, pictured above with Juanita). After that experience, Juanita knew she had achieved her greatest accomplishment. Many professors did not share Juanita's point of view, and in fact her new role as a mother was considered to be a hindrance to competing the program. However for Juanita, it facilitated and motivated her towards completion. In May 2000, Juanita McLean Cole received her Doctorate of Philosophy in Psychology.

Currently, Dr. Juanita McLean Cole is a postdoctoral research fellow at UCSD in the Center for Human Development. She continues to focus on issues in education, culture and academic achievement. Dr. Cole is also teaching developmental psychology at San Diego State University as well as lecturing at various community colleges in San Diego County.

The road to the doctorate has not been easy for Dr. Cole. She has successfully juggled community commitment, constant employment, demanding schoolwork, the roles of wife and mother. Dr. Cole never hesitates to acknowledge God for His grace, mercy, and strength, which she believes helped her fight against all odds to achieve her goal-never feeding into the statistics that suggested otherwise.

Dr. Cole's message to other McNair Scholars is "Don't believe the myths....."

A faith that sets bounds to itself, that will believe so much and no more, that will trust thus far and no further, is none.

Augustus William Hare, *Guesses at Truth* (1827)

GRE Word of the Month

Enumerate v (i NOO muh rayt; i=rim, chin, hint) to name one by one; to list

When I asked Beverly what she didn't like about me, she *enumerated* so many flaws that I eventually had to ask her to stop.

After the doctor from the public health department had *enumerated* all the dreadful sounding diseases that were rampant in that area, I decided I didn't want to visit it after all.

Things too numerous to be listed one by one are *innumerable* (i NYOO muh ruh bul).

A man consists of the faith that is in him. Whatever his faith is, he is.

Bhagavadgita, 17, TR. Christopher Isherwood