



James Colbert, Pharm.D.
San Diego, California

For Dr. James Colbert, there was no higher calling than to work with children. So began his path to becoming the clinical manager and education coordinator at a California medical center, and his life quest to become a “difference maker.”

He took his own inspiration from childhood – a family pharmacist named Jim McMillan – and quickly learned that in pharmacy you could make a difference. “Not only was Mr. McMillan able to help people with their medication issues, he also helped with their life issues. He was a ‘difference maker,’ and I wanted to make a difference too,” he said.

A service-oriented person, Colbert has dedicated his practice of pharmacy and his specialized knowledge to helping others. As an officer in the U.S. Army and a decorated veteran of Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm and Bosnia, he has practiced pharmacy on four different continents, where he helped care for soldiers. “At the time I joined the Army, I had never been involved in anything more stressful than the Boy Scouts,” Colbert recalled. “Being in a position to take care of wounded soldiers was one of the most satisfying things that I have done with my pharmacy training.”

Although he specializes in pediatrics, Colbert recognizes that caring for children is not his only job. “When you work with children, by definition, you work with families. I establish that I am there for them as well as for their children,” he said. “I am truly in my element when I am teaching families about their children’s medication issues. In many ways, I look at myself as the applied chemist on the team. My expertise is in the specific use of these chemicals in young children to promote positive medical outcomes.”

Today, Colbert is active in pediatric care associations, including the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group, the Southern California Pediatric Group and the UCSD Sickle Cell Support Group, which provides education to parents and families about sickle cell disease. He has been selected Pharmacist of the Year in San Diego, and was named a Health Hero by the Combined Health Agencies (CHAD).

Although in pharmacy for 23 years, Colbert is eager to continue his education. “I am a living example of how obtaining an education and taking advantage of the opportunities can truly elevate your standing in society,” he said. “We are by definition lifelong learners. The information we need to know seems to increase logarithmically with each passing year.”

Colbert looks forward to continuing his community work and inspiring others. “If I were to paraphrase the words of four of my favorite authors and philosophers – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Frost, Albert Einstein and Langston Hughes,” he said, “my advice to others would probably go something like this: ‘Dare to dream and be opportunistic (King), be imaginative (Einstein), understand others and help them understand you (Hughes), but don’t spend too much time admiring your successes because there is too much work to do (Frost).’”



ONE GOAL: *To Prepare*

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 1902: Langston Hughes, poet, born.	2 1915: Biologist Ernest E. Just receives Spingarn Medal for research in fertilization and cell division.	3 1956: Autherine Lucy enrolls as the first black student at the University of Alabama.	4 1913: Rosa Parks, civil rights pioneer who sparked 1955 Montgomery bus boycott, born.	5 1884: Willis Johnson patents eggbeater. 1934: Hank Aaron, major league home-run champion, born.
6 1993: Arthur Ashe Jr., tennis player, humanitarian and activist, dies.	7 1883: Ragtime pianist and composer Eubie Blake born.	8 1968: Three South Carolina State students killed during segregation protest in Orangeburg, South Carolina.	9 Ash Wednesday 1964: Arthur Ashe Jr. becomes first black on U.S. Davis Cup team.	10 1927: Leontyne Price, internationally acclaimed opera singer, born. 1992: Alex Haley, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, dies.	11 1990: Nelson Mandela of South Africa is released from prison after 27 years.	12 Lincoln's Birthday 1909: NAACP founded in New York City. 1927: Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy founded.
13 1970: Joseph L. Searles becomes first African American member of New York Stock Exchange.	14 Valentine's Day 1817: Frederick Douglass, “the Great Emancipator,” born.	15 1961: U.N. sessions disrupted by U.S. and African nationalists over assassination of Congo Premier Patrice Lumumba.	16 1874: Frederick Douglass elected president of Freedman's Bank and Trust.	17 1938: Mary Frances Berry, first woman to serve as chancellor of a major research university (University of Colorado), born.	18 1931: Toni Morrison, winner of 1988 Pulitzer Prize for her novel <i>Beloved</i> , born.	19 1919: First Pan-African Congress, organized by W.E.B. DuBois, held in Paris.
20 1895: Frederick Douglass, leading voice in the abolitionist movement, dies.	21 Presidents' Day 1965: Malcolm X assassinated in New York.	22 Washington's Birthday 1989: Col. Frederick D. Gregory becomes first African American to command a space shuttle mission.	23 1868: W.E.B. DuBois, scholar, activist and author of <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> , born.	24 1864: Rebecca Lee Crumpler becomes first black woman to receive a medical degree (New England Female Medical College).	25 1853: First black YMCA organized in Washington, D.C.	26 1965: Civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson dies after being shot by state police in Marion, Alabama.
27 1897: Marian Anderson, world-renowned opera singer and civil rights activist, born.	28 1984: Michael Jackson, musician and entertainer, wins eight Grammy Awards.					

February 2005