

To: The Young Scholars at Bethsaida Secondary School
Carole Cole Scholarship Program

8 January 2011

Dear Carole Cole Scholars,

I thought you might like to know something about Carole Cole, for whom your scholarship program is named.

I met Carole in 1989 when the company I worked for licensed the distribution rights to her father, Nat "King" Cole, 's 1956/57 television series, *The Nat "King" Cole Show* -- the first weekly musical-variety show in the United States hosted by an African-American man. Carole ran the family business, King Cole Productions, serving as a very hands-on, perfectionistic President, keeping her father's legacy alive with a variety of projects and over-seeing every detail of each Nat "King" Cole music album released.

Carole and I fell into a great working partnership that would become a close friendship of twenty years. I was impressed by the loving care she took of her father's work, as well as the time and thoughtfulness she gave to everything and everyone. She had a truly remarkable generosity of spirit. As I write this, it's been almost two years since she passed and I still miss her every day. I miss her originality, her intelligence, her sense of humor, and her constant drive for intellectual and spiritual improvement.

Carole had been a successful actress for many years, eventually retiring from that challenging life to be a full-time wife and mother. What I regret personally is that she passed before her time, and before the world was able to see what a truly gifted writer she was. Like so many of us, she thought she had time... time to get King Cole Productions rolling on its own so that she could take the time to write, starting with a book she and her daughter had planned to do together. But sadly time was not on her side.

Carole was supportive of African Children's Haven and she would be honored to know that a scholarship program has been named after her. Were she still with us, she would be very proud of all of you and she'd do what she could to help you. She would encourage you to reach for the stars and waste no time in the process, reminding you that all things are possible. And I thank each of you for honoring her memory by dedicating your lives to continuing education, personal growth and helping others along the way.

With love and admiration,

Ann

Ann Douglas