

My Inspiration: Musa Manneh

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Students across the globe have a teacher that challenges them to be better. This can be academically, personally, or socially. This is what a teacher is supposed to do. However, certain teachers go beyond that. They become a part of the student's life and inspire them to be more. These teachers become a mentor for a student and help guide the student throughout their life. They affect the student in the present and in the future. These teachers are rare to find. Luckily, I found one like that. I found a teacher that has affected my life and will always be a part of me. His name is Musa Manneh.

Mr. Manneh was my pre-calculus teacher during my junior year. I was nervous going into his class because I always heard he was a hard teacher that had many people fail his class. However, when I started his class I realized that all he did was teach people. He was not trying to be rough or make the class hard. He wanted the students to actually learn the material. Needless to say, I learned how to study. This was something that I had never had to do before because no other teacher had really challenged me. He made certain that I was challenged and that I would have to learn to study like the way a college student would have to study.

This was the first of the many lessons Mr. Manneh taught me, and I accepted it. I actually wanted to learn and to be pushed. He inspired me to dig deeper in each subject, be a better student, to try new things, and to always get back up after a failure. Mr. Manneh inspired me to always try something no matter how hard it seemed to be. Since then, I have always tried to do a math problem or try something new without fear of failure. I have him to thank for that.

My second inspiration from him came when I got to know him on a personal basis. I learned that he was from Africa in a country called Gambia. While he was there, he always dreamed of going to the United States, the land of the free as he knew it. He strived to be the best in everything he did to get the chance to come here. And finally, he got that chance. A scout watched him play soccer and decided to take a chance on him. He played in the United States, a dream come true, but he also had another passion in math. He attended Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University and then Bethel University. He attained his math degree and was hired by my school in Tennessee. He instantly fell in love with the school system and the student

body, and we fell in love with him in return. He walked the halls as an African man from Gambia living his dream. Not a day would go by that he did not say that he loved his job.

Hearing his story and seeing his dream come true inspired me to not limit myself. He inspired me to always live my dream and to not let anything hold me back. Because of Mr. Manneh, I have achieved almost everything that I have set my mind to. I have been able to surpass everyone else in my grade and am currently the valedictorian of our class, I have been accepted into the college of my dreams because I strived to be excellent, and I have decided upon my major of chemical engineering and will become one because he inspired me to reach my dreams. Mr. Manneh's whole life was about living his dream, and he inspired me to live mine.

Mr. Manneh also inspired me to be a better friend and man. He was always fun, kind, generous, and so much more. He wanted to know you on a closer basis because he truly cared about you. That is the type of guy he is. He always had something nice to say and wanted you to hear it. As I got to know him more, he started to become a mentor and a friend. He was always there when I needed him no matter what the circumstance was. He wanted to help me out as much as possible. Whether it was writing a letter of recommendation or just talking about a math problem, he was always there. He cared about me, and I cared about him. This mentor, teacher, and my friend inspired me to have meaningful relationships in my life. He inspired me to always care about the people around me and to help them as much as I could. He inspired me to become a man.

Along with being a better man and friend, Mr. Manneh inspired me to be a better husband and father. I had noticed for a while that he was acting a little unusual in school. He was not the same joyful person that I had known. I knew something was bothering him. I found out what that was on the last day of school. He asked me to come by his class during the last block. I did and found out that he was not coming back the next year. And worse, he was going to a rival school. At first, I was mad, angry, and heartbroken. I did not want to see my favorite teacher leave my school. I asked him why and learned that our school could not meet a requirement for him. He was doing it for his family. I realized that he was a truly amazing man then. He gave up his whole school, the school that let him live his dream, for his family. I knew then and there that he made the right decision. I also knew something else very important to me; I wanted to be that type of man to my wife and children. He inspired me on that day to always be a good husband and father and to make the best decisions for my family.

Musa Manneh is a man like no other. He is kind, funny, and passionate about his work, and he is truly an amazing guy. He inspired me to become a better student; a better friend, man, husband, and father; and to live my dream. Mr. Manneh is a truly amazing teacher. He not only teaches, but he inspires his students to become something more. I am truly blessed to have met this man and teacher. He has shaped me into the man I am today. I just hope to make him proud of me. I know that I am proud to have known him.