AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

ONE GOAL. To improve lives.
AFRICAN AMERICANS IN PHARMACY

2005

Rx

We want you to know™
African American Pharmacists in Health Care

By Ira C. Robinson, Ph.D., R.Ph.

Former Dean and Professor of Pharmacy, Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy and Howard University College of Pharmacy

The art of healing through the use of medicines dates back to prehistoric times and evolved through Western civilization. Around 1500 when lists of drug formulas, called pharmacopoeias, first appeared, so began the uphill evolution of the pharmaceutical profession. While it was common for physicians to diagnose illness, as well as composed and administered simple medicines, the emergence of apothecaries, the wholesale trade and pharmacies in city hospitals provided a necessary means for the separation of direct medical care from drug preparation and dispensing.

Traditionally, pharmacy had been defined as the art and science of preparing, procuring, compounding and dispensing of drugs. From its early beginnings in America, pharmacy evolved from self-treatment with herbal concoctions, to pills and the development of multidisciplinary clinical medicine dispensers. Today’s practice is expanded beyond the boundaries of that original definition. In addition to preparing and dispensing drugs, pharmacists counsel patients and other health care practitioners, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The pharmacist is a critical member of the health care team. Pharmacists are continuously striving to look for meaningful ways to impact the health and quality of life of the patients we serve and the communities in which we live.

In the service of humanity, pharmacists contribute their expertise within a multitude of practice environments. Our knowledge of emerging medical technologies, current and new medications, and the analysis of medical literature and data provide the platform for pharmacists to serve the public in a very unique way.

Aetna Pharmacy Management provides information and resources to help our members make informed decisions. Our members can balance drug selection, quality and the affordability of drug therapy options. Aetna Pharmacy Management strives to advance the profession, to advocate for improvement of the calibration of the patients they serve. We are in a unique position to understand the impact of their choices from a quality-of-health perspective, financial perspective and value to their overall being. We want to provide actionable information to physicians that can help them make a difference in sustaining and improving the health of the patients they serve. We are in a unique position to accomplish this through pharmacy integration with medical, dental, and disability literature and data.

With the advent of consumerism, pharmacists will continue to play a major role in health care. Our profession will continue to evolve as technology and drug therapy continue to advance. It is my hope that through this calendar, you will come to understand the past and current contributions of African Americans in pharmacy and the roles they will play in the future.

May the insight you learn as you journey through the pages of this calendar be a blessing to you.

Tori Yvette Burnell, Pharm.D.

Director, Clinical Pharmacy Programs
Aetna Inc.

The National Pharmaceutical Foundation founded in 1972 at Florida A&M University (FAMU) brought together African American pharmacists from all groups and practice settings, as well as faculty, alumni and students from the historically black pharmacy colleges. That same year, the establishment of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association at FAMU provided students with mentoring and enrichment opportunities outside the classroom. In 1978, the African American member of the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists formed their own group, the Association of Black Hospital Pharmacists.

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Henry Lewis III, Pharm.D., and Marisa A. Lewis, Pharm.D., M.P.H.
Tallahassee, Florida

Chemistry is extremely important in the pharmaceutical field – especially when it’s between two prestigious and ambitious pharmacists who are married to one another.

“We are in the business of dream making,” Henry Lewis said. “To see the energy of the 1,200 students at FAMU. “It’s a dream that has been five years in the making,” said Henry Lewis.

The two accomplished pharmacists spend their days in a university setting, leading, training and educating students, and then go home to consult with one another. “I am always looking for fresh ideas, and it’s very helpful to get Henry’s perspective on things,” said Marisa Lewis, who is currently the executive director of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA) and an associate professor at FAMU.

After more than 30 years in the pharmaceutical field, Henry Lewis’ experiences have been numerous. Since he began teaching and administration at FAMU in 1974, enrollment in the pharmacy program has increased by over 600 percent, the college has added three new Ph.D. programs, graduated 60 percent of the African American Ph.D. recipients in the pharmaceutical sciences, and produced 25 percent of the nation’s black pharmacists.

One of Henry Lewis’ proudest achievements recently came to fruition – the completion of a new 120,000-square-foot, $33 million state-of-the-art College of Pharmacy building at FAMU. “It’s a dream that has been five years in the making,” Henry Lewis said. “To see the energy of the 1,200 students from more than 35 states in the U.S. as well as foreign countries striking that outstanding training facility is exhilarating.”

He believes his career path has been led by divine intervention. “Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined that all this was within my reach. I believe that success is the intersection of where opportunity and preparation intersect,” he said. Maria Lewis shares her husband’s belief in divine guidance.

“They motivate me.”

She takes pride in promoting the profession. In 1999 and 2000 she served as auxiliary spokesperson and spokesperson, respectively, for the American Pharmaceutical Association – McKnold Consumer Health Care’s Partnership for Self-Care and Medicine Cabinet Safety campaigns. In 2004 she was recognized by the National Pharmaceutical Association with its highest honor for her service to the organization.

If Henry Lewis one day becomes a university president, Marisa Lewis plans to be at his side. They got a taste of that leadership responsibility when he served as interim president of FAMU in 2002. “I want to be supportive of him as every way so that we complement one another,” she said.

“We are in the business of dream making,” Henry Lewis said. “I believe that you measure success not by your own personal achievement, but by the achievement of people with whom you have the opportunity to come in contact.”

ONE GOAL: To Mentor
“I believe that success is the intersection of where opportunity meets preparation.”
Dr. Henry Lewis III
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,’” he said, “and I wanted to make a difference too.”

ONE GOAL: To Prepare
“I am a living example of how obtaining an education and taking advantage of the opportunities can truly elevate your standing in society.”

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 those 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 UCSF 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 25 years, Colbert is eager to continue his education. “I am a long-form 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., Dr. Robert F.utherford and Languis Hughson,” he said, “my advice to others would probably go something like this: ‘Dare to dream and be optimistic (King), be imaginative (Einsteine), understand others and help them understand you (Hughson), but don’t spend too much time admiring your successes because there is too much work to do (Frost).’”

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 rewarding 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.”

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When it comes to the pharmaceutical field, Sybil Richard is all about policy. As Florida’s Bureau Chief of Medicaid Pharmacy Services, she oversees the entire Florida Medicaid pharmacy budget, yet she knows there is much more to health care policy than crunching numbers.

“Growing up in New Orleans, I was always interested in health care. It was ingrained by the community pharmacist standing high up on a box,” Richard said. “Pharmacists are the last point of contact before individuals take their health into their own hands. I enjoyed having influence at that point of care.”

After graduating with a pharmacy degree from Xavier University, Richard worked in a retail community pharmacy before enrolling at Indiana University to pursue a dual degree in health administration and law. “I wanted to be in a position to help people get answers,” she said. Her role model, younger sister Christie, also is a pharmacist.

Richard had her first opportunity to work in health care policy with the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, which represent the views and policy positions of chain community pharmacists. She was part of a team that reviewed laws and roles, analyzed impacts and helped communicate messages about the value and role of community retail pharmacy.

Today, Richard works on Medicaid budgets and reimbursements, as well as with individual cases and physicians on coverage policies and clinical issues. “When I took this job, I considered myself financially challenged,” Richard said. “Now I balance a $2 billion budget and have a staff of 20.”

Because Medicaid by definition aims to serve the low-income population, Richard has first-hand experience with health care disparities among different populations. She hopes to continue to expand her knowledge of broader health care issues, and to play an integral role in the future of the Medicaid and Medicare programs. “Florida is one of the largest Medicaid states, but we are also one of the most innovative states in the country,” Richard said. “I am really proud to be a part of that.”

Richard also enjoys her role as a mentor to pharmacy students. “The profession has grown so much, and there are many career options for pharmacists,” she said. “I tell students to know their hearts and do what feels right. There are a lot of drew killers, so they have to be committed to following their dreams.”

As far as her own dreams, Richard aspires to one day be at the helm of health and human services for the country. She realizes it’s a big job that requires a much broader focus on health care issues, which is why she’s devoted to expanding her own knowledge. “Now, she’s serving on the federal commission for the State Prescription Assistance Transition Program, which is helping to develop transitions to Medicare for people on Medicaid.

“I enjoy being part of the creative process that shapes health care policy,” she said. “Before I come to work each day I think how what I accomplish will impact today and what I can do to take it forward.”

One Goal: To Shape
“ I enjoy being part of the creative process that shapes health care policy.”

When the time comes to serve in a leadership role, Richard has high hopes for herself and her fellow pharmacists. “We are just as capable as the next,” she said. “The profession has grown so much, and there are many career options for pharmacists.”

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Sylester Flowers, R.Ph.
Pleasanton, California

A practicing pharmacist for 46 years, Sylester Flowers has seen the profession become increasingly specialized and complex over the years, with multiple diseases steadily edging out the neighborhood pharmacist. He misses those days when pharmacists owned their own stores and were respected community figures.

As a poor child growing up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Flowers dreamed of improving his economic class and saw the profession as a chance to become a professional. “I thought there was something charming about the profession because the old-fashioned pharmacist had a soda fountain in his store,” Flowers said. After graduating from Howard University’s School of Pharmacy, getting licensed to practice in three states and years of saving, Flowers opened his first pharmacy, eventually owning one at six local community pharmacies. Today he operates a single two-story retail pharmacy serving an ethnically diverse low-income community.

“The pharmacist is the most accessible person of the health care team. You don’t need an appointment to see a pharmacist. We have the opportunity to take care of the underserved within their environments,” he said.

While remaining a community advocate, Flowers looked for business opportunities. In 1967, he formed Ramsell Corporation, which manages several companies, including the Public Health Services Bureau, a pharmacy benefits management (PBM) company that serves the medically indigent with HIV/AIDS in Washington state and California.

Devoted to improving this country’s HIV/AIDS drug program, he donates his time and money to groundbreaking research in health administration technology. “My driving ambition is to centralize the AIDS assistance programs in the United States so that the level of funding is not based on the policies of individual states but on a centralized federally funded program for every eligible patient,” he stated.

To help move his ideas forward, Flowers has invested in a team of IT scientists who are working at making the program more accessible. “There are no short-cuts to experience. This field is highly specialized, and no other company in the U.S. has our level of experience. Technology goes to the tools to efficiently centralize the program and use our nation’s health care resources wisely and efficiently.”

Now in its beta stage after two years, he hopes to have the full application ready before his 70th birthday in June.

He credits his drive to succeed to a motivational upbringing. “My mother would not allow my brothers or me to see being African American as an excuse,” he said. “There is nothing like the opportunity that America provides. I was a kid who grew up in the projects, worked for an education and now has a successful company. Through my mother’s mentoring, I learned that anything is possible if you prepare yourself well.”

Flowers continues to program himself well for the future. “I have retained my competence as a scientist by continually learning, reading, and attending conferences and seminars. My challenge each day is to stay motivated and continue to have the wheels turning, because you never know when the wheels will stop.”

ONE GOAL: To Focus

“My driving ambition is to centralize the AIDS assistance programs in the United States.”

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1
1923: Cornell's coach John Thompson becomes first African American coach to win an NCAA basketball tournament.

2
1944: United Negro College Fund incorporated.

3
1939: Matthew A. Henson reaches North Pole, 45 minutes before Robert E. Peary.

4
1966: Tony Dr. Martin Luther King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

5
1913: St. Louis, Mo., Municipal Court of Appeals authorizes segregation in restaurants.

6
1918: African American elected mayor of Chicago.

7
1971: Joe and Milwaukee legend Bill Friday born.

8
1899: Percy Julian, developer of physostigmine and synthetic cortisone, born.

9
1943: Arthur Ashe, first black to win the U.S. Open and singles finals at All-England. Born.

10
1916: Frederick Douglass, known as “The Lion of the Atlantic,” dies.

11
1848: John Brown, abolitionist, dies.

12

13
1899: Theodore Roosevelt becomes first American to lead an Army division.

14

15
1861: Allen Tate, poet, dies.

16
1922: Cinque leads Amistad mutiny off coast of Long Island, New York.

17
1888: Sarah Boone patents ironing board.

18
1775: First abolitionist society in U.S. founded.

19
1945: African American becomes first black umpire in the major league.

20
1932: Dr. Lloyd A. Hall, pioneering food chemist, born.

21
1972: Stationed in Germany, Major Gen. Harold Washington becomes first black to play major league baseball.

22

23

24
1839: Cinque becomes first black to play major league baseball.

25
1917: First African American nurse, Mary Eliza Mahoney, graduates, civil rights, health, arts.

26

27
1982: Dr. Howard Florey receives Nobel award in physiology.

28
1955: Cooper lands second round of the Davis Cup in New York.

29

30
1992: Dr. Ben F. Davis, astronaut, becomes first African American astronaut to fly in space.

31
1909: Matthew A. Henson reaches North Pole, 45 minutes before Robert E. Peary.
**Marvene Augustus, Pharm.D., R.Ph.**
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dr. Marvene Augustus knows that her patients appreciate her love and compassion—even if they can’t thank her in words. As pharmacy manager, instructor, and adjunct professor at Louisiana State University’s School of Veterinary Medicine, Augustus teaches students how to compound and administer medications to animals, ranging from household cats and dogs to exotic birds and horses.

"Veterinary medicine is different from human medicine because animal dosing and dosage forms are so distinct," she said. "Every species has different needs, tastes and dosages."

Augustus always had a profound interest in pharmacy and an even deeper love of animals, but she never imagined that the two would merge into a career. After graduating from pharmacy school and accepting a job at Loyola’s pharmacy company in Michigan, she learned of an opportunity to establish a pharmacy in the school of veterinary medicine.

"I was very interested in the possibility of helping veterinarians," she said. "I thought it was a great fit for me and I knew that I could help put the school on the map." Augustus was the first black pharmacist at Loyola and the first black certified by a surgical board.

"Veterinarian medicine is different from human medicine because animal dosing and dosage forms are so distinct," she said. "Every species has different needs, tastes and dosages."

Augustus has been involved in the veterinary field for 20 years now and has seen a lot of changes and advances. She credits the increase in popularity of veterinary medicine to the growing awareness of the importance of animal health.

"Being a veterinarian is a very rewarding field," she said. "I love being able to make a difference in the lives of animals and their owners."

One of the biggest challenges for Augustus is the lack of diversity in the field. She has worked hard to encourage more women and minorities to pursue careers in veterinary medicine.

"I think it’s important to encourage others to pursue careers in veterinary medicine," she said. "The field is growing and there is a great need for more veterinarians."
Charles A. Champion, D.Ph.
Memphis, Tennessee

The next time you have a bad cough, you might be surprised if your pharmacist instructs you to cook a bulb of garlic in apple cider vinegar, add some honey and enjoy the benefits of your homemade cough syrup. But at Champion Pharmacy and Herb Store in Memphis, Tennessee, this remedy is just what the doctor ordered.

Dr. Charles A. Champion, a registered pharmacist and expert herbalist, is recognized for his ability to integrate modern pharmacy with the healing powers of herbs. A pharmacist since the early 1990s, he has witnessed the fledgling changes from natural remedies to scientifically produced medications, and he believes both methods have merit.

His familiarity with what he calls “folk medicine” began in his childhood, when it was common for families who could not afford health care to rely on natural cures. He studied pharmacology at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, which focuses on the medicinal properties of plants, animals and minerals. “Having gone to school in New Orleans, I learned about the unique culture there, plants, animals and minerals. “Having gone to school in New Orleans, I learned about the unique culture there, where it was very typical to know about voodoo and herbs,” Champion said.

With an entire family dedicated to scientific endeavors, 74-year-old Champion has no plans to retire in the near future. “When you retire you die, so I have a feeling I will always be practicing pharmacy, even when I’m up there,” he said.

Today, Champion says that alternative products make up approximately 65 percent of his profit. “The independents are still struggling. However, I don’t consider myself in competition with the chain stores because my business is different. People still want the personal attention that we provide, and in some cases they are willing to come from miles away to get it,” he said.

Champion’s dedication to his practice not only impacts his clients, but also influences his family. His wife, Carolyn Champion, is a pharmacy technician; and his oldest daughter, Chandra Champion, is a certified pharmacist technician. His other two pharmacist daughters are Dr. Charita Champion, is a nursing assistant. His other two pharmacist daughters are Dr. Charita Champion and Dr. Carol “Cookie” Champion.

“One goal: To Care

“People still want the personal attention that we provide, and in some cases they are willing to come from miles away to get it.”
Falls Church, Virginia

It was the *Physicians’ Desk Reference* (PDR) that first inspired LTC Jasper Watkins III to seek training in the pharmaceutical field. Living in Okinawa, Japan, where his father was stationed as a military cook, Watkins was selected to participate in a summer pharmacy youth week program. Thus, for the first time ever, paging over this cryptic book, and being intrigued. “Instead of being the one to quiz the book, I wanted to be the one to comprehend the book,” said Watkins.

To further explore his interest in medicine, Watkins spent his teenage years working as a pharmacy clerk. “I had been around pharmacy for a long time. It didn’t frighten me. I went into pharmacy with my eyes wide open, instead of wide shut,” said the marathon runner who runs up to five miles at 5 a.m. each day.

After spending his childhood living at military bases across the United States, Watkins never thought about a military career until he decided on theater pharmacy, which is the last line of defense in detecting the root of a health problem when traditional diagnostic procedures fail. The Army allowed him to pursue his specialized focus and offered a residency, which led him to become the first African American pharmacist to be board certified and licensed by way of an American Society of Health-System Pharmacists residency.

Safety with medicine use also has been a core focus for Watkins. Throughout his 22 years in the military, he has traveled around the world as part of a multidisciplinary health care team, training health care providers on emerging medical safety tools. “There is a continuous need for us to maintain competency in the practice of pharmacy. There are new drugs being released each day. We need to maintain education competence and cultural awareness as to their effects,” he said.

Pharmacists, he believes, must continue to be advocates and collaborate with other organizations to address disparities in health care, in particular the medication use process. “It is my goal to be part of the health care team that creates a standard of excellence that delivers quality pharmaceutical services and leadership in support of readiness and managed care missions of the Army.”

Watkins also volunteers his time to speak to students about trends in pharmacy practice because he believes it is important to give back, especially to his alma mater, Florida A&M University, where his daughter, Aja, is studying to be a nurse. Watkins also volunteers his time to speak to students about trends in pharmacy practice because he believes it is important to give back, especially to his alma mater, Florida A&M University, where his daughter, Aja, is studying to be a nurse. Watkins also volunteers his time to speak to students about trends in pharmacy practice because he believes it is important to give back, especially to his alma mater, Florida A&M University, where his daughter, Aja, is studying to be a nurse.

ONE GOAL: To Protect

“We have to figure out ways to address patients by relating their medications to their daily activities.”

1900: Louis Armstrong born.


2000: Venus Williams wins women’s singles championship at Wimbledon.

2000: First black to become president of a bank, born.

2005: Jesse D. Locker appointed U.S. solicitor general.

1862: Anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

1868: The 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to blacks.

1892: Andrew J. Beard patents rotary engine.

1872: Elijah McCoy patents first self-lubricating locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase “the real McCoy.”

1900: Traditional birthdate of Louis Armstrong, jazz pioneer.

1949: Frederick M. Jones patents cooling system for food transportation vehicles.

1889: Frederick Douglass named U.S. ambassador to Liberia.

1875: Educator Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, born.

1905: W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter organize the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP.

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1899: L.C. Bailey issued patent for the folding bed.

1937: Actor, comedian Bill Cosby born.

1868: The Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, make firstknown protest against slavery.

1817: Shakespearean actor Ira Aldridge born.

1880: Alexander P. Ashbourne patents steam locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase “the real McCoy.”

1872: Elijah McCoy patents first self-lubricating locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase “the real McCoy.”


1899: L.C. Bailey issued patent for the folding bed.

1943: Faye Wattleton, first black director of Planned Parenthood, born.

1895: First National Conference of Colored Women Convention held in Boston.

1822: Violette A. Johnson, first black woman to get a law degree, born.

1916: Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six people from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio.

1950: First black to become president of a bank, born.

1948: President Harry S. Truman issues process for refining coconut oil.

1822: James Varick becomes first bishop of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

1948: Cleveland Indians sign pitcher “Satchel” Paige.

1991: President Lyndon Johnson signs Civil Rights Act into law.

1949: Frederick M. Jones patents cooling system for food transportation vehicles.

2000: Venus Williams wins women’s singles championship at Wimbledon.

1893: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performs first successful open heart operation.

1943: Faye Wattleton, first black director of Planned Parenthood, born.

1892: Andrew J. Beard patents rotary engine.

1872: Elijah McCoy patents first self-lubricating locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase “the real McCoy.”

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1900: Traditional birthdate of Louis Armstrong, jazz pioneer.

1949: Frederick M. Jones patents cooling system for food transportation vehicles.

1862: Anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells-Barnett founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

1868: The 14th Amendment is ratified, granting citizenship to blacks.

1899: L.C. Bailey issued patent for the folding bed.

1937: Actor, comedian Bill Cosby born.

1875: Educator Mary McLeod Bethune, founder of Bethune-Cookman College, born.

1905: W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter organize the Niagara Movement, a forerunner of the NAACP.

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1943: Faye Wattleton, first black director of Planned Parenthood, born.

1895: First National Conference of Colored Women Convention held in Boston.

1822: Violette A. Johnson, first black woman to get a law degree, born.

1916: Garrett Morgan, inventor of the gas mask, rescues six people from gas-filled tunnel in Cleveland, Ohio.

1950: First black to become president of a bank, born.

1872: Elijah McCoy patents first self-lubricating locomotive engine. The quality of his inventions helped coin the phrase “the real McCoy.”

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One Goal: To Impact

“We need to take a closer look at elderly communities, which have become threatened by what we call medication misadventures.”

Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D.
Chicago, Illinois

For Dr. Miriam Mobley Smith, questions left unresolved in childhood inspired her to seek out answers and take action. It was difficult for her to see her brother suffer from severe asthma and near respiratory collapse. It was even harder for her to understand why her brother did not respond as quickly as she did to the medication they each received to treat pneumonia.

“I felt then that there was a calling for me to work with medicine so that I could understand it,” she said. “I wanted to be part of a profession that makes a difference in health and well-being.”

Throughout her career, Mobley Smith has used her personal life to inspire action. After graduating from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy, she not only worked making a difference but also continued to polish her hobby as a singer, performing on many stages throughout her life, including the famed Cobo Hall in Detroit.

Today, Mobley Smith is a clinical assistant professor and coordinator of Academic Programs in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at UIC. She focuses on experiential education, community outreach and the improvement of the medication use system.

Through involvement with the Healthcare Professionals Education Roundtable, she is actively working to strengthen multidisciplinary approaches to health care delivery. “This is particularly important when dealing with illnesses such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease. There’s the diagnosis, treatments, lifestyle and dietary issues that need to be addressed to improve the long-term patient outcome,” she said.

Senior citizen health care also is a personal crusade since the death of her great aunt due to an adverse drug reaction prescribed by two doctors. Funded by the Area Agency on Aging, Mobley Smith is part of a team that educates seniors about safety in medication use, necessary immunizations and health education and training for 16 years. “The medication prescribing and distribution system is only as good as its weakest link. That’s why it’s critical to maintain education, training and certifications so that patient safety is maintained,” she said.

“Every day I learn something,” Mobley Smith said. “Through my community work and with my professional organizations, my eyes are constantly open to things that can be done.”

From Dr. Miriam Mobley Smith

We want you to know that Aetna offers a number of products and services designed specifically for African American customers. These include:

- Affordable health plans
- Group insurance
- Life insurance
- Long-term care insurance
- Disability income protection
- Retirement savings products

For more information or to learn more about the products and services offered by Aetna, please visit our website at www.aetna.com/diversity/aahcalendar/2005/index.html.
If you think you can, then you will. This is the guiding principle that has driven Dr. Ene I. Ette to become one of the most valued opinion leaders in pharmaceutical research and expert scientist at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Ette’s humble beginnings reach back to Nigeria, where as the youngest of 11 children, he decided his mission in life would be to alleviate human suffering. His mother, who was a nurse, taught him how Western and herbal medicines could be used to treat patients.

“I decided to pursue research so I could translate my findings into orthodox medicine. I love research, and I knew that I would be able to contribute by developing medicines,” recalled Ette, whose first name, Ene, means “born to lead.”

While working at the FDA, he served as the major author of a standards guide still used by the industry and the FDA. “Our role is to design and execute clinical trials, collect data, analyze data, create models, transform what we have learned into medical knowledge and develop guidelines for dosing drugs. After a drug is introduced to market, we also monitor it to determine if adverse effects, hitherto unknown, can be explained by dosage and patient factors or the dosage may need modification,” he said.

New working in industry, Ette has a keen understanding of the meaning behind fame and chatter. “It is my goal to keep coming up with new and innovative ideas for designing and analyzing drug trials, which will enable us to develop drugs faster and at a reduced cost,” he said. In the long run, he believes this will make medications more affordable and accessible for those who need them the most.

Along with his research, Ette’s work has been published in medical/pharmaceutical journals – and he works diligently to push his innovative ideas. “I never offer the same solution twice. I always work to come up with something new,” he said. “Those are some of my self-imposed challenges to always look for ways to raise my performance beyond where it is today and to impel myself to go for it all.”

With six children at home with his wife, Esther, Ette keeps a positive and healthy outlook on his work life. “Each day I think about how I can apply my God-given wisdom to deal in what I do. This relates to job performance and mentoring for my staff of eight,” he said.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR**

September 2005

* ONE GOAL: To Discover

*It is my goal to keep coming up with new and innovative ideas for designing and analyzing drug trials, which will enable us to develop drugs faster and at a reduced cost.*
Bowie, Maryland

To heal a village, it takes foresight, determination and lofty aspirations — states that Dr. Lenore T. Coleman is proud to have both her career span. As a health activist and entrepreneur, this clinical pharmacist combines her entrepreneurial drive with her community compassion to teach people how to prevent and heal sickness, one village at a time.

Owner of four health-based organizations and co-author of a diabetes awareness book, Coleman realized early in her career that she preferred a hands-on approach to pharmacy, rather than the more structured hospital and retail methods. “I wanted to have the opportunity to work with people on a long-term basis and provide counsel on how to use drugs,” she said. “This way, I could examine behavioral changes and lifestyle, such as what people eat, their exercise patterns, stress and high-risk behaviors. For people whom you see regularly, you can address these issues.”

As a hospital pharmacist, community pharmacist, long-term care pharmacist, VA pharmacist and finally a clinical science specialist at Bayer Pharmaceuticals, she has spent her entire career focused on diabetes, cardiovascular disease and medication compliance. In 2001, Coleman decided to branch out on her own.

Today she co-owns Total Diabetes Care and Medical Supplies, an ADA-certified education center. She also is the owner of Total Lifestyle Change, a nonprofit organization that arranges nationwide outreach and education for the medically underserved. Healing Our Village, a program that uses broadcast media as an innovative health education delivery system and www.blackandbrownsugar.com, which provides diabetes education. Her book, also titled Healing Our Village and co-authored with Dr. James R. Gavin, president of Meharry School of Medicine, focuses on strategies to effectively manage type 2 diabetes, with a focus on prevention and wellness.

Coleman believes that garnering awareness on disease prevention is the key to a healthier society. She said that many people who are uninsured put their health on the back burner and only seek care when they are Darted or sick. To help educate the public about prevention and wellness, Coleman actively goes out into the community and offers total health screenings. “Every town I go to, I detect so much disease,” she said. “We want to reach out to people who may be okay today, but may be at risk because of family history or other factors.”

Tragedy in Coleman’s personal life has reinforced the importance of early disease detection and prevention. At age 50, her husband died of colon cancer when she was four months’ pregnant. He was not even aware of his ailment at the time of his death, and his passing left Coleman to raise their two young children on her own.

Coleman draws from her personal experience to keep motivated. She is currently planning to write books on prostate cancer, HIV/AIDS and nutrition; and she hopes to expand her Healing Our Village program on a national level. “It takes all of us to heal the village,” she said. “Everyone needs to wake up each day and think about how they can keep themselves and their kids healthy.”

ONE GOAL: To Counsel
“I wanted to have the opportunity to work with people on a long-term basis and provide counsel on how to use drugs.”
Dr. DZ Washington tackles life as if it’s an equation. When he adds honesty to intelligence and factors in personal drive, the product is a fulfilling career with infinite possibilities. “Everything I do is a sum of interactions,” said the 29-year-old director of pharmacy. “I look at how I manage my interactions and analyze how to make sure the patients get what they need when they need it.”

Although Washington has been involved in the profession for only five years, his personal ambitions are pushing him quickly up the corporate ladder. After receiving his Pharm.D. at Florida A&M University and his M.B.A. at Rollins College in Orlando, he began working at Priority Healthcare, a biologics pharmacy that distributes prominent biologic therapies used to treat conditions such as hepatitis, multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease. The company also recently embarked on a joint venture with Aetna to create Aetna Specialty Pharmacy, a two-tier-class specialty pharmacy that will leverage buying power, deliver clinical program management and focus on coordinating service with physicians.

In slightly more than a year at Priority Healthcare, Washington has been promoted three times—from staff pharmacist to senior pharmacist to pharmacy manager to director of pharmacy. Now he oversees 70 individuals. “I’m proud of what I do for patients on an individual basis,” Washington said. “Priority Healthcare has given me the opportunity to grow and excel.”

Within the specialty pharmacy distribution company, Washington focuses on reimbursements and new therapies. “Pharmacists provide the most value-add for patients,” he said. “It is critical for us to impart knowledge and to educate our patients. The goal is to equip every patient with adequate information. Patients have to feel as if they are a part of their health care team.”

Although Washington was first drawn to the pharmaceutical field because he wanted to be able to work with families, it is his own family that keeps him driven today. “I grew up without a father,” he said. “In life, I am most proud of the fact that I am a good dad to my 9-year-old son, Adonte, a good husband to my wife, Ayana, and a good pharmacist.”

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Habitationally preparing for the future, Washington would like to continue to excel in corporate management. He knows that today, however, there is still much to learn.

“What you are taught in college is only good for about one year. There are more drugs and more complex therapies. In pharmacy you have to specialize,” Washington said. “Education and training only gets you in the game. Your attitude and work ethic determines how far you will go.”
December 2005

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

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Rx

Arcelia M. Johnson-Fannin, Pharm.D., R.Ph.
San Antonio, Texas

The long and often arduous road that Dr. Arcelia M. Johnson-Fannin’s academic career is composed of bumps, detours and sharp curves, as well as numerous firms and high achievements. Coming from a family of teachers, it took her many years to realize that teaching was her destiny, although she opposed it all the way. She discovered that in academia she could build something. “I found it is truly where I belong,” she said.

Johnson-Fannin has always aimed high and escalated higher. An exceptionally bright child, she completed both second and third grade at the same time, and eventually went on to become high school valedictorian and first in her doctoral class at Mercer University in Atlanta.

While working at New York’s Montefiore Hospital, the hospital’s then Director of Pharmacy Kurt Kleinman recognized her spark and took an interest in her, sending her to important meetings and assigning her to the most difficult shifts in order for her to grow into a strong leader. “I had huge ambitions – I wanted my job,” Johnson-Fannin said. “He told me that the only way I could have his job someday was to earn a doctorate.”

“One of the most rewarding experiences is when I can see that my students finally ‘get it’ and understand the material on a new level,” she said. “You’re one of the most rewarding experiences is when I can see that my students finally ‘get it’ and understand the material on a new level. I know that eventually they will make a real change in pharmacy.”

Johnson-Fannin also is actively involved in African American organizations and institutions in an effort to share medical knowledge, even in her spare time. She spent an entire year in Saudi Arabia working for the government and teaching pharmacology in a medical school for women.

She also enjoys traveling and even made a trek cross-country in a mobile home with her family – son, Lawrence Marshall, an 11th-grade student; daughter, Ehriel, a senior nursing student at Hampton University; and husband, Larry Fannin, the associate dean at Hampton University.

Next one to turn away from a challenge, Johnson-Fannin believes she still has a lot to contribute. “Before I go to work each day, I think to myself, ‘I know there will be challenges today. Am I up to them?’” she said. “And then I think, ‘Of course I am! I’m lucky I have these challenges!’

ONE GOAL: To Build
“One of the most rewarding experiences is when I can see that my students finally ‘get it’ and understand the material on a new level.”

We want you to know™
Dr. Augustus has worked in university pharmacy services since 2005 at the University of California, San Diego, and currently is a recipient of the Deshler L. Barker award – SDSHP’s highest honor – for Pharmacists of the Year (2008).


Richard is the first African American to serve as an academic leader in the School of Pharmacy at the University of California, San Diego. She is the chief academic officer for the College of Pharmacy and the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. She is a recipient of the Dena L. Barker award – SDSHP’s highest honor – for Pharmacists of the Year (2008).


Dr. Marvene Augustus is currently the pharmacy manager of the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists. She is a recipient of the Deshler L. Barker award – SDSHP’s highest honor – for Pharmacists of the Year (2008).


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Marvene Augustus, R.Ph., M.A.

John F. Flowers is a former pharmacist and consultant in pharmacy operations. He is the author of a book on a novel pharmaceuticals industry and for producing sustained-release tablets and capsules. Dr. Richard has been awarded many honors, including serving as a Preceptor of the Year for the UCSD Pharmaceutical- and Health-Based Businesses. She is also the recipient of the Dena L. Barker award – SDSHP’s highest honor – for Pharmacists of the Year (2008).

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Marvin A. Lewis, Pharm.D., M.P.H.
the Pharmacometrics Staff Unit, Office of Clinical agency and the pharmaceutical industry. He has interest Dr. Ene I. Ette has broad experience in academia, regulatory
The couple have three sons.
Dr. Mobley Smith received her B.S. in pharmacy from the
Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D.

Pharmaceutical Association’s James N. Tyson Award. She
Pharmacists, as well as an item writer and mentor for the

dating dedicated to eliminating health care disparities in ethnic

Washington became close friends with Ayana Benton, an old friend from high school. On his days off he would babysit her 4-year-old son, Adonte. The two longtime friends were married in August of 2002.

Dr. Washington currently is an active member of the Southern Church of Christ in Orlando, and he speaks his free time with his family, church family and friends. Dr. Washington consider himself a blessed individual, and he loves to share his blessings with others.

ACM, a national service organization dedicated to eliminating health care disparities in ethnic populations. As part of ACM, Dr. Coleman developed Project

FATH and Operation DETECT: A Cardiomyopathy Risk- Reduction Program for High-risk Community-Based Organizations.

Dr. Coleman is president of Healing One Village (HOV), LLC. HOV provides formalized diabetes education classes via internet and cable broadcast to physicians’ offices nationwide. More recently, she produced a television show called “Healing the Village.” Dr. Coleman also is the author of Healing One Village: A Self-Care Guide as Diabetes Control

Z WASHINGTON, Pharm.D., M.B.A.
Dr. Washington is currently the director of pharmacy at Priority Healthcare in Orlando, Florida. Within beginning his pharmacy career at Walgreen’s Pharmacy, he went on to director and head of Clinical Pharmacy at a staff pharmacist. In slightly more than a year, Dr. Washington has been promoted three times and has built an insurance verification process from the ground up.

Dr. Washington began a career in amateur boxing, which he continued successfully for six years. He won a variety of National P.L.L. championships, as well as the Sunshine State Games, Junior Olympics and State Golden Gloves championships.

While studying for his pharmacy licenses in 1999, Dr. Washington became close friends with Ayana Benton, an old friend from high school. On his days off he would babysit her 4-year-old son, Adonte. The two longtime friends were married in August of 2002.

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Orlando, Florida.

serving on many professional and community boards.

as the expert scientist in the Pharmacometrics Staff Unit, which is a clinical Pharmacology and Biopharmaceutics, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He has a Ph.D. in clinical pharma-

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists

American Pharmacists Association

Dr. Coleman is currently the president and CEO of Total

Miriam A. Mobley Smith, Pharm.D.

The American History Calendar celebrates the history and

driving force behind the development of the pharmacy program at Hampton University in Virginia.

Dr. Johnson-Fannin has served on many professional and community boards.

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University of Illinois at Chicago

University of California at San Diego Medical Center

San Diego, California

University of Chicago at Illinois

Chicago, Illinois

University of Incarnate Word

San Antonio, Texas

SPECIAL THANKS
Terence V. Burroughs, M.B.A., R.P.H.
President, National Pharmaceutical Association, and President, The Burroughs Management Group, Inc.
Cary, North Carolina

John W. Smolich, II, R.Ph.
President
Association of Black Health System Pharmacists MDA

Mike Conlan

President, The Burroughs Management Group, Inc.
Cary, North Carolina

Joseph Edwards
American Society of Health-system Pharmacists

North Florida

Gregory J. Higby

President, The Burroughs Management Group, Inc.
Cary, North Carolina

Dr. Coleman is currently the president and CEO of Total

Dr. Johnson-Fannin is involved with the community through Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and Jack and Jill, Inc., and she has served on many professional and community boards.

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LODATIONS FOR PHOTOGRAH

Charleston, South Carolina

University of California at San Diego Medical Center

San Diego, California

University of Illinois at Chicago

Chicago, Illinois

University of Incarnate Word

San Antonio, Texas

Dr. Coleman is currently the president and CEO of Total

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Brandon, Florida

Stephen M. Salt
Priesty Healthcare

Lake Mary, Florida

Maria Spence
American Society of Health-system Pharmacists

Bohemia, Maryland

Michael Inserart, M.F.A., M.A.
Director, Public Relations
American Pharmacists Association

Washington, D.C.

Dorothy Whately
Xavier University of Louisiana

College, New Orleans

New Orleans, Louisiana

Lori Woodson, R.P.H., M.B.A.
Past President
National Pharmaceutical Association

Richmond Heights, Ohio

American Pharmacists Association

American Pharmacists Association

American Pharmacists Association

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