



**Arcelia M. Johnson-Fannin,**  
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The long and often arduous road that is Dr. Arcelia M. Johnson-Fannin's academic career is composed of bumps, detours and sharp curves, as well as numerous firsts 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 excelled 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 his job," Johnson-Fannin said. "He told me that the only way I could have his job someday was to earn a doctorate."

She listened to his advice, earning a doctorate degree and various academic achievements at Mercer University. She soon became one of the four clinical pharmacists asked to help build the Doctor of Pharmacy program at Florida A&M. Within one year with the program she was named director.

Today, Johnson-Fannin is the only female African American to have founded a school of pharmacy and the only female to have started two schools of pharmacy, at University of Incarnate Word and Hampton University. For the past 27 years, she has devoted herself to making change in the industry and empowering her students to take control of their own lives through academic and professional excellence.

"There could not possibly be one thing that I like best about the pharmaceutical field," she said, "but 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 is devoted to sharing 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.

Never 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***

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<b>1</b> 1955: Rosa Parks arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white man, sparking the Montgomery bus boycott.	<b>2</b> 1884: Granville T. Woods patents telephone transmitter.	<b>3</b> 1847: Frederick Douglass publishes first issue of <i>North Star</i> .
<b>4</b> 1906: Alpha Phi Alpha, first black Greek letter fraternity, founded at Cornell University.	<b>5</b> 1955: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. organizes Birmingham bus boycott, marking beginning of the Civil Rights movement.	<b>6</b> 1932: Richard B. Spikes patents automatic gearshift.	<b>7</b> 1941: Navy steward Dorie Miller shoots down four Japanese planes during attack on Pearl Harbor.	<b>8</b> 1925: Entertainer Sammy Davis Jr. born.	<b>9</b> 1872: P.B.S. Pinchback of Louisiana becomes first black governor.	<b>10</b> 1950: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche becomes first black awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
<b>11</b> 1926: Blues singer Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton born.	<b>12</b> 1995: Willie Brown defeats incumbent Frank Jordan to become the first African American mayor of San Francisco.	<b>13</b> 1944: First black servicewomen sworn in to the WAVES.	<b>14</b> 1829: John Mercer Langston, congressman and founder of Howard University Law Department, born.	<b>15</b> 1883: William A. Hinton, first black on Harvard Medical School faculty, born. 1994: Ruth J. Simmons named president of Smith College.	<b>16</b> 1976: Andrew Young nominated by President Jimmy Carter to be U.S. ambassador to United Nations.	<b>17</b> 1802: Teacher and minister Henry Adams born.
<b>18</b> 1865: Congress passes 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.	<b>19</b> 1875: Educator Carter G. Woodson, "Father of Black History," born.	<b>20</b> 1860: South Carolina secedes from the Union, initiating the Civil War.	<b>21</b> 1911: Baseball legend Josh Gibson born.	<b>22</b> 1883: Arthur Wergs Mitchell, first black Democrat to be elected to Congress, born.	<b>23</b> 1867: Sarah "Madam C.J." Walker, businesswoman and first black female millionaire, born.	<b>24</b> 1832: Charter granted to Georgia Infirmary, the first black hospital.
<b>25</b> Christmas Hanukkah Begins (sundown) 1760: Jupiter Hammon becomes first published black poet with "An Evening Thought." 1907: Cab Calloway, bandleader and first jazz singer to sell 1 million records, born.	<b>26</b> Kwanzaa Begins 1894: Jean Toomer, author of <i>Cane</i> , born.	<b>27</b> 1862: African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church founded in New Bern, North Carolina.	<b>28</b> 1905: Earl "Fatha" Hines, "Father of Modern Jazz Piano," born.	<b>29</b> 1924: Author, sportswriter A.S. "Doc" Young born.	<b>30</b> 1842: Congressman Josiah Walls born. 1892: Dr. Miles V. Lynd publishes first black medical journal for physicians, the <i>Medical and Surgical Observer</i> .	<b>31</b> 1930: Odetta, blues and folk singer, born.

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