



**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 medication to animals, ranging from household cats and dogs to exotic birds and horses.

"Veterinary medicine is different from human medicine because animal doses 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 Upjohn's manufacturing company in Michigan, she learned of an opportunity to establish a pharmacy in the school of veterinary medicine at Louisiana State University. "In veterinary medicine once a person gets involved, he or she rarely leaves the profession. This is because there is a lot of job satisfaction. It's both challenging and different," she said.

When she first entered the field 32 years ago, Augustus faced her own barriers. As a black woman, she found it very difficult to find a place that would allow her to practice pharmacy. After years of hard work and perseverance, doors began to open for her. Today, she does not see as many barriers within the profession.

In fact, throughout her career, she has witnessed many positive changes in the industry. "When I first started at the college, there were very few women in the 35-student classes," she said. "Now we have classes of more than 100 students that contain more women than men."

According to Augustus, the key to being successful in the veterinary industry is to truly care about those you are serving. "To be involved in this field, you need an interest in patients, the knowledge and confidence to challenge students and clinical staff, and the ability to be responsive to the owners who love and care about their animals," she said.

Although Augustus enjoys the hands-on practice of pharmacy, she has always wanted to teach. After completing her doctorate in pharmacy by taking evening classes for 16 months, she now has the opportunity to provoke student thinking. She's currently instructing 15 hours a semester and looks forward to teaching more medical pharmacology courses.

"I enjoy teaching because I've found that veterinary students are intimidated by drug knowledge. I like finding ways to present the material so that it makes sense," she said.

Even with retirement looming, Augustus has no plans to slow down. From spending time with her two grandchildren and attending church, to fitting in her coveted trips to the Caribbean and family dinners on Sundays, Augustus' life is hectic, yet more fulfilling than ever. "I enjoy not knowing what the next day will be like," Augustus said. "I think it's important to ask: 'What are we going to do with today?'"



**ONE GOAL: *To Teach***

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> 1867: First four students enter Howard University. 1998: Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther, author, dies.	<b>2</b> 1844: Inventor Elijah McCoy, "the real McCoy," born. 1995: Shirley Jackson assumed chairmanship of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.	<b>3</b> 1964: Frederick O'Neal becomes first black president of Actors' Equity Association.	<b>4</b> 1961: Freedom Riders begin protesting segregation of interstate bus travel in the South.	<b>5</b> 1950: Gwendolyn Brooks becomes first black to win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry for "Annie Allen." 1988: Eugene Antonio Marino installed as first U.S. African American Roman Catholic archbishop.	<b>6</b> 1812: Physician, author, explorer Martin R. Delaney, first black officer in Civil War, born. 1991: Smithsonian Institution approves creation of the National African American Museum.	<b>7</b> 1845: Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first black trained nurse, born. 1878: Joseph R. Winters patents first fire escape ladder.
<b>8</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> 1983: Lena Horne awarded Spingarn Medal for distinguished career in entertainment.	<b>9</b> 1899: John Albert Burr patents lawn mower.	<b>10</b> 1950: Boston Celtics select Chuck Cooper, first black player drafted to play in NBA.	<b>11</b> 1895: Composer William Grant Still, first black to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, born.	<b>12</b> 1820: The New York African Free School population reaches 500.	<b>13</b> 1872: Matilda Arabela Evans, first black woman to practice medicine in South Carolina, born.	<b>14</b> 1913: Clara Stanton Jones, first black president of the American Library Association, born.
<b>15</b> 1820: Congress declares foreign slave trade an act of piracy, punishable by death.	<b>16</b> 1927: Dr. William Harry Barnes becomes first black certified by a surgical board.	<b>17</b> 1954: Supreme Court declares segregation in public schools unconstitutional in Brown v. Board of Education.	<b>18</b> 1896: In Plessy v. Ferguson, Supreme Court upholds doctrine of "separate but equal" education and public accommodations.	<b>19</b> 1925: Malcolm X born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska. 1993: University of Virginia professor Rita Dove appointed U.S. Poet Laureate.	<b>20</b> 1961: U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy dispatches U.S. marshals to Montgomery, Alabama, to restore order in the Freedom Rider crisis.	<b>21</b> <b>Armed Forces Day</b> 1833: Blacks enroll for the first time at Oberlin College, Ohio.
<b>22</b> 1921: <i>Shuffle Along</i> , a musical featuring a score by Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle, opens on Broadway.	<b>23</b> 1900: Sgt. William H. Carney becomes first black awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.	<b>24</b> 1854: Lincoln University (Pa.), first black college, founded.	<b>25</b> 1926: Jazz trumpeter Miles Dewey Davis born.	<b>26</b> 1961: During Kennedy administration, Marvin Cook named ambassador to Niger Republic, the first black envoy named to an African nation.	<b>27</b> 1919: Sarah "Madam C.J." Walker, cosmetics manufacturer and first black female millionaire, dies. 1942: Dorie Miller, a ship's steward, awarded Navy Cross for heroism during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.	<b>28</b> 1948: National Party wins whites-only elections in South Africa and begins to institute policy of apartheid.
<b>29</b> 1901: Granville T. Woods patents overhead conducting system for the electric railway. 1973: Tom Bradley becomes first black mayor of Los Angeles.	<b>30</b> <b>Memorial Day Observed</b> 1947: The National Pharmaceutical Association founded to address the interests and needs of minority pharmacists. 1965: Vivian Malone becomes first black to graduate from the University of Alabama.	<b>31</b> 1870: Congress passes the first Enforcement Act, providing stiff penalties for those who deprive others of civil rights.				

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR  
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