

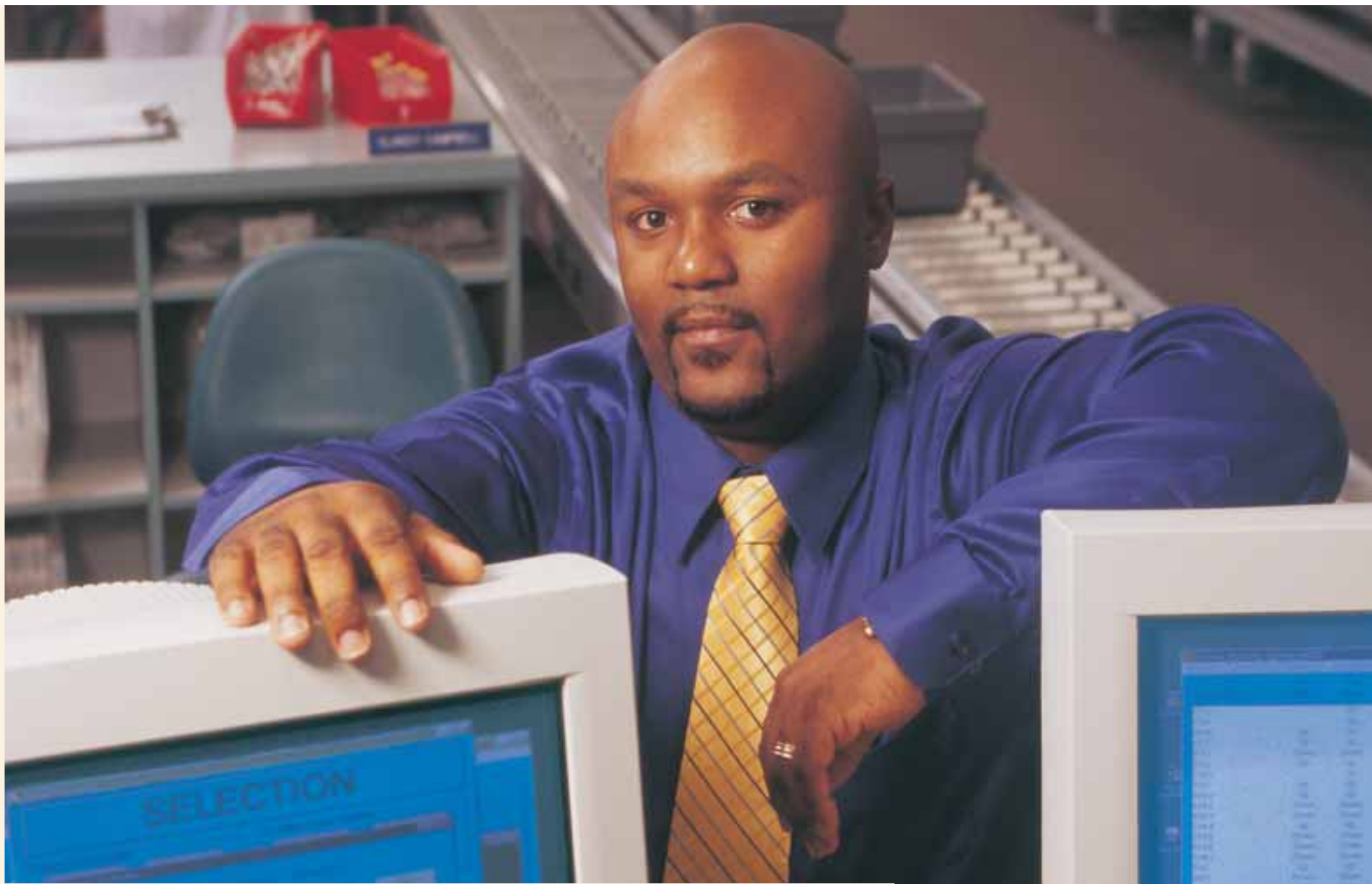
**DZ Washington,
Pharm.D., M.B.A.**
Lake Mary, Florida

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 protein-based 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 best-in-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. He also built an insurance verification process from the ground up. In the future, he would like to leverage his expertise to develop cost models that will help serve insurance and pharmaceutical companies, as well as provide cost-versus-benefit analysis and examine the impact on patients who do not receive the treatments they need.



"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 provider."

Habitually 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."



ONE GOAL: *To Flourish*

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 1945: John H. Johnson publishes first issue of <i>Ebony</i> .	2 1954: Charles C. Diggs elected Michigan's first black congressman. 1983: President Ronald Reagan designates Martin Luther King Jr. Day a national holiday.	3 1981: Thirman L. Milner elected mayor of Hartford, Connecticut, becoming first African American mayor in New England.	4 1879: Thomas Elkins patents refrigeration apparatus. 1992: Carol Moseley Braun becomes first African American woman elected to the U.S. Senate.	5 1968: Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn, New York, becomes first black woman elected to Congress.
6 1900: James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson compose "Lift Every Voice and Sing."	7 1989: L. Douglas Wilder elected governor of Virginia, becoming nation's first African American governor since Reconstruction.	8 Election Day 1938: Crystal Bird Fauset elected state representative in Pennsylvania, becoming first black woman to serve in a state legislature.	9 1731: Mathematician, urban planner and inventor Benjamin Banneker born.	10 1983: Wilson Goode elected Philadelphia's first African American mayor.	11 Veterans' Day 1989: Civil Rights Memorial dedicated in Montgomery, Alabama.	12 1941: Mary Cardwell Dawson and Madame Lillian Evanti establish the National Negro Opera Company.
13 1940: The U.S. Supreme Court rules in <i>Hansberry vs. Lee</i> that blacks cannot be barred from white neighborhoods.	14 1915: Booker T. Washington, educator and writer, dies.	15 1881: Payton Johnson patents swinging chair.	16 1981: Pam Johnson named publisher of the <i>Ithaca Journal</i> in New York, becoming first African American woman to head a daily newspaper.	17 1980: Howard University airs WHHM, first African American-operated public radio station.	18 1797: Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and Civil War nurse, born.	19 1953: Roy Campanella named Most Valuable Player in National Baseball League for the second time.
20 1865: Howard Seminary (later Howard University) founded in Washington, D.C. 1923: Garrett A. Morgan patents traffic light signal.	21 1893: Granville T. Woods patents electric railway conduit.	22 1930: Elijah Muhammed establishes the Nation of Islam.	23 1897: A.J. Beard patents the Jenny Coupler, still used to connect railroad cars. 1897: John L. Love patents pencil sharpener.	24 Thanksgiving Day 1868: Pianist Scott Joplin, the "Father of Ragtime," born.	25 1955: The Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation in interstate travel.	26 1883: Sojourner Truth, abolitionist and Civil War nurse, dies. 1970: Charles Gordone becomes first African American playwright to receive the Pulitzer Prize (for <i>No Place to Be Somebody</i>).
27 1990: Charles Johnson awarded National Book Award for fiction for <i>Middle Passage</i> .	28 1960: Richard Wright, novelist and author of <i>Native Son</i> , dies. 1961: Ernie Davis becomes first black to win the Heisman Trophy.	29 1908: Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall born. 1908: Adam Clayton Powell Jr., politician and civil rights activist, born.	30 1897: J.A. Sweeting patents cigarette-rolling device. 1912: Gordon Parks, writer, filmmaker and photographer, dies.			

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