

# ◆ NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS ◆

Volume 7, Number 4

Fall 2001

## NTA 73rd National Conference Held in Atlanta, GA

The NTA's 73rd National Conference was held September 26-29, 2001 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Atlanta, GA. Although the attendance by professionals was somewhat less than in previous years (mainly due to the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks), we had a good turnout of students and the conference was quite successful.

The first day, Wednesday, Sept. 26, had the NTA national committee and Board of Directors meetings, and a panel/workshop "Creating Diversity in the New Millennium: Impact to Colleges, Contracts, and Technical Workforce", moderated by Dr. Amanda Goodson of NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

The second day had a local school visitation (Salem Middle School) in the morning, with the Opening Plenary Session (luncheon) with keynote speaker, Dr. Donald Campbell, director of the NASA Glenn Research Center.

The afternoon session had a panel/workshop "Educational Strategies for Blacks in the 21st Century", moderated by Dr. Yvonne Freeman, executive director of SECME, Inc. at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The first professional technical paper presentation session, the NTA Delegates meeting, and workshops on the NTA Society of Information Science and the NTA Society of Mathematicians and Mathematics also were held that afternoon.

On Friday, professional and student technical paper presentation sessions were held, as well as a panel/workshop "Black Entrepreneurship in a Global

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**MEMBERSHIP  
NEWSLETTER**  
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### 2001-2002 NTA BOARD OFFICERS

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## NTA 75th Anniversary Celebration Held

The NTA members in the Chicago area celebrated the 75th-year anniversary of the organization Saturday, December 8, 2001 with a special program. Invitations were sent to members, friends, and other technical and professional organizations.

The celebration included an illustrious panel of engineers and scientists. An interactive discussion took place, discussing "A Reflection of Technology's Impact on People of African Descent – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow". After the panel made opening remarks, lively discussion continued, involving all who attended.

The panel consisted of three distinguished gentlemen who have long been loyal supporters of NTA. They were **Mr. Cordell Reed**, retired Senior Vice President, Commonwealth Edison, and current President, Chicago State University Foundation; **Mr. Robert L. Engram**, CEO of One UniversityGate, a startup company providing Internet portal marketing to colleges and universities, and a former Lucent Technologies Vice President; and **Dr. Carl Spight**, Consultant, nationally recognized both as a technical speaker (trained in Electrical Engineering, Astrophysical Sciences, and Plasma Physics) and as a specialist in the sociology of minority participation in science and technology.

The attendees also had the pleasure of viewing the professionally produced video "The Charles S. Duke Story: The Beginnings of the National Technical Association".

Rupert F. Graham, Jr.

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### NTA 2001 Conference Technical Achiever of the Year Awards

The NTA 2001 Conference Awards Banquet was held September 29, 2001. The keynote speaker for this event was **Dr. Darryl Tukufu**, President and CEO of the Tukufu Group.

The following awards for achievements by technical professionals were presented at the awards ceremony.

#### **Technical Achiever of the Year- Computer Scientist**

**Dr. Jesse L. Bemley**

Joint Educational Facilities, Inc.  
and Cost Accounting Office, US Army Headquarters

#### **Technical Achiever of the Year- Educator**

**Dr. Linda Bailey Hayden**

Elizabeth City State University

#### **Technical Achiever of the Year- Engineer**

**Ms. Tahira N. Reid**

#### **Technical Achiever of the Year- Scientist**

**Dr. Gregory S. Jenkins**

Dept. of Meteorology, Pennsylvania State University

#### **Technical Achiever of the Year- Technologist**

**Dr. Helena Mitchell**

Director of Technology Policy  
Georgia Centers for Advanced  
Telecommunications Technology

#### **Technical Achiever of the Year- Technical Entrepreneur**

**KHAFRA, Inc.**

**Val Bates, Brandon Hewitt, Waymon Jones,  
Mike Leung, and Elias Zewde**

The program also included a musical presentation by the group Eric & Lise.

#### **NTA Journal Published**

The premiere issue of the new *Journal of the NTA*, published by iMinorities, Inc., was distributed at the 2001 Conference (to attendees) and by mail to other members afterwards. **Any members who have not received their copy of the Journal should contact the NTA Editor** ([george.carruthers@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:george.carruthers@nrl.navy.mil)).

### NTA 2001 Conference Student Technical Symposium Presentation Awards

#### **First Place—Graduate**

**Suleiman Baajun**

Dept. of Systems and Computer Science  
Howard University  
“Software Engineering Methodologies for  
Developing Ontologies”

#### **Second Place—Graduate**

**Kisha L. Johnson**

Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Morgan State University  
“Multi-Sensor Image Registration Using  
Mutual Information”

#### **Third Place—Graduate**

**Katrina Y. Godwin**

Dept. of Systems and Computer Science  
Howard University  
“The Personal Software Process and the  
Team Software Process”

#### **First Place—Undergraduate**

**Carl W. Seward**

Elizabeth City State University

**Claudia M. Rankins**

Hampton University

“Form Factors and Distribution Amplitudes  
For Positively Charged Pions”

#### **Second Place—Undergraduate**

**Obidimkpa Ikezuagu**

Dept. of Mechanical Engineering  
University of the District of Columbia  
“Low Speed Educational Wind Tunnel Conversion  
and Data Acquisition System”

#### **Third Place—Undergraduate**

**Colleen George and Remi Fabahunsi**

Dept. of Systems and Computer Science,  
Howard University  
“Software Agents and Ontologies on the  
Semantic Web”

#### **Honorable Mentions—Undergraduate**

**Raushaunah Muhammad and Keiona Siler**

Morgan State University  
“Stereoscopic Imaging Within an Immersive  
Environment”

(Continued on page 5)

## NTA Board of Directors Meeting September 26, 2001

The NTA Board of Directors met at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center the first day of the NTA 2001 Conference, September 26. The meeting included the following reports:

### **Treasurer's Report** (Frank Robinson)

Records need to be reconciled between the Treasurer and the Executive Director.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Executive Director's Report** (Gilbert Haynes)

This report included the status of the Conference registration and Conference expenditures.

#### **Publications Committee Report** (George Carruthers)

NTA Journal has been published, and copies will be provided to Conference registrants. Members not in attendance will be sent their copies after the Conference. Conference reports will appear in the Fall, 2001 issue of the NTA Newsletter.

#### **President's Report** (Katherine Coleman)

Ms. Coleman recently attended a DoD conference at Texas Southern University. She is working with TSU to try to get more participation in next year's conference, and will work with them on the student component.

Several NTA chapters are currently considered to be inactive or suspended. They need to submit Articles of Affiliation and other documentation necessary for them to be considered as active chapters.

### **Conference Logistics**

Board members were given assignments for Conference coordination or facilitation, to make sure all needs are met (staffing, equipment, services, etc.).

## NTA National Membership Meeting September 29, 2001

President Coleman reported that all speakers and presenters at the Conference would receive a one-year complementary membership in the NTA.

### **Web Site**

She also reported that NTA Web Site chairman Darrell Thomas was unable to attend the Conference, but is continuing to work on the web site. He welcomes all suggestions and criticisms (contact him at: Darrell.Thomas-1@ksc.nasa.gov).

### **Society Structure**

The proposed restructuring into the Societies of the NTA, to be discussed at the Conference, has been successfully implemented by IEEE, and some feel that it will increase membership and participation in NTA.

## Journal of the NTA

Preston Edwards, head of iMinorities, Inc., is excited about publishing the Journal and has signed an 18 month contract. In addition to the just-published Conference issue, two issues are planned for publication in 2002 and four issues in 2003.

There were numerous suggestions concerning the circulation of the Journal. We must establish circulation of the Journal and advise the publisher to whom it was distributed. Also, suggestions for potential advertisers should be made known to the publisher and the Publications Committee.

### **National Correspondence**

The Board needs to let the Chapters know when Articles of Affiliation and Quarterly Financial Reports are due. Articles are due January 1 of each year; a list of officers and their mailing addresses are due January 1 and June 1 of each year. (These are required by IRS.)

Al Johns has prepared a table detailing what reports are due when and by whom. He will distribute copies to all Chapter presidents, and post it on the web site. All presidents should have copies of the Operating Manual, Constitution and ByLaws. Any chapters with treasuries in excess of \$25,000 are required to file IRS Form 990 (due April 15 each year).

All members and associates should note that the NTA does not have a physical office space or staff. Files are currently maintained in the office of the Executive Director at Morgan State University.

### **Delegates**

The Delegates made no selections or recommendations for Regional Directors.

### **Elections**

Past President Jimmy King presided over the election of National Officers. The following is the results of the election, for the 2002 fiscal year:

*President:* Katherine Coleman (Houston)

*President-Elect:* Frank Robinson (Cleveland)

*Executive Secretary:* Tandra Gill-Spain (Houston)

*National Treasurer:* Dexter Johnson (Cleveland)

*Regional Directors:*

SW- Shelia Wagner (Houston Chapter)

SE- Eric Green (Space Coast Chapter)

NW- Al Johns (Cleveland Chapter)

NE- Tahira Reid (member-at-large, New York)

Current Board assignments of the following remain unchanged:

*Registered Agent* (Rupert Graham)

*Executive Director* (Gilbert Haynes)

*Committee Chairs and Liaisons.*

Yolanda L. Hinton  
Immediate Past NTA Executive Secretary

**NTA 2001 Conference  
School Visitation  
Salem Middle School**

NTA's traditional opening of the Conference, the local school visitation, was again a gem. Approximately 14 NTA members visited Salem Middle School, a county school near Atlanta, on Thursday morning, September 27. There were about 1800 students at the school, all in grades 6, 7, and 8. The principal, Mr. Merle Jones, greeted us enthusiastically. We later met Mrs. Tammy Grimes who helped to organize and coordinate the visitation. My experience in the classrooms was typical of those expressed by several other NTA members, excellent. I addressed approximately a total of 100 students, in three class periods. The students were very attentive, and asked excellent questions. Most of the students had set goals.

We provided the school with the current *NTA Journal* and information from the NASA Glenn Research Center, for both the students and teachers (web info and information about the NASA Glenn Research Center teacher resource room). This year, we need to establish a larger database of information to be included in the School Visitations package. So NTA members, please begin to collect material from your company that would be useful to teachers and students toward career choices and academic improvement!

Albert L. Johns  
NTA Cleveland Chapter



**Salem Middle School 6th grade class of Ms. Yvette Fernandez (at right), visited by NTA member George Carruthers.**

**Visit the NTA Web Site  
[www.ntaonline.org](http://www.ntaonline.org)**

**NTA Legacy Room Debuts at  
NTA 2001 Conference**

In general, the Legacy Room was well received. We had journals and several photos from past events on display, (see photo). NTA Historical Publicist Mr. John H. Thompson provided these. Also featured was a motion detective-VCR unit that allowed a 15-minute video to run when someone enter that area. This unit was used only a couple of times. However, next year, the system shall be converted to a computer base unit instead of a VCR unit and can be more easily used.

The objectives of the Legacy room were to:

1. Have on display a view of the NTA: past, present, and future.
2. Highlight NTA members:
  - a) Achievements
  - b) Trailblazers
  - c) Inventors
  - d) Trend Setters
  - e) Others
3. Establish a database of African Americans and achievements in their fields of endeavor.
4. Your input is needed. Let us know what you have done, what was your driving force? What sustained you? What obstacles and barriers you had to overcome?
5. Maintain Chapters' history, in text and photos.
6. Maintain Branches' history, in text and photos.
7. Maintain special events, chapters with students, again: text and photos.

Format to use: text in Microsoft Word, and photos in

.jpg. **Send all materials or comments to:**

Albert L. Johns  
P. O. Box 81635  
Cleveland, OH 44181



**NTA 2001 Legacy Room Exhibit**



**Dr. Walter Massey, Charles S. Duke Distinguished Lecturer at the NTA 2001 Conference, is assisted by Frank Robinson.**

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Economy” moderated by Mr. Joe Fuller, CEO of Futron, Inc., the NTA Auxiliary meeting (Ms. Lyla Washington, president), the NTA Societies of Architects and Architecture and of Technologists and Technology, and the NTA Membership Recognition Luncheon (keynote speaker Ms. Tahira Reid, NTA’s new NE regional director). There was also an afternoon workshop “Stress Management for African Americans” moderated by Donna Speller of the NASA Langley Research Center.

That evening, the Charles S. Duke Distinguished Lecture was presented by Dr. Walter Massey, President of Morehouse College (and a former Director of the National Science Foundation).

The Saturday program included student paper presentation sessions, the NTA Societies of Computer Science and of Science, and of Engineering. It also included the NTA Auxiliary Luncheon, which featured Mr. T. Curtis Holmes, Chief Operating Officer of MetaSoft Software Solutions, Inc. The climax of the day, and the entire Conference, was the National Awards Banquet, featuring Dr. Darryl Tukufu as keynote speaker. (See also Awards, p. 2 this issue.)

**NTA 2002 Conference**

The NTA’s 74th National Conference will be held **23-26 September, 2002 in Las Vegas, NV.** More details to come in the next issue of the NTA National News!

**Is Your Membership Current?**

If you have not paid your dues in the last year (life and honorary members excepted), someone else is paying for your Newsletter! **See Page 7 for Membership Renewal Form. Still only \$25.00!**

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**Natasha Mayfield**

Clark Atlanta University  
 “Distributed Collaboration With a Lightweight Application”

**Larry Crawford**

Clark Atlanta University  
 “RMI Access to a Shared Database in a Multi-Platform Environment”

**Kimberly Watson**

Dept. of Biology, Morgan State University  
 “Effects of Early Stressors on Abnormal Cortical Development”

**Abolade Adepiti and Frederick W. Oliver**

Dept. of Physics, Morgan State University

**Clyde Wynter**

Nassau Community College  
 “Mossbauer Study on Mechanically Alloyed  $Eu_2O_3$  and  $Fe_2O_3$ ”

**Asian Ettihadieh, Dontrel Gray, and**

**Wunmi Okupe**

Morgan State University  
 “Performance of a Multi-Platform Scalable Graphics Cluster System”

**NTA Member Honored by**

**Medgar Evers College**

Dr. Aprille Ericsson, president of the NASA Goddard Chapter of the NTA (currently on detail at NASA Headquarters) was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. The award was presented at the College on December 5, 2001, for “demonstrated exemplary academic achievement and unselfish service to the community”.

**Distinguished African Americans in Aviation and Space Science**

A new book with the above title has recently been published by Oryx Press. The book offers entries describing the lives and careers of 80 men and 20 women who defied poverty and prejudice to excel in the fields of aviation and space exploration.

These include NTA members Aprille Ericsson, Christine Darden, Wesley Harris, and George Caruthers, as well as 10 current or past astronauts.

## An Investment in Tomorrow

The National Technical Association (NTA) is making an investment in what has proven to be America's most precious commodity of the past, present and future: the intellectual gifts of its young people. By investing in the education of our children today, we are strengthening our leadership of tomorrow. And we're doing it, in this case, 50 students at a time. The NTA Cleveland Chapter and NASA Glenn Research Center's Office of Educational Programs have just completed its ninth year of the **New Approach to Self-Achievement (N.A.S.A.) Project Program**. The N.A.S.A. Project Program is an intervention program for historically underrepresented youth in the Greater Cleveland area. In 1992, the NTA Cleveland Chapter conceived of the N.A.S.A. Project concept, whereas in 1993, the Office of Educational Programs implemented the program.

In collaboration with the NTA Cleveland Chapter, NASA Glenn Research Center, Woodburn Center for Cultural Studies, Cuyahoga Community College, Paragon TEC, and the Cleveland Public School System, the Office of Educational Programs sponsored the intensive, 6-week summer program which exposed 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students to innovative technology pathways. This program also was designed to enhance the students' preparation for the science, math, and technology careers of tomorrow. The 50 students selected for the Project devoted approximately 120 hours of study to the hands-on applications of science, math and technology concepts, innovative proficiency test-taking strategies, basic/advanced computer proficiencies, and a variety of other enrichment activities, such as career counseling and field trips. In addition to the students' participation, and as part of their selection, at least one parent/guardian for each child had to agree to attend 5 consecutive Saturday workshops to address cultural learning with their child. During the 4-hour Saturday workshops, students and parents/guardians learned more about the profound contributions of Africans and African-Americans to the science, math and technology fields. Moreover, numerous established NTA professionals from various fields served as culturally relevant role models and career awareness speakers for the students and parents/guardians, communicating one very strong message to the participants: "**We have done this; We are doing this; and We will do this.**"

The outcomes of the 2000-2001 N.A.S.A. Project are compelling. For example, an average class increase of 9% was documented between students' pre- and post-science proficiency test scores; while an aver-

age 10.1% increase was documented between their pre- and post-mathematics proficiency test scores. At the same time, 94% of the parent/guardian participants agreed or strongly agreed that the Saturday workshops increased their confidence as a parent. Perhaps, though, the most inspiring outcome comes to us by way of a motto adopted by the eighth grade graduating class: "I am the master of my ship; I am the captain of my soul; if it is to be, it's up to me." For with these beliefs we have instilled in our future (by way of our children) the very promise and fundamental freedom upon which our great county was built.

**Submitted by:** Gail Dolman-Smith (Paragon TEC)

**Assisted by:** Leon Collins (NTA-Cleveland Chapter)

For additional information on the N.A.S.A. Project, visit the following websites online at: <http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/WWW/OEP/NASAPROJECT.htm>



**Student hands-on laboratory project, sponsored by the N.A.S.A. Project Program**



**Students Preparing for Kite Flying Competition**

**Dr. Warren E. Henry  
1909-2001**



Dr. Warren Henry, professor emeritus of Howard University, died Oct. 31. He was a world class physicist, chemist, researcher, inventor, and educator.

Born in Alabama in 1909 to two graduates of Tuskegee Institute, Dr. Henry showed academic promise at an early age. He was influenced by a number of people, including his parents and the renowned Dr. George Washington Carver. His training as an undergraduate student at Tuskegee Institute indicated the broad range of his interests and knowledge in the liberal arts and sciences. He taught for several years before attending a summer program at Atlanta University that lead to a scholarship to attend the university. After earning the master's degree in chemistry, he enrolled in an ad-

vanced chemistry course at the University of Chicago, which resulted in an invitation to study for the doctorate degree. He earned the doctorate in 1941 after having supported himself with various jobs during the Depression. On his return to Tuskegee, he was asked to teach the special physics courses for the young men who came to be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

During a trip to MIT in 1943, Dr. Henry was offered a position on a team that was working to improve radar systems for the military. Following World War II, he taught at Spelman and Morehouse colleges in Atlanta. And in 1948, he accepted an offer to study superconductivity with the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC. By 1960, Dr. Henry was designing missile guidance and submarine detection systems for Lockheed Missile and Space Co.

In 1968, Dr. Henry began teaching night courses at Howard. At the time of his retirement in 1977, he was a full professor in the physics department, and was teaching nuclear systems courses in the School of Engineering. He authored more than 70 scientific publications and co-authored more than 20. He received numerous awards, including the 1997 Excellence at Howard Award, Tuskegee's Carver Award (1978), the Outstanding Educator in America Award (1974-1975), and the Outstanding Educator in Physics Award (1975). In addition, he is listed in a myriad of Who's Who and scientific directories.

Dr. Henry is survived by a daughter, Eva, and five siblings.

**NTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

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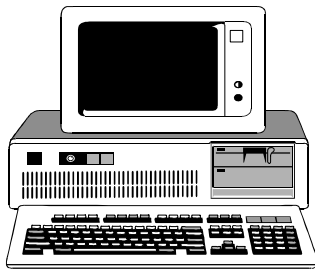
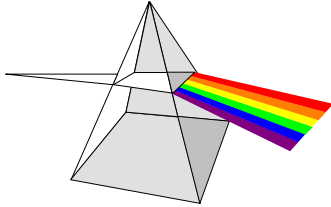
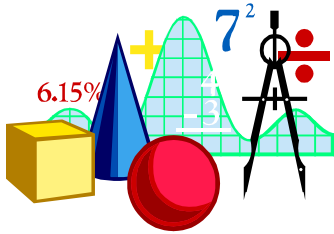
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**On Back of This Page.** (Keep a copy for your records)



## PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We are hoping to enhance the frequency and timeliness of the National Technical Association (NTA) Newsletter. Please send news items you feel would be of interest to professionals, students, and educators involved in science/technology fields and/or of interest to the NTA Membership (ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION PREFERRED).

Please include with your submission your name, telephone number, e-mail and snail mail address. Please also send an information copy of whatever you send us to your Chapter President and/or Regional Director.

In our attempt to be faster and cheaper, and eventually better, we format the Newsletter in Microsoft Publisher 2000. Therefore, submissions in MS Word 97/2000 or PowerPoint 97/2000 are preferred (although Word Perfect and .TXT submissions can be converted). Any photographs or drawings should be black and white or color in .JPG or .BMP format.

### Please submit to EACH of the following:

Dr. George Carruthers  
george.carruthers@nrl.navy.mil  
(202) 767-2764

Dr. Jesse Bemley  
Jesse.Bemley@hqda.army.mil  
(703) 601-4162

Dr. John Trimble  
trimble@scs.howard.edu  
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