

# ◆ NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS ◆

Volume 8, Number 2

Spring 2002

## NTA 2002 Conference Final Announcement and Call for Participation

### **NTA at 75: Planning and Programs for the New Millennium-Technically and Educationally Focused**

The Year 2002 Conference of the National Technical Association is scheduled for **September 24-27**, at the **Excalibur Resort and Casino Hotel in Las Vegas, NV**. (Note, this schedule, unlike most previous ones, is weekdays only and does not include a weekend.)

NTA invites you to participate, and to submit abstracts and proposals for presentations or workshops you would like to give at the Conference. Presentations dealing with all areas of science, mathematics, engineering, technology, and related education are appropriate. Deadlines for Presentation Abstract submissions and Workshop or Panel Discussion proposals are **June 14, 2002**.

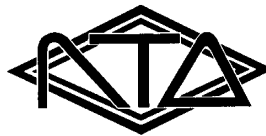
**NOTE: In a change from previous years, all submitted abstracts must indicate into which of the following NTA Society areas their proposed presentation falls** (also, designate a secondary area, if appropriate). **Only a limited number of papers can be accepted in each category, so it is important to submit your abstract as soon as possible.**

**NTA Society of Mathematicians and Mathematics**

**NTA Society of Computer Science and Computing**

**NTA Society of Information Science, Systems, and Technology**

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## **Nsoroma Awards Presented in Science, Technology and Education**

The Cleveland Chapter of the NTA held its Annual Nsoroma Awards program on March 16, 2002 at Windows on the River in Cleveland, OH. The name of the award is derived from the Akan language (Ghana), which symbolizes a person of exemplary character and outstanding personal attributes. It also carries a meaning of faith and female influence. Emceed by Cynthia Tinsley, News Anchor of Channels 19/43, the event honored three local women of color for their scientific and technological accomplishments, fortitude, and community involvement. The event also honored two others, for lifetime achievement and recognized rising talent.

The recipient of the Nsoroma Education award was Latrice Y. Tramble, for her work as a first-grade teacher at Miles Park Elementary and as an instructor with the Project Act Program, an after-school program for homeless children. Gail E. Wright received the Nsoroma Technology award, for her work in developing small and minority businesses directed at the technology sector at Battelle-Great Lakes Industrial Technology Center. Dr. Jih-Fin Lei received the Nsoroma Science award, for her work in managing engine research and technologies for microelectromechanical systems and nanotechnology at NASA Glenn Research Center. The recipient of

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### **Also In This Issue:**

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**NTA Nsoroma Awards program finalists: Front row, Maria Perez-Davis, Latrice Y. Tramble, Celestine O. Ilori, E. Linda Naylor. Second row: Tammy Allen (for JoAnn Charleston), Sandy Robinson, Jih-Fin Lei, and Gail Wright.**

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the Nsoroma Queen Mother award was the Rev. E. Linda Naylor, for her dedication in helping those in need through her work as a nurse and stress management workshops. Finally, Celestine O. Ilori received the Nsoroma Princess award, for being an up-and-coming engineer working in the development and implementation of efficient laboratory processes at the Sherwin-Williams Company.

The NTA wants to congratulate the winners and finalist of the Nsoroma Awards on their outstanding achievements and accomplishments.

Khary I. Parker  
NTA Cleveland Chapter

### **Julian Earls Wins U.S. Olympic Honor**

Demonstrating the strength and inspiration for which he received the honor, Dr. Julian Earls, Deputy Director for Operations of NASA Glenn Research Center (and a past President of NTA), was one of approximately 140 torchbearers in Northeast Ohio to carry the U.S. Olympic Flame through the region. The Flame was passed through Cleveland during the Olympic Torch Relay on New Year's Day and used to light a cauldron at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame during an evening celebration.

Earls, an avid runner who completed his 25th marathon this year, was nominated by Roger Curtis, President and CEO of SITCUR, an e-business consulting service in Los Angeles, CA. Curtis was inspired deeply by a keynote speech Earls gave during the annual NASA/JPL High Tech Small Business Conference at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA. In fact, according to Curtis, Earls traveled to Los An-

geles three times over the past several years to speak to the group.

“As I told the Olympic Organizing Committee, I could think of no one else more deserving than Dr. Earls. During all three addresses, he spoke about educating kids, being a good member of the community, running the marathon, and his passion for life...all in addition to speaking about business. He truly goes the extra mile,” said Curtis. “Each time he had the audience on their feet and inspired with the same flame the Olympic Torch represents. I know I have been inspired by his words and his passion.”

Torchbearers were determined by community judging panels across the U.S. who read tens of thousands of stories submitted by people from all walks of life wanting to honor individuals that serve as sources of personal inspiration. The panels' task was to choose a few special people to represent the light of inspiration in our nation. The Olympic Relay is designed to celebrate the inspirational fire found within every U.S. community and the actual torches are inscribed with the phrase “light the fire within.”

To add to the honor, Earls was more involved in Cleveland's Olympic events than being a torchbearer. In November, Earls met an Olympic Relay advance manager while Earls was in Atlanta, GA, for a speaking engagement, and their conversation led to his various roles in our city's festivities. Earls was instrumental in arranging for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as the ceremony location and the Shaw High School Band as the entertainment. As a result, Terry Stewart, Rock Hall CEO, became so impressed with the students that he made a generous financial contribution to the East Cleveland School System for the band's use. Through and through, Earls' actions signified the community involvement and inspiration heralded by the Olympic committee.

“The act of allowing those who are not known widely, or celebrities, to carry the Olympic Flame across America speaks to the strength of a Nation that appreciates all citizens...big and small.” said Earls. “I was surprised, honored, and humbled to have been nominated and selected. It was especially complimentary to be nominated by someone I did not know.”

The Olympic Flame, which is kept in a lantern, arrived December 4 in Atlanta, GA, from Athens, Greece, to begin its 250-city, 46-state trek. It arrived in Salt Lake City, UT, on February 8 where the Winter Olympics began on February 10.

Barbara Kakiris (InDyne, Inc.)  
Public Affairs Specialist  
NASA Glenn Research Center

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- NTA Society of Architects and Architecture**
- NTA Society of Technologists and Technology**
- NTA Society of Engineers and Engineering**
- NTA Society of Scientists and Science**

Abstracts must have a **title** (15 words or less) and be of **150 to 300 words** in length, and must be accompanied by **full contact information** (not just e-mail address) for the author(s). Submit to **each** of the two editors below (**Electronic Submission Preferred**) no later than **June 14, 2002**.

Dr. George Carruthers  
 Code 7645, Naval Research Laboratory  
 Washington, DC 20375-5320  
 E-mail: george.carruthers@nrl.navy.mil

Dr. John Trimble  
 Dept. of Systems and Computer Science  
 Howard University  
 Washington, DC 20059  
 E-mail: trimble@scs.howard.edu

**All Presenters and Participants must register** (see Rate Table, below). Fees include admittance to Conference technical sessions and workshops, career development seminars, and the career opportunity fair, as well as selected meal functions and receptions. The NTA Directors would appreciate advance payment of registration fees, as this helps alleviate cash-flow problems!

**Conference Registration Fees**

<u>Category</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Member	A	\$250
Non-Member	B	\$325
Auxiliary /Spouse	C	\$150
Professional, 1 Day	D	\$150
Student Member	E	\$150
Student Non-Member	F	\$160
High School Student	G	\$ 50

Payments can be made by check, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, or money order, payable to the **National Technical Association**.

Mailing Address:

National Technical Association, Inc.  
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Hotel Information:

**Excalibur Resort and Casino Hotel**  
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 www.excaliburlasvegas.com/flashindex.php3

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*For Reservations* (Toll Free), call (800) 937-7777  
 and provide Group Code: XTECH

**Tentative 2002 Conference Program Schedule**

**Tuesday, September 24, 2002**

NTA National Board Meeting  
 NTA National Committee Meetings  
 Publications and Web Site Committees meeting

**Wednesday, September 25, 2002**

Registration Desk Opens  
**Local High School Visitation**  
**NTA Auxiliary Meeting**

Lunch (On Your Own)

**Opening Plenary Session**  
 Keynote Speaker TBD  
**Panel/Workshop**

**Thursday, September 26, 2002**

On-Site Registration  
 Career/Trade Fair Setup  
 Past Presidents' Council  
**NTA Technology Society Presentation Session**  
**NTA Architecture Society Presentation Session**  
**Undergraduate/Graduate Student Symposium**  
 NTA Auxiliary Meeting

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### Career/Trade Fair Ribbon Cutting

**NTA Membership Recognition Luncheon**  
*Charles S. Duke Distinguished Lecture*  
 Speaker TBD

**NTA Information Science Society Presentation Session**

**NTA Mathematics Society Presentation Session**  
**Undergraduate/Graduate Student Symposium**  
**NTA Delegates Meeting**

### Friday, September 27, 2002

On-Site Registration

**NTA Business Meeting**

Career/Trade Fair

**NTA Computer Science Society Presentation Session**

**Graduate/Undergraduate Student Symposium**  
**High School Student Symposium**

**NTA Auxiliary Luncheon**

Keynote Speaker TBD

**Workshop**

**Graduate/Undergraduate Student Symposium**  
**NTA Science Society Presentation Session**  
**NTA Engineering Society Presentation Session**

**National Awards Banquet & Reception**

Keynote Speaker: Fred Gregory (NASA  
 Associate Administrator for Space Flight)  
 (tentative)

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## NTA DC Chapter 2002 Mathematics Contest Held

The Washington, DC Chapter held its annual Mathematics Contest on Saturday, May 4, 2002 at **Ballou Senior High School** in Washington, DC. This was a first for Ballou, which had the largest number of students participating in last year's contest, held at Wakefield High School in Arlington, VA.

Mr. Richard Thomas served as chairman of the chapter's Math Contest Committee, and Mr. Lester Clemons (DC Chapter Secretary and a past NTA National President) served as co-chair. Several other chapter members were active participants in the planning and implementation of the contest.

Ms. Dianne Carson, a mathematics teacher at Ballou High School (and Dean of their Academy for Mathematics, Science, and Health) served as coordinator and facilitator for the event. Dr. Art Bridges, the Principal of Ballou, also was instrumental in providing the facilities and week-end support services that were essential to the implementation of the math contest.

More than 40 students participated in the 2002 Math Contest, coming from schools throughout the Washington, DC area (some from as far away as Columbia, MD and Woodbridge, VA). As in previous years, students took either the Basic Test (current or past highest mathematics courses Algebra I and Geometry) or the Advanced Test (taking or had Algebra II or higher-level courses). Breakfast refreshments and lunch were also provided, as well as presentations and

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Dianne Carson (Ballou HS Math Contest Coordinator), Richard Thomas (NTA DC Math Contest Chairman), and Lester Clemons (NTA DC Math Contest Co-Chair) prepare for awards ceremony at Ballou HS.

(Continued from page 4)

other activities for the students while the tests were being scored.

Prizes were awarded for the three highest scores in each category, as well as for the highest score in each grade level (exclusive of the already-mentioned awardees). A special award was presented to Ms. Dianne Carson, for her outstanding performance in preparing for and implementing the math contest.

**Advanced Test Winners:**

- 1st Place:** James McClelland (12th Grade)  
Dunbar HS
- 2nd Place:** Hanna Sebhat (11th Grade)  
Wakefield HS
- 3rd Place:** David Johnson (10th Grade)  
Howard HS

**Basic Test Winners:**

- 1st Place:** Kevin Wingfield (9th Grade)  
Banneker HS
- 2nd Place:** Alexander McCall (9th Grade)  
Wakefield HS
- 3rd Place:** Daniel Johnson (7th Grade)  
Trinity Middle School
- 12th Grade Highest:** Janisa LaSalle (Eastern HS)
- 11th Grade Highest:** Michael Dickerson  
(Eastern HS)
- 10th Grade Highest:** Lauren Oliver (Ballou HS)
- 9th Grade Highest:** Jonathan McCoy  
(Long Reach HS)
- 8th Grade Highest:** Christine Ndege  
(Gunston MS)
- 7th Grade Highest:** Torrence Marunda  
(Belleville MS)

In all, the 2002 Math Contest was highly successful, and we are all looking forward to making it even more successful next year!



First Place Advanced Test Award is presented to James McClelland (Dunbar HS), by Richard Thomas, with Dianne Carson and Arthur Southerland.



First Place Basic Test Award is presented to Kevin Wingfield (Banneker HS).

**Our Congratulations to Carl Seward**



Carl W. Seward, a mathematics major at Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, North Carolina and an NTA student member, was elected as an associate member of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, in February 2002.

Seward was the first place winner in the undergraduate student presentations category at the NTA 2001 conference in Atlanta, GA. Since the NTA 2001 conference, Carl has attended and presented at the Sigma Xi Student Research Symposium on November 10, 2001 and won first place in the mathematics and physical sciences category; the SOARS Conference at North Carolina Central University November 9, 2001; the Second Annual NASA/NSF/TSU Research Symposium at Tennessee State University on April 19, 2002; and the Sixth Annual NC-LSAMP Undergraduate Research Conference at North Carolina State University on April 26, 2002.

In addition to being a research student in the Office of Naval Research Scholarship Program at Elizabeth City State University, this spring, Seward was selected to become a Ronald E. McNair Scholar.

This summer, Carl will return for a second year to Hampton University in Hampton, VA to participate in the Undergraduate Institute in Physics – Research Experience for Undergraduates summer internship.

### Our Congratulations to Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd

Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd, a Research Meteorologist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center and a member of the NTA Goddard Chapter, was recently appointed Deputy Project Scientist for the Global Precipitation Measurement Mission. This is a global effort, led by NASA and the Japanese space agency NASDA, to launch a constellation of precipitation measuring spacecraft to better understand and predict weather, climate, and hydrologic processes.

### NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences Established at Howard University

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) established the **NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences (NCAS)**, a Cooperative Science Center, in the fall of 2001 to support the development of quality education to students at minority-serving institutions (MSIs) while meeting the goals of NOAA and the nation. The NCAS is led by Howard University in Washington, DC, in collaboration with three partners: Jackson State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, PR.

The NCAS Director is Dr. Vernon Morris, Associate Professor of Chemistry and founder of the Atmospheric Science curriculum at Howard University. Dr. Morris is also Deputy Director of the Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres (CSTEA) also headquartered at Howard University.

A primary goal of NCAS is to increase the number of highly qualified, well-trained graduates in the fields of NOAA-related atmospheric sciences, for career opportunities with NOAA and other federal agencies. The NCAS will help enhance capacity-building efforts through the implementation of a comprehensive academic and research training program which capitalizes on the strength of the university partners. All partners will contribute to training workshops and professional conferences, shared courses and seminars, outreach activities, student recruitment and mentoring, and the conduct and presentation of NOAA-related research.

NCAS research and training goals include improving the accuracy of weather and climate forecast models (particularly in predicting precipitation), and producing highly educated and skilled students from underrepresented communities for research and operational careers in weather and climate prediction.

These goals will be pursued through the following:

- Development, validation, and application of the Weather Research and Forecast Model;
- Development of new methodologies for integrating observation and modeling for improving weather and climate model predictions;
- Developing an observation site for student training, and complementing existing sites in forming an observation network for model studies and satellite validation; and
- Providing students with experience and training in operational and research aspects of forecast and climate models, and in application of state-of-the-art instruments and measurement techniques.

### Dr. Warren Washington is Guest Speaker at Howard University - NCAS

Dr. Warren M. Washington, Senior Scientist and head of the Climate Change Research Section in the Climate and Global Dynamics Division at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), was guest speaker at Howard University, sponsored by the NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences (NCAS) and the Howard University Program in Atmospheric Sciences (HUPAS), on April 24, 2002 as part of Earth Week celebrations. Dr. Washington is also a 2002 Inductee to the National Academy of Engineering, in honor of his research in climate modeling.

His presentation was entitled, "What Should We Believe About Climate Change?"



Dr. Warren Washington (center), with (from left) Dr. Vernon Morris and Dr. Everett Joseph (Howard University), Mr. Dillard Menchan (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center), and Dr. Gregory Jenkins (Pennsylvania State University).

**President's Message**



Greetings! On behalf of the national board of directors, I wish to extend our thanks for your continued support as we re-engineer operations for efficiency and effective communication. Change is not easy for most of us. When unexpected turns in life occur, some people move forward quickly, some slowly, and some never move because they cannot see the reason to do so. We are now in our 76<sup>th</sup> year of operation, and we have higher expectations for accomplishments, as an organization, to meet the needs of our professional and student membership.

In our last newsletter, I made an appeal for chapters to become involved in local schools. As a high school teacher, I see students trying to manage their many struggles/obstacles on a daily basis. Districts often do not have needed resources that teach stress manage-

ment skills to enhance the learning process. Additionally, much of what our youth listen to on radio and watch on TV is not designed to promote healthy critical thinking processes. Hence, they often experience a high degree of poor decision making, and must suffer resulting consequences. Our involvement in the lives of youngsters through NTA youth programs, e.g. "3-T Mentor™" and "Go Out and Inspire", offers opportunity as well as hope to many of the youth who receive exposure. I appeal once again, get involved!

Additionally, the board of directors welcomes those new members who have taken advantage of the **3-for-1 professional membership campaign**. We are interested in you. If you have an interest in learning organizational management, get involved with your local chapter now. If your membership is at-large, then contact our membership chairperson, Ms. Gloria Moon, at Gloria.Moon@Mail.State.TN.US .She will direct you to your regional director.

Finally, submit your current research project for presentation to the Societies of the National Technical Association at this year's conference. Volunteer for conference support, and bring your walking shoes to visit the Grand Canyon! See 'ya in Las Vegas!

**NTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

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

**Important Reminder to All NTA Chapters!**

Chapters' Articles of Affiliation are past due (due dates January 1 each year)! Please forward signed copy of the Articles to P.O. Box 710567, Houston, TX 77271 immediately, with a current list of officers and complete financial report for 2001. Articles will be approved at the June 1 board meeting. ☺ Questions??? E-mail Al Johns at: [albert.l.johns@grc.nasa.gov](mailto:albert.l.johns@grc.nasa.gov) today! Thanks for your cooperation.



Katherine W. Coleman  
NTA National President

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

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.

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.

**Summer, 2002 Issue Deadline: 2 August 2002**

**NTA Publications Committee**

- |                       |  |                |
|-----------------------|--|----------------|
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**In This Issue... *Final Call, NTA 2002 Conference- Nsoroma Awards- NOAA Center- DC Math***

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