

# ◆ NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS ◆

Volume 8, Number 1

Winter 2002

## NTA 2002 Conference Preliminary Announcement and Call for Participation

The Year 2002 Conference of the National Technical Association is scheduled for **September 24-27**, tentatively at the **New Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, NV**. (Note, this schedule, unlike most previous ones, is weekdays only and does not include a weekend.) **Hotel reservations must be made at least 30 days in advance** (i.e. by **August 24**) to get the special Conference rate.

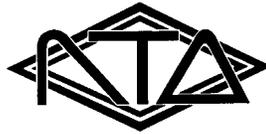
NTA invites you to participate, and to submit abstracts and proposals for presentations or workshops you would like to give at the Conference. Presentations dealing with all areas of science, mathematics, engineering, technology, and related education are appropriate. Deadlines for Presentation Abstract submissions and Workshop or Panel Discussion proposals are **May 31, 2002**.

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 **May 31, 2002**.

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

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## President's Message

by Katherine W. Coleman  
NTA National President



### Greetings, Members!

On behalf of the national board of directors of **The National Technical Association**, I wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude towards all who "weathered the storm" and met in Atlanta, Georgia for the 74<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the National Technical Association, September 26-29, 2001. Our panel leaders, **Dr. Yvonne Freeman, Joe Fuller, and Dr. Amanda Goodson**, with their supporting all-star casts, were awesome! Thanks, guys.

The fun didn't stop there, because workshops and the various NTA society sessions were lead by a host of more than capable presenters, topped off with **Dr. Darrell Tukufu** as awards dinner speaker.

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Also, we can be assured, as in years past, students really did their thing - their presentations were outstanding.

Thanks, Drs. Carruthers, Trimble, and Bemley for organizing and leading the technical presentation sessions—if you haven't heard, enthusiasm ran high. Again, thanks to all!

Please note that we are encouraging chapters to adopt a school at any level, to "Go Out and Inspire". As an organization that promotes science, math, and technology in the schools, we had better spend some time really encouraging students to stay in school, or soon there will not be students to motivate toward technical careers! So please, let each of us find time to go speak, mentor, volunteer, set up a video visit, or write a letter on your company's stationery that can be read over the public address system to an entire student body, to encourage our youngsters to stay in school and excel. Make this a fun project within your chapter, by keeping a record of all participants and presenting an award to the individual that has documented the most visits/letters. Names of chapter winners can be submitted to a special drawing at the 2002 Conference membership luncheon in Las Vegas, for a winner's prize. *Go Out and Inspire!*



### NTA Board of Directors Meets in Orlando, FL

The NTA Board of Directors held their first meeting of the year on March 1-2, 2002 in Orlando, FL, with local support by the NTA Space Coast Chapter. Members present were Katherine Coleman (President), Frank Robinson, Jr. (President Elect), Gilbert Haynes (Executive Director), Dexter Johnson (Treasurer), Albert Johns (NW Regional Director), and Eric Green (SE Regional Director). Tandra Spain (Secretary) and Sheila Wagner (SW Regional Director) participated by telecon. Patrice and Darrell Thomas were present in the afternoon, and James Jennings was present in the evening.

Committee reports were submitted electronically, for the Policy and Planning (Al Johns), Publications/Editorial Review (George Carruthers), Membership (Michael Chapman), Website (Darrell and Patrice Thomas), and Operations and Management (Katherine Coleman).

Regional Director's reports were submitted by Al

Johns (NW Region) and Sheila Wagner (SW Region). Eric Green (SE Regional Director) will submit his report later. He also indicated Orlando members had indicated an interest in re-starting their chapter. Ms. Tahirah Reed, NE regional director, has submitted a letter of resignation to the Executive Board. New appointments included Gloria R. Moon (Membership Chairperson) and Kevin Loney (International Liaison).

Katherine Coleman also submitted her President's Report. Executive Director Gilbert Haynes submitted his report, and also his letter of resignation. However, Mr. Haynes agreed to continue as Executive Director until a replacement can be hired.

Other topics of discussion included 2002 Conference planning: the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas is the tentative location, but two others, the Excalibur Hotel and Luxor Hotel, are also under consideration; the 2001 Conference financial report; Chapter Management (the 3-for-1 Membership campaign will be continued through CY 2002); and Student Symposium sponsorship and support.



**NTA Board Meeting attendees (from left): Dexter Johnson, Albert Johns, Frank Robinson, Katherine Coleman, Gilbert Haynes, and Eric Green.**



**From left: Dexter Johnson, Katherine Coleman, Darrell Thomas, Patrice Thomas, Frank Robinson, Eric Green, and Gilbert Haynes.**

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**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.  
PMB 221, Suite 120  
5810 Kingstowne Center Drive  
Alexandria VA 22315-5711

#### Hotel Information:

The **tentative** hotel for the Conference is the **Frontier Hotel** in Las Vegas, NV. However, other hotels are still under consideration, and final arrangements will appear in the Spring, 2002 issue of the *NTA Newsletter* (and also will be distributed electronically via the nta+ntaall@larc.nasa.gov network).

### Our Congratulations to MGen Charles F. Bolden, Jr.

MGen Charles Bolden, USMC, was selected to become the Deputy Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, by NASA Director Sean O'Keefe. Charles Bolden, an astronaut and veteran of several space shuttle missions, has been a speaker at past NTA conferences, and is an Honorary Member of NTA.

## Cleveland-Area Women of Color to be Honored During Women's History Month

### Awards in Science, Technology, and Education

The Cleveland Chapter of the National Technical Association will be hosting its annual Nsoroma Awards Program on **March 16, 2002** at the Windows on the River restaurant in Cleveland, OH. During this event, five local women of color will be honored for their scientific and technological accomplishments as well as influence in science and technology education. The event will begin at 10:00 AM and will be emceed by Cynthia Tinsley, News Anchor of Channel 19/43.

The Adinkra dictionary defines Nsoroma (en-sor-má) as representing a person who is a leader, a star of a home, school, and institution. It also carries a meaning of faith and female influence. The name of the award is derived from the Akan language (Ghana), which symbolizes a person of exemplary character and outstanding personal attributes.

**For more information, please visit: [www.centralian.com/nta](http://www.centralian.com/nta)**, or contact **Quelina Jordan, Awards Program Coordinator**, by phone at (216) 591-2164, or by electronic mail at: [nsoroma@centralian.com](mailto:nsoroma@centralian.com).

**Editor's Note:** Results of this awards program will be covered in the Spring, 2002 issue of this Newsletter.

### Journal of the NTA News

The second issue of our new *Journal of the National Technical Association*, published by iMinorities, Inc., is planned for late spring or early summer of 2002. The focus of this issue is the involvement of students in the NTA, both as student NTA members and as participants in NTA student symposiums.

We are specifically soliciting papers written by students (or recent past students turned professionals) for this issue. In particular, **students who have won places (including honorable mentions) in NTA Student Symposiums** are requested to submit copies of their papers to be considered for publication in this issue of the *NTA Journal*. Other types of manuscripts, by students or professionals, will also be considered for this or later issues.

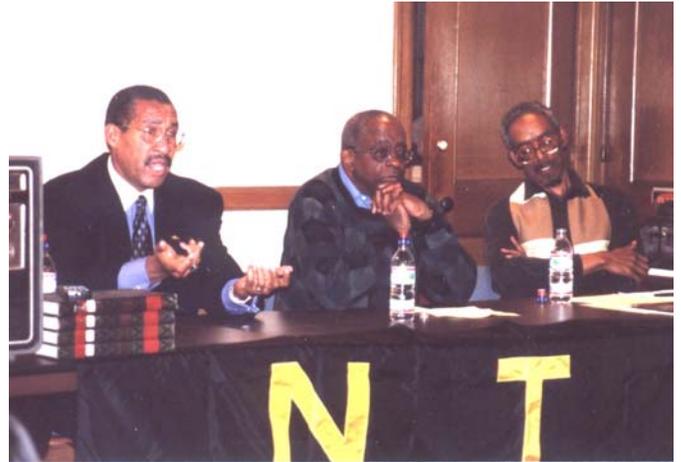
Guidelines for manuscript preparation are given on page 26 of the Conference 2001 Issue of the *Journal*, or may be obtained by contacting the NTA Editor, by e-mail at: [george.carruthers@nrl.navy.mil](mailto:george.carruthers@nrl.navy.mil), or by telephone at (202) 767-2764.

**NTA 2001 Conference  
September 26-29, 2001 in Atlanta, GA**



**Frank Robinson and Katherine Coleman with Dr. Darryl Tukufu, NTA 2001 Conference Awards Banquet keynote speaker.**

**NTA 75th Anniversary Celebration  
Held December 8, 2001 in Oak Park, IL**



**NTA 75th Anniversary Celebration panelists (from left) Mr. Robert L. Engram, Mr. Cordell Reed, and Dr. Carl Spight.**



**Dr. Yvonne Freeman (Executive Director of SECME, Inc.) leads panel discussion on "Educational Strategies for Blacks in the 21st Century" with Mr. Tommy Chambers, Dr. Lori Hunter-Union, and Mr. Edward Tymes.**



**Attendees at the 75th Anniversary celebration**



**NTA 75th Anniversary Birthday Cake**



**(LEFT) Panel discussion of "Creating Diversity in the New Millennium: Impact to Colleges, Contracts, and Technical Workforce", moderated by Dr. Amanda Goodson (NASA Marshall Space Flight Center) included panelists Dr. Sheila Nash-Stevenson, Dr. Jerry Harris, and Mr. Stanley McCall.**



**Dr. Donald Campbell, Director of NASA's Glenn Research Center, was keynote speaker for the NTA 2001 Opening Plenary Session**



**Ms. Tahira N. Reid receives the 2001 Technical Achiever of the Year-Engineer award from Katherine Coleman, as Dr. William Lupton looks on.**



**Dr. Aprille Ericsson (right), President of the NTA Goddard Chapter, poses with her father, Henry Ericsson, and mother, Corrinne Breedy Ericsson, on the occasion of her receiving an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Medgar Evers College on December 5, 2001.**



**NTA Past Presidents Jimmy King and James Jennings were among the active 2001 Conference participants.**

**Our Congratulations to  
Laura D. Stubbs (Captain, USNR)**

Laura Stubbs, formerly with the NTA Cincinnati Chapter, and a Captain in the Naval Reserve, recently received her Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland at College Park. She is now a Branch Head at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division in Philadelphia, PA.

## NTA Space Coast Chapter FY 2000-2001 Annual Report

Eric Green, President

The Space Coast, Florida Chapter of the NTA is best known for its Science and Technical Applications and Resources (Project STAR) Program—a network of community-based socio-technical learning centers created to serve as a median to unite people with technology and other resources, to resolve local community problems for an improved quality of life for all its residents.

The Space Coast, FL Chapter has served over 700 youth and adults this past fiscal year. Some events do not require registration, therefore this count does not include all actual participants. Our special focus is youth; however, **Project STAR** encourages shared use of the facility and plans programs of interest to all ages. There has been an increase in adult use and especially in "family" participation.

### **Activity #1 Homework Tutorial Services**

Over 90 students and adults participated in Homework/Tutorial Services including:

*Homework/Tutorial.* Volunteer tutors assisted students experiencing difficulties with their academic subjects. Study habit skills and remedial reading help was made available. Counseling was sometimes provided to increase parent awareness and participation in the educational process of their children. Referrals were made to the CROP at BCC for Saturday assistance.

*SAT/Math Tutorial.* High school students were provided assistance in reviewing and learning strategies and skill builders for SAT to "prepare students today for success tomorrow".

*Skills Reinforcement on Computer.* Appropriate software is available in a wide variety of subjects. Adults and students were encouraged to practice their skills in keyboarding, SAT, or the subject of their choice. Internet access to study SAT and the FCAT was utilized.

### **Activity #2 Computer and the Internet**

Over 330 people participated in computer-related activities including:

*Skills/Increased Competency:* Students were taught basic keyboarding skills, word-processing, database management and spreadsheet applications on both the Apple and IBM compatible computers. Students were also exposed to the world of the Internet to explore the wonders of computer networks for accessing the infor-

mation superhighway.

*After-School Lab:* Students used the computers/Internet to complete school assignments, improve basic computer competency, and learned to type or select a computer program for pleasure or to work on special projects such as letters, cards or banners.

*Senior Mouse Chasers:* Senior citizens were introduced to the computer, and learned to use Print Shop and Microsoft Word. The Mouse Chasers are very creative, and write verse and simple stories. They have been introduced to PowerPoint, and animate their verse and scriptures simply but very effectively. They published periodic newsletters, worked on programs for their churches and organizations, and assisted the community. They also published a special booklet for the 8th Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Fellowship Banquet supported by Project STAR as a partner in the Churches & Organizations & Communities "Caring Thru Sharing" Fellowship. Our Mouse Chasers included a 96-year-old "youngster". They have accessed the net for information and some have e-mailed. Our Seniors are anxious to participate and continue to learn new activities benefiting themselves and the community. Their output is our best advertisement for the Project STAR Learning Lab.

*Adult Open Lab:* At the Cocoa West Center, adults used the computers to improve their employability skills, to research, for pleasure or to assist their churches and organizations during open hours. Special assistance was available from staff as needed.

*Special Workshops:* Introduction to Computers, WORD, and graphics sessions are scheduled in small groups. Participants are urged to continue their practice at their own pace in our lab or at home. Staff is available to assist with the difficult moments and often "walk through" the hard parts over the telephone for the home users. Most classes were held on site.

### **Activity #3 Workshops Prevention/Personal Growth/Skill Building**

Over 150 individuals participated in one or more of the workshops including:

*Robotics / LEGO DACTA Control Lab:* Students were taught the basics of robotics using "Lego Builder Kits" through interface control to Apple Macintosh and IBM compatible computers. Students learned principles of mechanics, programming and other disciplines related to robots and automation. NASA engineer and NTA member Wanda Harding coordinated the program, and trained new volunteers to assist students. Theresa Arthur continued the Cocoa West sessions.

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The Lego Dacta Control Lab course is an introduction to the world of computers and controls, providing insight to the real world applications including math and science. The course included an overview of the Lego Computer Control Lab, hands-on design and build exercises, programming, and independent projects. The concepts covered within the course included control theory, mechanics, motors, basics in computer programming, and more. Offered to students in the third through tenth grades, many activities designed for the course required the students to work both independently and in groups of two or three. The instructions provided also required the students to use their own creativity.

*Space Coast Model Rocketry:* The Space Coast Rocket Force Club was initiated as a means of generating enthusiasm for science and mathematics by engaging youngsters in fun and exciting uses of technology. Model rocketry is a scientific, educational hobby that provides "hands-on" learning experiences and teaches youth principles of mathematics and physics - culmination in the launch of model rockets. It is available at our sites by special arrangement.

**Other Activity #3 Cocoa West Workshops included:**

**October** - Computer Literacy Month and Internet Time, Print Shop Workshops; **December** - Christmas Card/Kwanzaa Chain Workshop Computer Time; **January** - Black History Martin Luther King, **February** - Black History Youth Celebration "Our Friend Martin"; **April** - Aim for the STARS You Can & What You Want to Be!, **May** - Orlando Science Museum Field Trip; **June, July, August** - Self-Esteem, Art Introduction, Board Games & Activities Night, Jail Field Trip, Choices Workshop, Calligraphy Series, and Etiquette for Girls with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; **September** - Senior Celebration of life Program.

**Activity #4 College and Educational Awareness Programs**

Over 90 people participated in one or more programs designed to inform students and parents of educational opportunities, to encourage students to remain in high school, to plan to attend college and learn where the financial resources are available. Handouts, information on using the net to learn about schools and scholarships were disseminated. Representatives from FAMU, BCC, FSU and Tuskegee were available at one of the workshops to encourage students. We were pleased to have local representatives willing to walk student and parent through a scholarship application.

**NTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

*Please See Mailing Label for Date of your Last Dues Payment, if not New Applicant*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*Title (Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.)      First                      M.I.                      Last*

**Address** (If Address Label on back of this page is correct, *check here* )

\_\_\_\_\_  
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*City or Town                                      State                                      Zip Code*

*Telephone Number(s)                      Fax Number                      E-Mail Address*

**Primary Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

*(Occupational Goal if Student, Former Occupation if Retired)*

**Scientific/Technical Interests** (in addition to above) \_\_\_\_\_

**College/University Attending** (if Student) \_\_\_\_\_

Current Status (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_ Major Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Method** *Check/M.O.*  *Amex*  *Master Card*  *Visa*

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**Payment** *Professional \$25*  *Student \$10*  *Tax Deductible Contribution \$* \_\_\_\_\_

*Today's Date* \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail with Payment (or credit card information) to NTA Return Address**

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

## NTA Greater Albuquerque Chapter 2001 Annual Report

Corliss A. Johnson, President

The major activities of our Chapter this year were as follows:

### **DOE Science Bowl:**

Jacquelynne Hernandez is working with a team of high school students for preparation of the team competing in the Department of Energy (DOE) Science Bowl next year. She has been working with these students during most of this year.

### **ACT Preparatory:**

An NTA member conducted an ACT Preparatory course at an Albuquerque High School during the fall of this school year.

### **NAACP ACT-SO:**

Corliss Johnson served as a judge for the Science Fair category of the Santa Fe, New Mexico NAACP branch Academic, Cultural, Technical, Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition in April 2001. Also, Jacquelynne Hernandez was the program coordinator for the Santa Fe NAACP branch 2001 ACT-SO youth program.

### **Lowell Elementary School:**

Corliss Johnson tutors first graders in mathematics and reading at Lowell Elementary School. The tutoring program, in which Department of Energy employees and she participate, is a part of the Department of Energy Albuquerque Operations Office Adopt-A-Class program. She is also the program coordinator for this program.

### **Mentor for Students on Science Fair Projects:**

Jacquelynne Hernandez presently mentors students in Albuquerque on science fair projects. She provides them with guidance on successfully doing science fair projects.

### **Please Send Us Your News! NTA Publications Committee**

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**In This Issue... NTA 2002 Conference—NTA Board Board Meeting—Chapter Reports**

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