

◆ NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS ◆

Volume 9, Number 3

Summer 2003

**Final Announcement
NTA 2003 Conference
September 9-13, Orlando, FL**

The National Technical Association is pleased to announce its 75th annual conference, themed "Focusing on Technical Careers, Education, and Entrepreneurship with Global Flexibility." The event will take place September 9-13, 2003 in Orlando, FL at the beautiful Rosen Plaza Hotel.

Our annual conference brings together four major components of our organization: technical paper presentation sessions through NTA Societies, personal and professional workshops, award recognition ceremonies and the Technical Career & Opportunity Fair.

The Technical Career & Opportunity Fair brings together companies looking for qualified, seasoned and talented science, engineering and technology professionals and students. The fair will be open Thursday, September 11 and Friday, September 12 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is no admission fee; however, a resume is required for entry.

All are invited to join us at the annual Technical Achiever of the Year Awards banquet. These awards are presented to honor and recognize individuals, who may or may not be members of NTA, who have distinguished themselves as Architects, Biologists, Chemists, Computer Scientists, Educators, Engineers, Mathematicians, Physicians, Physicists, Scientists (General), Technologists, and Technical Entrepreneurs. For ticket information, contact the national office.

Throughout the conference, students and professionals will present papers and workshops covering various research areas in science, mathematics, engineering,

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**MEMBERSHIP
NEWSLETTER**
A Publication of The
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Incorporated 1926

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**NTA Members in NASA
Receive Advancements**

At the time of the NTA 2002 Conference, held in Las Vegas, NV, we had heard that NTA Past President and Deputy Director of the NASA Kennedy Space Center, James Jennings, had been selected as NASA Headquarters' Deputy Associate Administrator for Institutions and Asset Management (*Journal of the NTA*, Vol. 24, No. 1, September 2002). This year, we welcome Mr. Jennings again, as an Honorary Chairperson and Conference Theme Speaker at our Opening Plenary Session.

We also want to take the opportunity to congratulate other NTA member employees of NASA who have achieved major advancements since the 2002 Conference. These include Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, who was appointed Deputy Director of NASA Kennedy Space Center, effective August 31, 2003; Dr. Donald Campbell, Director of NASA Glenn Research Center, who was appointed by NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick D. Gregory as Special Assistant for Nuclear and Alternative Power Generation, effective October 1, 2003; and Dr. Julian Earls, Deputy Director of NASA Glenn Research Center, who will become Director of NASA Glenn Research Center October 1, 2003.

See the Conference 2003 Issue of the *Journal of the NTA* for more details!

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technology, and related education. As in the 2002 Conference, professional technical paper presentation sessions will be in accord with the Societies of the NTA (Science, Engineering, Technology, Computer Science, Information Science, and Education). Student sessions will be in accord with grade level, as Graduate, Undergraduate, and High School sessions.

Several opportunities for underwriting and sponsorship ranging from \$1K to \$15K are available. Some of our current/past sponsors and exhibitors include 3M, NASA, Ford Motor Company, US Department of Energy, ARES Corporation, DiversiTech, Jackson & Tull, and Smith Research.

NTA is the premiere technical organization of scientists, engineers, architects, technologists, educators and technical business entrepreneurs for African Americans. Founded in 1925, and incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) organization in 1926, our legacy is long, our heritage strong, and our programs are pioneering and unique.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please call the NTA National Office at (216) 298-4425. Register and pay on-line at <http://www.ntaonline.org>, or mail/FAX registration form (page 3) to the NTA office.



Dr. Aprille Ericsson (President, NTA Goddard Space Flight Center chapter) was one of several NTA members who visited, and talked with students and teachers at, Eldorado High School (and several other schools) in Las Vegas, NV (site of NTA's 2002 Conference).

National Technical Association School Visitation Program

“Promoting Achievement, Sharing and Creating Visions of Success”

The National Technical Association (NTA) 75th Annual Conference will open with visits to several Orlando area schools. The purpose is to promote achievement, to share the accomplishments of NTA members, and to help students create visions of their own success.

Since the inception of the School Visitation Program in 1996, NTA has visited several schools in various parts of the country, including: Cleveland, Ohio; Washington, DC; Hampton, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Astronaut Melvin D. Leland was a key participant in the School Visitation portion of the conference last year. Over 800 students of culturally diverse backgrounds had exposure to this positive and historic experience at the 74th annual conference in the Las Vegas Clark County School District.

Frederick Gregory, former astronaut and current NASA deputy administrator, later spoke before another

50 students and faculty who were invited guests at the NTA Auxiliary Luncheon.

Strong support, enthusiasm, and acceptance are becoming a tradition for the program. Two years ago in Atlanta, at the 73rd annual conference, the Visitation was held at a Decatur County middle school. Many outstanding NTA members spoke and interacted with over 1200 students. This is the focus in “growing dreams” for which NTA has prepared this year.

Following are the program mission and vision statements:

Program Mission:

- To inspire students to stay in school and acquire prerequisite skills for pursuing rigorous mathematics, science, engineering, and technology curricula at the college/university level.
- To instill the concept that challenging one's self and overcoming obstacles are accomplishments with rewards.
- To provide personal interaction between students and professionals, to explore some of the many routes to success and share the intrinsic rewards of their efforts.

Vision Statement:

This event will serve as a motivational experience for the students and as a resource for the schools. This event will provide students an opportunity to interact with African-American engineers, mathematicians, scientists, technologists, architects, and educators.

Albert L. Johns
NTA Cleveland Chapter

2003 NTA Conference & Opportunity Fair Registration Form

- Registration fees include admittance to the conference technical sessions, career development workshops and seminars, and the Technical Career & Opportunity Fair. Note that only plans A, B, and C include admittance to all meal functions. Refer to chart below for additional ticket prices.
- Early Bird registration rates end July 7, 2003, after which an additional \$75 processing fee will be required.
- Make fees payable to the National Technical Association.
- All refund requests must be received in writing prior to August 1, 2003.

Two easy ways to register

By Mail: NTA Conference
1761 East 30th St., 100A
Cleveland, OH 44114

By Fax: (216) 289-3015
Credit Card Payments Only
MasterCard or Visa Accepted

Name: _____ **Title:** _____
Company: _____ **Department:** _____
Address: _____

City/State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____
Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email Address: _____

**Preferred Name
on Badge:**

NTA Member: _____ **Chapter:** _____

- Plan A:** Member **\$300** (up to July 25 Only) **\$375 after July 25 or On-Site**
- Plan B:** Non-Member **\$375**
- Plan C:** Auxiliary/Spouse **\$150**
- Plan D:** Professional One Day **\$150**
- Plan E:** Student Member **\$150**
- Plan F:** Student Non-Member **\$160**
- Plan G:** High School Student **\$50**
- Additional Lunch Tickets \$50
- Additional Banquet Tickets \$100

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

- Check**
- Purchase Order**
- Other**
- American Express**
- MasterCard**
- Visa**

Company Purchase Order Number

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

_____/____/_____

Signature

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Check Number _____ **PO Number** _____ **Invoice Number** _____

Date Received _____ **Date Cleared** _____ **Amount Received** _____

2003 Conference At A Glance*

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

9:00 AM NTA Board of Directors Meeting
 9:00 AM NTA National Committee Meetings
 5:00 PM NTA PERC/ Website Meeting
 6:15 PM NCPC Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

9:00 AM School Visitation
 10:00 AM NTA Auxiliary Meeting
 1:45 PM Opening Plenary Session
 3:15 PM Workshop "Propulsion and Power for
 the 21st Century"

Thursday, September 11, 2003

8:00 AM Registration Opens
 8:30 AM Technical Career & Opportunity Fair
 Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
 9:00 AM Technical Sessions/Workshops
 NTA Society of Technologists & Technology
 Panel "Patents, Trademarks, Internet Law"
 10:00 AM
 NTA Society of Education
 Past Presidents' Council
 12:00 PM Lunch On Your Own
 1:30 PM Technical Sessions/Workshops
 NTA Society of Engineers & Engineering
 Panel "Technical Entrepreneurship"
 2:00 PM
 NTA Society of Information Science
 3:00 PM
 NTA Delegates Meeting
 6:30 PM President's Reception (Sponsors/
 Exhibitors)

Friday, September 12, 2003

8:00 AM Registration Opens
 9:00 AM Technical Career & Opportunity Fair
 9:00 AM Technical Sessions/Workshops
 NTA Society of Computer Science and
 Computing

9:00 AM Graduate Student Symposium
 10:00 AM Undergraduate Student Symposium-1
 12:00 PM Membership Luncheon

Charles S. Duke Distinguished Lecture Keynote Speaker: Dr. Calvin Mackie

1:45 PM Technical Sessions/Workshops
 Workshop "Bridging the Gap Through
 Appropriate Technology"
 Undergraduate Student Symposium-2
 2:00 PM NTA Society of Scientists and Science
 7:00 PM **Technical Achiever of the Year
 Awards Banquet**
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debra Austin

Saturday, September 13, 2003

8:00 AM High School Student Science Fair
 9:00 AM High School Student Symposium
 10:00 AM NTA Business Meeting
 10:30 AM Orlando Minority Business Panel
 12:30 PM **NTA Auxiliary and Student Awards
 Luncheon**
Keynote Speaker: Judge Gregory Mathis
 3:00 PM NCPC Meeting

*Details Subject to Change

Visit: www.NTAonline.org

WANTED:

**NTA Professional Members
 Who Plan to Attend the NTA 2003 Conference:
 To Chair and/or Judge Student Paper
 Presentation Sessions and Science Fair Session.
 To Volunteer Your Services, please contact
 one or more 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. Moses Garuba
apache@scs.howard.edu
 202-806-4371

Howard University Summer Research Program in Atmospheric Science

Howard University and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center are joint sponsors of the Goddard-Howard Fellowship in Atmospheric Science (GoHFAS) program, held during summers at both locations. This program is open to undergraduate students pursuing degrees in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, or Engineering.

GoHFAS is a paid research internship, in which students work during the summer at NASA Goddard's Laboratory for Atmospheres, with evening educational programs at Howard University. The students receive \$3000 stipends for their research internships, and \$7000 scholarships at their home institutions, at which they also continue working on their research projects (and may travel to a research conference during the school year, to present the results of their research).

The director of GoHFAS is Dr. Sonya Smith, who is also a professor in the Mechanical Engineering department of Howard University and an NTA member.

As part of their educational experiences, this summer's participating GoHFAS students took part in evening seminars and classes on the Howard University campus, in addition to their daytime work at the Goddard Space Flight Center. Among these were a class in Earth & Space Science taught by NTA DC member Dr. George Carruthers, who also represents S.M.A.R.T., Inc. and the DC Space Grant Consortium.

Howard University and S.M.A.R.T. were co-recipients of a NASA grant, via DCSGC, under NASA's Aerospace Workforce Development Program, to develop and offer a new curriculum in Earth and Space Science to be taught at Howard.

At the end of the GoHFAS summer session, a final 2003 Summer Research Program Colloquium was held on July 24, 2003 at Howard University. Following introductory remarks by Dr. Smith, the 9 participating students gave presentations on their summer projects.

This year's participating students, and their home universities and majors, were as follows:

Joseph Bates
(Howard University, electrical engineering)

Lydia Edwards
(Clark Atlanta University, chemical engineering)

Tercora Peterkin
(Winston-Salem State University, biology)

Sheyreese Vincent
(Clark Atlanta University, mechanical engineering)

Linwood Creekmore
(Elizabeth City State University, physics)

Jamal Thompson
(Howard University, mechanical engineering)

Joi Copridge
(Clark Atlanta University, physics)

Christian Douglas
(Clark Atlanta University, mathematics)

Grace-Ann Duncan
(Howard University, physics and painting dual major)



GoHFAS summer students at the final Summer 2003 Program colloquium at Howard University. GoHFAS Director Dr. Sonya Smith is at the left, and Program Coordinator Ms. Darlene Kindred is second from the right.

Important Reminder—NTA Elections Nominations Due for Regional Directors

Deadline for Nominations for the Regional Directors and President-Elect are due **Friday, August 22, 2003!**

The following information should be sent via e-mail (elections2003@ntaonline.org), or by postal mail to:

Henry Ledbetter
NTA Nominating Committee
508 Dale Court
Arnold, MD 21012 Tel. (410) 757-3521

Position Sought Name

Chapter Affiliation (or Member at Large)

Full Mailing Address

Telephone Number (and **e-mail address**, if available)

Statement of Qualifications (including NTA experience and positions held)

Must be Financial Member—Self Nominations OK

Black Technologists 2003 and Workforce Issues

TO: Members and Friends

In 1925, nine technologists (engineers, draftsmen, and scientists), all of the colored men in the city trained in technical schools, met in the YMCA in Chicago to form an organization. We know the organization today as the National Technical Association (NTA). The NTA is now hampered by low public awareness, low membership, and questionable effectiveness.

The original NTA vision saw America as a land of opportunity for the black technologist and a place where one could make a lasting contribution to the social and political fabric of an emerging world power. In today's world, the American way of life, our economy, and the future for our children are under intense pressure from foes foreign and domestic. In a time of unprecedented personal wealth and mistrust of the corporations, which produced it; we are in a world that has been made smaller by disease and technology developments. We live in a country that is unfortunately viewed by many around the world as an arrogant world power.

Today, there is even greater urgency for the existence of a viable NTA, because of its commitment to bringing more African-American students into productive careers as scientists, engineers, and technologists of every stripe and description.

Sadly, the services of talented and purposeful African-Americans in science, technology, and engineering are still not being used to their fullest potential, as evidenced by recent technical workforce studies. In addition, the emergence of a diverse American middle-class in an environment of "legislated fairness" has served to dull (even silence) the voice of dissent that earlier arose from the ranks of NTA and other organizations. In the meantime, there is brainpower going to waste in America's prisons and homeless shelters, and an ever-increasing community of have-nots who are dropping out of school and society. As the *"Minority Technical Voice"*, how long can the NTA remain inept while a crisis of unprecedented proportions afflicts our less fortunate brothers and sisters?

How long can we rest on the achievements and contributions of the past, while the dreams of so many are being crushed by the wheels of an uncaring populace? We are at the threshold of another war in the midst of an American economic and moral tragedy. The time is now for the NTA to reaffirm the legacy forged over the years and assert our voices locally, nationally and internationally on the issue of maintaining national security through a homegrown technically literate workforce.

In the year ending 2001, 163,200 foreign national

were admitted into the US economy under the H-1B program, with half coming from India, followed by Pakistan and China. 40% of these "workers" held technical degrees at the MS level and above and on the average made \$56,000 annually. If the H-1B visa legislation is extended by the 108th congress, we may see a continuation of this very visible indictment of our public education system. We need to gather up our own and provide the nurturing, guidance, and extended family support to those who are truly an "endangered species", the African-American male and even female student who aspires to become an engineer or scientist. This is a priority because our sweet children continue to be channeled out of academic mathematics and science before their thirteenth birthday.

The *No Child Left Behind Act* proposes to bring in local school districts, college math, science, or engineering schools, and others including businesses into partnerships, to improve K-12 math and science education. NCLB is at risk, because Congress has not appropriated all of what is needed to insure successful outcomes. A well-educated workforce is critical to maintaining the success for the high-tech, services, and manufacturing industry segments. Our K-12 education system is just not cutting the mustard.

If we continue to defer leadership responsibility to the uninformed, under-motivated, and culturally color-blind, the dream of 1925 will remain a dream. We need to summon up the resolve of our predecessors and stand ready in this new millennium to re-establish NTA as the *"The Minority Technical Voice"*. We need to be heard.

This is what needs to be done:

- We need to hold school officials and educators accountable for their success or failure, just as natural law holds employees and executives accountable for their failure or success.
- We need to adequately fund public education and teacher preparation.
- We need to have the financial incentives for colleges and universities educating foreign students reduced, and increased to educate American-born students.
- We need to hold universities accountable for how they use funds received under the Higher Education Act, especially those who remain challenged by their inability to recruit African American students.
- We need to monitor all H-1B visa recipients while they are on our soil.
- We need for all Black Technical Organizations (BTO) to collaborate on achieving all or some of the recommendations above.

Lawrence P. King
NTA President 1986-1987
DEBLAR & Associates, Inc.

Free On-Line Resume Service for NTA Members and Conference Attendees

NTA and the Urban Career Center have partnered for the 2003 NTA **Technical Career and Opportunity Fair** Sept. 11-12, 2003 in Orlando, FL. The on-line service, focused on Opportunity Fair participants, is for NTA members who wish to post their resumes and search for career opportunities. Instructions follow:

1. Go on-line to **UrbanCareerCenter.com**
http://www.urbancareercenter.com/Registration/Register_menu.asp
2. Register with a username beginning with "NTA-"
3. Check your e-mail for a password and return to UrbanCenterCareer.com to log in and post your resume.

send an information copy of whatever you send us to your Chapter President and/or Regional Director.

Fall, 2003 Issue Deadline: 7 November 2003

NTA Publications Committee

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

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

Dr. Moses Garuba
apache@scs.howard.edu

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

National Technical Association

1761 East 30th Street, Room 100A
Cleveland, OH 44114
Tel. (216) 298-4425

Operations Manager: Ms. Quelina M. Jordan
NTA Web Site: www.ntaonline.org

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Please of your Last Dues Payment, if not New Applicant

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

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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 _____

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