

# NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS

Volume 13, Issue 1

Fall 2006—Summer 2007

## New NTA Office Location and Operations

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2006 (30 September 2006), the former NTA Operations Manager, Ms. Quelina Jordan, has resigned and the NTA National Office in Cleveland, OH is no longer in operation.

The NTA National Office mailings and correspondence matters are now being handled out of a new office in Washington, DC. Requests for information, or submission of information, to this office will be forwarded to the NTA officer responsible. After hours telephone calls will be handled by phone mail.

The telephone number for NTA business is 202-434-8709 and the FAX number is 202-434-8799.

The postal mailing address is:

**The National Technical Association**  
1200 G Street NW  
Suite 800  
Washington DC 20005



## MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

A Publication of The  
National Technical  
Association  
*Incorporated 1926*

### 2006-2007 NTA BOARD OFFICERS

#### President

Mr. Willie B. Williams

#### Immediate Past President

Dr. William Lupton

#### Secretary

Ms. Cheryl L. Brown

#### Treasurer

Ms. Minena W. Turley

#### Northeast Regional Director

Ms. Stacey Pharrams

#### Southeast Regional Director

Mr. Claude Artis

#### Northwest Regional Director

Mr. Lancert Foster

#### Southwest Regional Director

Mr. Brent Turley

#### Registered Agent

Mr. Rupert Graham

#### NTA Historian

Mr. Edward Taylor

## NTA President's Message



**Willie B. Williams**

## NTA National President's Message

The NTA National Board has seen a surge this year in the energy and efforts of Regions and Local Chapters to continue the legacy of our founders. The Baltimore and Washington DC Chapters have lead the way by hosting the 2007 National Conference. Other chapters continued to host their annual professional and student technical activities, along with their long-time and new supporters. New Chapters, both University Student and Professional, are beginning to make application for Chapter Status. These requests are coming from outlying areas, near existing chapters, and from other states west of the Mississippi, and across the oceans.

The state of California, having the largest student enrollment in the country, has shown a huge interest in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(President's Message, continued from page 1)*

(STEM) efforts of NTA, and have requested, for the first time, to host a National Conference in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. The Board is now considering that alternative.

Encouraging student to participate in STEM studies at their middle schools, high schools, and colleges is the first step to increasing the number of eligible minority engineers and scientists. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), others companies, public and private including institutions of higher learning, by their presence at our 2007 Conference in Baltimore, Maryland put action into their interest in increasing the number of qualified minority applicants, to become engineers, scientists, and astronauts.

NTA has nurtured minority and African American participation in math, engineering, and science since 1926, and continues to recognize our professional members and other individuals who have made major contributions to the STEM field and who have themselves been successful (please see: [www.NTAonline.org](http://www.NTAonline.org) ). The legacy of NTA, which includes continuing efforts to encourage students, minorities, and especially African Americans to pursue math and science careers, also have an interest in Bridging the Gap: Science and Technical Literacy for the 21st Century.

The scientific and technical needs for the 21st century cannot be supported by students having only a requirement for Algebra and Geometry. The minimum need is Calculus, in our high tech society, even today. However, many high school exams include technical questions at higher levels of understanding, although some state requirements are less. NTA is preparing to solicit its chapters and membership to implement a nation-wide effort to assist in bridging this gap of scientific and technical literacy among students, minorities, and especially African Americans.

One way to do this is to establish weekend and summer math/science academies that will address the closing of the widening gap, especially of under-prepared minority students. This will be done by offering lessons geared to reinforce and improve STEM exposure and knowledge. A program that only requires and prepares the majority of its students in algebra, for the 21st century workforce, has already failed

the intent of public education.

Our plan will require the support, advice and direction by federal, state, cooperate and local institutions having an interest in this effort, to help build this bridge. As we begin this dialogue, I call upon NTA, our membership, and all stake holders to collaborate and forge a path together that will lead to the development of the entire US workforce that will support the Scientific and Technical Literacy needs for the 21st century and beyond.

The legacy continues!

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## **NTA National Officers Board Meeting Held at Howard University 13-14 October, 2006**

The NTA national board meeting was held on the campus of Howard University in the Engineering Building (Downing Hall) in Washington, D.C., October 14, 2006. The meeting was called to order by the new National President, Mr. Willie B. Williams. President Williams commenced with swearing in of appointed board members: Treasurer, Ms. Minena W. Turley; Secretary, Ms. Cheryl L. Brown; Northeast & Northwest Regional Director, Ms. Stacey Pharrams; Southeast & Southwest Regional Director, Mr. Brent Turley. Dr. William Lupton serves as the immediate Past-President, and Mr. Rupert Graham serves as the organization's registered agent. Mr. Edward Taylor remains Historian of NTA.

Major items the Board plans to implement include establishing a national robotics program for students across NTA chapters, and increasing professional and student membership across the United States by establishing new NTA chapters nationwide. Plans are underway to commence writing a book chronicling the history of the NTA.

Members are asked to contribute their ideas and inputs into updating the current NTA website by contacting our web master, Brent Turley, with ideas and suggestions for improving the NTA website.

To facilitate the everyday office needs for phone call, mail, and general information, NTA

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

has leased an office suite located in Washington, DC.

Some of the action items that board members will implement over the course of their tenure include, establishing a national robotics program for students across NTA chapters. President Williams and the board are determined to increase professional, and student membership across the United States by establishing new NTA chapters nationwide. Plans are underway to commence writing a book chronicling the history of NTA. In addition, Plans are being made to hold the 2007 conference in the Baltimore/Washington area. The Baltimore and Washington chapters are teaming together to plan the conference.

President Williams ended the meeting by proclaiming a mandate to continue the journey and legacy of NTA that is uniquely rich and ours alone. NTA will continue to be a vibrant resource for current and future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and technologies everywhere, especially minorities.



**Howard University Downing Hall  
School of Engineering**



John H. Thompson, NTA's Historical Publicist, has been active in collecting, publicizing, and archiving the History of the National Technical Association for many years.

## **NTA Board and NTA DC Chapter Members Visit Moorland-Spingarn Archives at Howard University**



NTA President Willie Williams, Southwest Regional Director Brent Turley, NTA Treasurer Minena Turley, Ms. Amy Billingsley, NTA National Secretary Cheryl Brown, and NTA Past President and current NTA DC Chapter Secretary Lester Clemons view NTA historical photos in the Moorland-Spingarn Archives at Howard University.

During the NTA National Board Meeting at Howard University on Friday, October 13, 2006, the board members and other participants toured the Moorland-Spingarn Archives at Howard University, which holds a large amount of historical documents and images of the National Technical Association. The materials archived there will be very helpful to us in creating our planned book on the History of the National Technical Association.

Since these materials cannot be removed from the archives for use elsewhere, the NTA Washington, DC Chapter will have primary responsibility for viewing the available images and documents, and making copies as needed for ultimate use in the proposed History of the NTA document.

The Spingarn Archives were also of great use to us in providing historical information for the NTA 75th Anniversary celebration (*Journal of the NTA*, September, 2001 issue).

## History of the National Technical Association Book Publication Project

One of the most recent projects begun by the NTA, by its Publications and Editorial Review Committee and other NTA members, is to collect information on the history of the NTA, beginning at (or even prior to) its formal creation in 1926. This information would then be published in book form, for broad distribution to NTA members and affiliates, and the general public.

This was also a topic which was discussed at the NTA 2006 Conference in Chicago, the NTA 80th Anniversary program held at Howard University June 17, 2006 (see Summer, 2006 issue of the NTA Newsletter, page 7) and the NTA National Board meeting at Howard University, Washington DC, in October, 2006.

We are seeking, especially from longer-term members of NTA, copies of previous documents (NTA journals and newsletters), especially in the time period prior to 1980, for which our current collection is incomplete. We will return these items to the sender, if desired, after making copies of them for our potential use. We will also appreciate any information about where to find documents of historical relevance.

We also are thankful to those of you who have already provided information. We give special thanks to John H. Thompson for his previous NTA History documents, published in previous issues of the NTA Journal and NTA Newsletter, and to Dr. Kathleen Prestwidge for her contributions and participation in this activity.

NTA National Board members and NTA DC Chapter members visited the Moorland-Spingarn archives at Howard University during the October, 2006 NTA National Board Meeting, to view some of the collection of photographs and documents which are in storage there. Ms. Amy Billingsley (great-granddaughter of NTA founder Charles S. Duke) took several photos of the NTA Board (and NTA DC Chapter) participants who were in attendance.

## NTA Student Chapter Activities

**From: Kaiem Frink (NTA Student President)**  
[mailto:kaiem\_frink@hotmail.com]  
**To: Williams, Willie B. (JSC-OZ)**  
**Subject: RE: Frink NTA**

Greetings,

Serving as the National Technical Association Student President is an extreme honor for Elizabeth City State University and myself. Being introduced to NTA my sophomore year while in pursuit of a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science & Information Systems with guidance from my undergraduate advisor Dr. Linda B. Hayden, Principal Investigator of the Center of Excellence In Remote Sensing Education and Research. (CERSER), which is funded through NSF and CrESIS. Attending the 78th Annual NTA conference in Houston, Texas two days after Katrina, was my first interaction with the organization, and it was such a wonderful experience, I was afforded the opportunity to attend the 80th NTA conference in Chicago IL, where my cabinet and I were elected as National Officers.

My vision, as well as my executive cabinet vision, for the Student Chapter of NTA is a global approach. SNTA's purpose is for the advancement of minorities in the sciences. We would like to see the SNTA chapter go digital, with everything being completed online, whether it's submitting a technical paper, poster, or video footage from the conference.

SNTA is looking forward to hosting an International Video Conference with four of our newly founded NTA chapters in South Africa and one in Western Europe. That will be in collaboration with existing U.S.A. SNTA chapters and our six newly established chapters in the United States of America have SNTA represented throughout the USA and over 50 states and three continents.

**See also Page 13**

For more information, you can visit:

<http://www.kaiemfrink.com>.

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**NTA Baltimore Chapter  
27th Annual Joseph S. Tyler, Jr.  
Awards and Scholarship Banquets**

The NTA Baltimore Chapter held its Annual Banquet on June 6, 2007, honoring Joseph S. Tyler, Jr. at the Forum, located on 4210 Primrose Avenue in Baltimore, MD. This was the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet giving Mr. Tyler recognition for his extraordinary achievements and his pioneering efforts in computer science.

Joseph Tyler received his education at Paul Lawrence Dunbar high school in Baltimore, MD. He majored in mathematics, and minored in physics and chemistry, while at Morgan State College. Mr. Tyler spent the major portion of his career in mathematics and research at the Proving Ground, Maryland where he became Chief, Applied Scientific and Engineering Branch Development Support Division of the Chemical System Laboratory. His expertise was sought after by the local, national, and international scientific communities.

Mr. Tyler was married to Willie Denise and they had two daughters. He had a grandson named Joseph T. Khwane. Joseph Tyler Jr. served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, and elder at Grace United Presbyterian Church.

The Joseph S. Tyler Award was presented to our guest speaker, Dr. William Lupton. He was cited for his accomplishments as an academician and a computer expert, and that he served in the office of President of the NTA from October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2006.

**Baltimore was the site of the NTA 2007  
National Conference (see pp. 9-11)**



The Baltimore Chapter held its 26<sup>th</sup> Joseph S. Tyler, Jr. Scholarship Awards Banquet in Baltimore, Maryland on June 7, 2006. The theme of the banquet was “Keeping Pace with the Technology Revolution” with 125 individuals in attendance. Dr. William Lupton, the National President, gave the keynote address. The following awards were given:

**Middle School Scholastic Achievement  
Awards**

\$ 100 Savings Bonds

Antonio Garrison, Patapsco Elementary /Middle  
School

Mykerria Cunningham, Harlem Park Middle School

**High School Senior Scholarship**

\$ 1,050.00

Brandon McCollum, W.E.B. Dubois High School

**Teacher of the Year Plaques**

Marion Beasley, Harlem Park Middle School

Debrah Chavis-Alston, Guilford Elementary/  
Middle School

**NTA Baltimore Chapter Mentor of the Year  
Plaque**

Osborne King

**Joseph S. Tyler Jr., Award Plaque**

William L. Lupton

**Other NTA Baltimore Highlights**

The Baltimore Chapter participated in the Annual 2007 Guilford Elementary School Career Day Program. NTA members Clifton Kearney, Edward Taylor, and Fred Oliver were participants in the program.

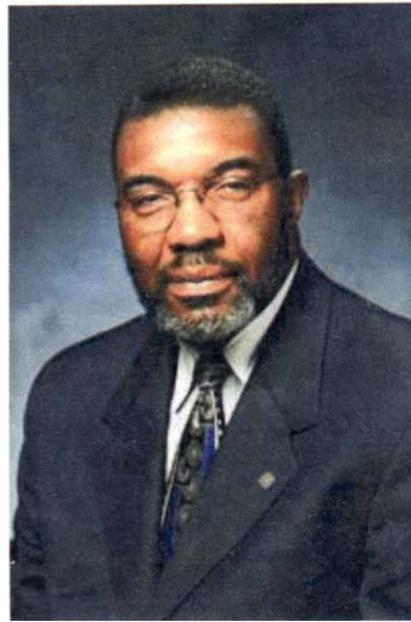
The Baltimore Chapter manned the NTA booth at the 2007 Black Engineer of the Year conference, held in Baltimore. NTA members Maxine Taylor, Roscoe Monroe, Bill Lupton, Osborne King, Claude Artis, and Fred Oliver took turns covering the booth during the 3-day conference.



### **NTA Past President Larry King Has New Assignment**

Lawrence P. King, of Deblar and Associates, Inc., has accepted a contract assignment as Environmental Health Specialist with the Center of Disease Control (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry, (ATSDR). In this assignment, King will assist and support professional and scientific staff conduct quality assurance reviews of scientific data, research technical issues & interpret environmental health data developed for process consultations, public health assessments, exposure investigations, and technical assistance activities between the Agency and states.

Previously, King has devoted 20 years working with energy and environmental research technologists to develop advanced energy systems and environmental controls, interpreting PCB remediation plans, designing environmental education strategies, and serving with the Community Outreach & Communication working group to help plan for the National Children's Study led by the National Institute of Health, (NIH).



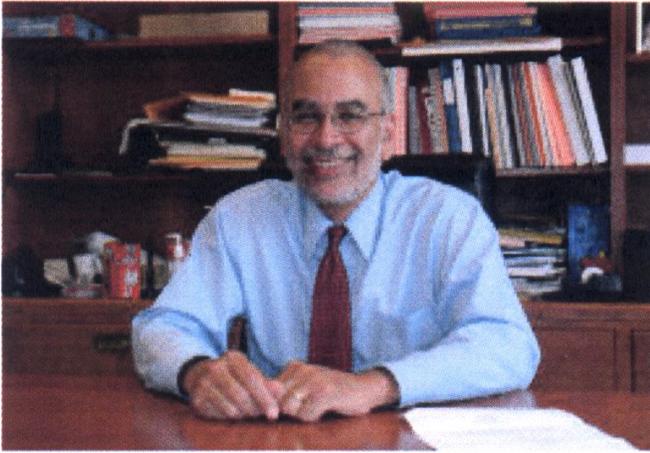
### **Robert Shepard Wins Science Spectrum Award**

Dr. Robert Shepard, of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and the Science and Engineering Alliance, Inc. (SEA), is one of three Laboratory employees to win awards from *Science Spectrum* magazine for being top performers in their fields.

An organic chemist by training and education, Dr. Shepard is also the founding executive of the Science and Engineering Alliance, Inc., a nonprofit education research consortium of four historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) located in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. The SEA, headquartered in Washington, DC, collaborates on research projects for government agencies, the private sector, and other universities to increase the participation of faculty in underrepresented academic institutions in a broad range of scientific and technical disciplines.

Dr. Shepard joined the SEA at its inception in 1990, giving up his prestigious position at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Dr. Shephard has also devoted a significant portion of his time in support of science and technical education in the DC-area public schools, and is an affiliate of the NTA Washington, DC Chapter.



### **Rupert Graham Appointed Cook County, Illinois Highway Superintendent**

NTA member and Registered Agent Rupert Graham, Jr., P.E., has been appointed as the new Cook County Highway Superintendent. He serves as the County's first African American to head this multi-million dollar agency, a role he has held as interim Superintendent since the retirement of the previous appointee.

He has over 30 years of professional experience, including over 20 years of service with municipal, county, and state infrastructure projects, primarily in the consulting engineering arena. His background includes experience with several civil engineering firms, including two African-American-owned companies, F. E. Jordan and Associates, and Jackson, Tull, and Graham, Inc.; the latter of which he served as principal partner in the Chicago office. He also has worked for Lucent Technologies and the Chicago Department of Water Management.

He holds a B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and a M.S. degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Since he joined the Highway Department in 2006, Graham has worked to improve communications and working relationships between the department's Equipment and Road Maintenance divisions, create a system of computerized equipment work order requests that help track the status of equipment, implement a computerized system for configuring Road Maintenance Snow Patrols for each Maintenance District, and document procedures to allow a more

uniform approach for snow removal. Graham has also promoted a more aggressive computer training program for the Maintenance Bureau, and has overseen the beginning of a pilot roadbuilding program that utilizes recycled tires in repaving projects, a multi-agency effort that is expected to take thousands of tires— and the environmental challenges they pose— out of the waste stream.

“Rupert Graham's formidable technical skills and grasp of new technology make him a perfect fit in our efforts to modernize policies and procedures in the Highway Department,” said President Stroger. “He comes with outstanding academic and professional credentials, and the ability to recognize the Highway Department's strengths and inspire staff to sharpen their effectiveness in key areas.”

Graham will oversee one of the largest roadbuilding and infrastructure maintenance operations in the region. In the past 5 years, Cook County has designed, let, and awarded \$375 million in highway construction contracts. That includes \$80 million in projects scheduled for the 2007 season, and \$330 million in projects for the 4-year period between 2006 and 2010.

### **NTA Washington, DC Chapter Holds 2007 Mathematics Contest**

The Washington, DC Chapter of NTA and the University of the District of Columbia held their 2007 Mathematics Contest on April 28 at UDC. As in previous years, students from many schools in DC and the surrounding Maryland and Virginia suburbs participated.

The theme of this year's contest was: **Mathematical Literacy in the 21st Century.**

A total of 147 students from 24 schools registered for the contest. The number that participated was 56, of whom 31 took the Basic Test and 24 took the Advanced Test.

In the photographs shown here (see page 8), NTA DC Chapter member Lester Clemons, who was primary director of the mathematics contest, is on the right, the student awardee is at center, and the school teacher and/or principal involved is to the left.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# NTA Washington, DC Chapter 2007 Mathematics Contest Awards Presented



**First Place– Basic Test Award**  
Bryan Frazier (8th Grade, Hardy Middle School)



**First Place– Advanced Test Award**  
Kevin Mbakop (12th Grade, Oxon Hill High School)



**Second Place- Basic Test Award**  
David T. Cao (8th Grade, Thomas Jefferson Middle School)



**Second Place– Advanced Test Award**  
Christopher Barrera (12th Grade, Yorktown High School)



**Third Place- Basic Test Award**  
Raymond L. Jones, III (8th Grade, Eugene Burroughs Middle School)



**Third Place– Advanced Test Award**  
Aime V. Mbakop (12th Grade, Oxon Hill High School)

# The National Technical Association



## 2007 NTA Annual National Conference

Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel

Baltimore, MD July 18-21, 2007



Former astronaut and NASA Administrator Frederick D. Gregory (at left), NTA President Willie Williams (at right), and hotel representative (center), at the NTA 2007 Conference



NTA 2007 Conference  
Registration Desk and Crew

Ms. Minena Turley (NTA National Treasurer) at left, and Amber Turley



Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Director of the NASA Glenn Research Center, was one of the invited speakers at the NTA 2007 Conference.



Dr. Aprille Ericsson participated in the NTA Conference and gave presentations to the student audience.



Students participating in a robotics competition, held at the NTA 2007 Conference.



Dr. Fred Oliver (left) and Morgan State University student presenters at the NTA 2007 Conference

## National Technical Association 2007 National Conference Technical Achiever Awards Program

As part of the NTA 2007 Conference, the final closing ceremony was a banquet with presentation of the Technical Achiever of the Year awards. These are for the achievements of the various technical fields by its members.

The achievers this year for each of these awards were as follows:

### Architect

**R. Steven Lewis**

### Engineer

**Joan E. Higginbotham**

### Technologist

**Janice L. Buckner**

### Medicine

**Dr. Vincent Idemyor**

### Computer Scientist

**Lisa Y. Hammond**

### Educator

**Dr. Cindy Holland**

and

**Cathleen M. Jenkins**

Our congratulations to all!



Astronaut Robert Curbeam (at right) was one of the NTA Conference presenters and participants.



Panel discussions, as well as technical paper presentations, were held at the NTA 2007 Conference.



**Dr. Pamela Denkins Honored by  
Texas Southern University**

NTA member and NASA Johnson Space Center scientist and administrator Dr. Pamela Denkins was recently honored by Texas Southern University by inviting her to be commencement speaker at their August 11, 2007 graduation ceremony.

Dr. Denkins is a graduate of TSU, where she got her bachelor's degree in physics, a master's degree in mathematics, and a doctorate in environmental toxicology.

Presently, she is Technical Officer and Grants Administrator for the Human Research Program Ground-based Research Initiatives.

In her commencement speech, she described her own TSU/NASA relationship, which began in 1968, the year she became a NASA junior cooperative education student, and also her work with NASA programs, some of which were implemented at TSU since 2002.

She also gave accolades to NASA's programs, which are "designed to educate, inspire, and promote interest in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology careers, education, and small business initiatives.

She closed her speech by reiterating the need for engineers and researchers in NASA's work force, and how institutions like TSU could fill that void.

She also encouraged the graduates to "visualize their success so that they may achieve their goals."

**NTA Baltimore Chapter  
New Officers Elected  
As of 18 October 2007**

**President:** Fred Oliver

**Vice President:** Ernest Hammond

**Recording Secretary:** Bill Lupton

**Corresponding Secretary:** Maxine Taylor

**Treasurer:** Roscoe Monroe

# NTA Student Chapters

**The following are the current NTA National Student Officers.**

**National SNTA President**

Kaiem L. Frink (Elizabeth City State University)

**National SNTA Vice President**

Unquiea Wade (Elizabeth City State University)

**National SNTA Treasurer**

Lee Smalls, Jr. (Elizabeth City State University)

**National SNTA Secretary**

Bryce Carmichael  
(Elizabeth City State University)

**The following are the current NTA Student Chapters and their representatives.**

**Boston University**

Billy Andre

**Talladega University**

Joseph Mingo

**Kutztown University**

Jonathan Garcia

**Cabrini University**

Eric Pendleton

**Jarvis Christian University**

Ryan Tubbs

**Elizabeth City State University**

Akeem Archer

**Temple University**

Porshia Tomlin

**Indiana University, Pennsylvania**

Zarniah Cogbill

**North Carolina Central University**

Amber E. Smith

**Alvernia University**

Ieshiea Anderson

**Texas Southern University**

Roisson Gill

**Morgan State University**

Tameka Taylor

**University of Dar es Salaam (Tasmania)**

Paul Salia, Ziyanda Ndyoko

**University of Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa)**

Susan Kimathi, Fafa Gbeho, and Chrysantus Ayangafac