

◆ NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS ◆

Volume 7, Number 1

Winter 2001

NTA 2001 Conference “The Legacy of NTA: Scientists, Engineers, Architects, Technologists, and Educators-75 Years of Turning Dreams into Reality”

The Year 2001 Conference of the National Technical Association is scheduled for **September 26-29**, at the **Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Atlanta, GA**. 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 **August 17, 2001**.

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 **August 17, 2001**.

Dr. George Carruthers
Code 7609, 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

**Conference Registration Fees
All Presenters and Participants
must register** (see Rate Table, below).

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

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NTA Board of Directors Meets at Morgan State University

The first meeting for the year 2001 of the NTA Board of Directors was held at Morgan State University, in Baltimore, MD, on February 17, 2001.

Topics of discussion included a new membership drive, planning for the 2001 Annual Conference, and the status of the NTA web site and publications. Committee reports included those of Policy and Planning, Publications, Web Site, Membership, Awards, and Finance, as well as Treasurer's, Executive Director's, and Regional Director's reports.

The 2001 Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA September 26-29, 2001, at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center. Atlanta is a good location because of its proximity to several historically Black colleges and universities. Also, NTA can potentially benefit from contacts made during the MU-SPIN conference held in Atlanta in September, 2000, in which several NTA members participated.

In the area of finances, there are some problems (for both NTA and potential 2001 Conference attendees) which may result because both the 2000 conference (October 2000) and the 2001 conference (September 2001) fall in the same government fiscal year.

President Coleman emphasized the importance of each chapter providing
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NTA 2001 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The National Technical Association is in need of the active participation, and financial support (by payment of dues), of its current and past members, and also seeks **new members**. Therefore, we are initiating a special **membership drive** in which we have **reduced annual dues of professional membership to \$25.00**. Currently active members are urged to pay the regular dues of \$75.00 **and nominate two of your friends or associates for free first-year memberships**. (See Below and Page 7.)

Please Copy Application Form (p. 7) and Fill Out for Gift Memberships, as well as your own.



NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION

TEAM NTA

Three-For-One Membership Campaign

In Honor of Our
75th Anniversary*

CY 2001 National Dues Reduced to \$25.00

And Consider:

Give Two (2) \$25.00 **Gift Memberships** for Family and Friends to Join NTA

| | |
|---|---|
| Send Dues ⁺ , Name, Addr., & Phone to: NTA PMB 221, Suite 120 5810 Kingstowne Center Drive Alexandria, VA 22315-5711 | Or Renew Online: http://www.ntaonline.org/ |
|---|---|

*See You in Atlanta, GA for the NTA National Conference
September 26 – 29, 2001*

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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!

Registration Fee Schedule

| <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 |

Hotel Information

NTA Conference Room Rate is **\$69.00** plus tax. We encourage early advance reservations!

Ramada Inn and Conference Center

415 Armour Drive
Atlanta, GA 30324

Tel. (404) 873-4661
FAX (404) 872-1292

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

Further Conference Information will appear in the next issue of the *NTA Newsletter* and on the NTA Web Site, <http://www.ntaonline.org/>

Mailing Address:

National Technical Association, Inc.
PMB 221, Suite 120
5810 Kingstowne Center Drive
Alexandria VA 22315-5711

NTA Baltimore Chapter Year 2000 Report

During the past year, the Baltimore Chapter accomplished the following:

1. Held a Mathematics Contest at Morgan State University on Saturday, April 29, 2000. Monetary Awards of \$50.00, \$25.00 and \$15.00 and trophies were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for High, Middle, and Elementary Schools.
2. The Chapter conducted a 3T Program Workshop for teachers at Harlem Park Middle School on May 25, 2000. Teachers and NTA members were in attendance.
3. The Chapter held its Annual Joseph S. Tyler, Jr. Scholarship Awards banquet on June 7, 2000. The guest speaker was James L. Harrington, who is the MU-SPIN Project Manager and is employed by NASA. The following awards were made:

Middle School Student \$ 100.00 Savings Bond

Erika Cottman
Harlem Middle School

High School Student \$ 1000.00 Scholarship

Darien Palmer
Southern High School

Teacher Award

Joseph Gwin
Southern High School

Community Institution

Macedonia Baptist Church

NTA Mentor of the Year Award

Roscoe Monroe
Baltimore Chapter Member

Joseph S. Tyler Jr. Award

James Harrington, Jr.
Project Manager, MU-SPIN
NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center

Chapter members, including students and staff of Morgan State University, also participated in the planning, preparation for, and implementation of the NTA 2000 Conference held in Hampton, VA October 18-21, 2000. They also presented papers and otherwise actively participated in the Conference.

NTA Washington, DC Chapter Year 2000 Report

During the year 2000, the most important single activity of the Chapter was in support of the NTA National Conference held in Hampton, VA October 18-21.

DC Chapter President James Harris also serves as Co-Executive Director of the NTA, and Publications and Editorial Review Committee members George Carruthers, John Trimble, and Jesse Bemley had major responsibility for soliciting presentation abstracts from both professional and student participants, and for preparing the Compendium of Abstracts and other documents issued to Conference participants.

Other activities included the NTA DC Mathematics Contest (Wyllona Harris, chairperson), held April 15, 2000 at Wakefield High School in Arlington, VA.

Chapter members Lester Clemons, Jesse Bemley, George Carruthers, Arthur Southerland, Freddie Hill, and Richard Thomas continued their education outreach activities with DC-area public schools (including serving as science fair judges). Dr. Jesse Bemley was on temporary detail, by the Army Department, to work with teachers and staff at Anacostia Senior High School to assist them in setting up computer facilities and providing them with Internet access.

Anacostia High School was the lead school among 23 partners in the **Anacostia Digital Village** (ADV) proposal, submitted to Hewlett-Packard in response to the HP Digital Village Initiative opportunity. This program would provide funds, services, and equipment totalling \$5 million over a 3-year period, to bridge the digital divide in currently under-served communities.

The ADV was one of 6 finalists (for two final awards) out of 841 proposals, which also included the East Baltimore Empowerment Zone. A team of six HP executives visited Anacostia HS on January 24, 2001. Dr. Howard Brown of the DC Public Schools served as the tour guide. The East Baltimore Empowerment Zone was one of the two funded initiatives, announced February 14, 2001.

Chapter members Valerie Thomas and George Carruthers took part in the Minority University-Space Interdisciplinary Network (MU-SPIN) Conference held in Atlanta, GA September 11-16, 2000, as well as a MU-SPIN Space Mission Involvement Workshop held at Morgan State University December 9-10, 1999.

The Chapter is thankful to the Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres (CSTEA) at Howard University, for use of their facilities for our monthly meetings.

NTA Space Coast Chapter Year 2000 Report

The Space Coast, Florida Chapter of the National Technical Association 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 STAR Program objectives include the following:

- (1) Increase and maintain public awareness and understanding of science and technology, and its benefits and impacts to our daily lives.
- (2) Make available special academic and non-academic guidance to reduce the risk of student dropout.
- (3) Increase the participation of at-risk students in the higher phase mathematics, science and vocational courses offered in public schools, or other technical and social enrichment activities provided through alternative learning programs.
- (4) Encourage private businesses and government to employ at-risk students for early job experience to bring an awareness of career opportunities, and the practical understanding of why pursuing an education is an important means for achieving a career with good pay.
- (5) Promote a volunteer community services corps for youth and adult participation, to encourage development of social interaction skills for improved community-wide relationships.
- (6) Enable non-technical community-based organizations to enhance and expand their services within the community to address the basic needs (social, health, education, welfare, civic awareness, etc.) of its residents for an improved quality of life.

FY99-00 ACTIVITY GOALS ACCOMPLISHED

The Space Coast, FL Chapter has served over 900 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 77 students 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.

SAT/Math Tutorial. High school students provided assistance in reviewing and learning strategies and skill builders for SAT success. NTA Financial Officer, Welmon Speed tutored these sessions 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.

Activity #2 Computer and the Internet

Over 400 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 information superhighway.

After-School Lab: Students used the computers/Internet to complete school assignments, improve basic computer competency, learned to type or selected a computer program for pleasure or to work on special projects such as letters, cards or banner. Students who wrote a brief note to the President via the Internet were delighted to receive a response.

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 7th 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 ninety-five year youngster. They have accessed the net for information and some have e-mailed. Our Seniors are anxious to participate 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.

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annual Chapter Reports, including membership and financial information, as these are needed for our interactions with IRS and with charities such as the Combined Federal Campaign. She also mentioned that, contrary to the tentative plan made at the last board meeting to combine the Web Site and Publications committees, these will remain as separate committees for the time being (the Web Site committee currently is part of the Operations and Management committee).

In the area of Publications, NTA Past President Carrington Stewart has met with Mr. Preston Edwards of Black Collegiate Services, Inc., a past Publisher of the *NTA Journal*, to discuss possibilities for resumption of the publication of our Journal (with the initial objective being the publication of a special NTA 2001 Conference issue).

Concerning the Web Site, financial issues have resulted in lack of maintenance since the 2000 Conference, but this is currently being resolved. It is planned to have the NTA 2001 Conference announcement posted on the Web Site, and (if practical) to have the capability for on-line registration (with adequate security for payment by credit card).

The membership drive, which provides an incentive for new members to join or past members to renew, was discussed. It was emphasized that currently active members should both renew their own memberships and provide "gift" memberships to others they feel are appropriate candidates.

The NTA Baltimore Chapter sponsored a reception for the Board Meeting participants following the close of the meeting.



NTA Board of Directors meeting at Morgan State University, February 17, 2001. From near right, counterclockwise, attendees are Frank Robinson, Yolanda Hinton, Katherine Coleman, Albert Johns, Gilbert Haynes, and George Carruthers.

NTA Detroit Chapter Year 2000 Report



NTA Detroit Chapter members (seated) Mrs. Lyla Washington, Mr. Ron Baker; (standing) Dr. Allesia Gillespie, Mr. Wallace Ribbron, Mr. Vincent Stuart.

In December, 2000 the NTA Detroit Chapter celebrated the completion of 24 months of chapter meetings, with a membership supper meeting and board breakfast. The Chapter held its election in December. Dr. Allesia Gillespie, Mr. Wallace Ribbron, and Mr. Vincent Stuart retained their positions as elected officers - Secretary, Treasurer, and Chapter Advisor, respectively. Mrs. Lyla Washington was re-elected to a second term as President, and was honored with a plaque of recognition from the membership. It contained the citation, "To Mrs. Lyla M. Washington, President Detroit Chapter, The National Technical Association: In Appreciation for your Outstanding Leadership and your Dedication to Our Organization Local Communities; the Detroit NTA Chapter Membership, October 2000".

Mr. Vincent Stuart was chairman of the Nominating Committee, and Mr. Ron Baker installed the officers.

Chapter Goals:

- Increase female representation in engineering, consistent with college graduation rates
- Reach out to all engineers, scientists, and architects
- Increase Membership by 100%
- Increase Chapter attendance at the NTA National Conference
- Continue National membership – all local dues payments must include national dues.

Activities and Programs:

The Merrill Lynch Scholarship Builder Program –

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Goodale Elementary School graduates of the year 2000 will be provided a college education funded by a trust fund supported by the Merrill Lynch Foundation. Support services are tutoring, mentoring, and career guidance for the next 12 years provided by the Detroit Urban League and the Detroit school system. The agenda will concentrate on younger age, lower-grade students, starting earlier to avoid the "Drop Out of School disease". The program is under way with the support of retired professionals. We hope to build a larger membership with professional educators and the school board.

Year 2000 Scholarships:

Mr. Clarkson Morgan, Cody High School
Chemistry Major, \$500

Mr. Kelvin Kareem, Cass Technical High School
Engineering (General), \$200

Ms. June Roquemore, Cody High School
Veterinary Studies, \$100

Students were sponsored by Mr. William Anderson
(Chemistry Instructor, WC3/Cody High School).

Year 1999 Scholarships:

Ms. Myra Gillespie, Cass Technical High School
Engineering (now attending Michigan State University), \$700

(attended the 1999 NTA Conference)

Educational Enrichment Program:

The Organization of Black Scientists (OBS), in conjunction with NTA, has established the Educational Enrichment Program which provides tutoring in math, science, and computer technology. Job placement service, as well as motivational enrichment, is also an element of the program. Detroit Chapter members involved in implementing this program are Dr. Allesia M. Gillespie, Mr. Wallace Ribbron, and Mr. Kim Hange.

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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 210 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. 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 "hand-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.

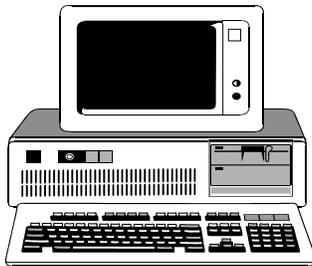
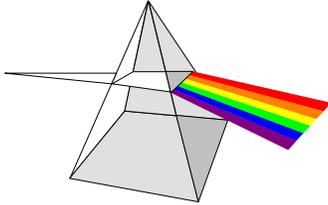
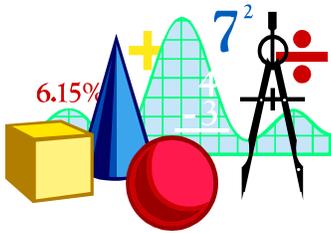
Other Activity #3 Cocoa West Workshops included:

October - Computer Literacy Month Contest and Internet Time, Print Shop Workshops; **December** - Christmas Card/Kwanzaa Chain Workshop & Winter Camp 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! & "My Dream for the Future" Essay Contest for grades 7-12, **May** - Black Health and Fitness Week (Week of Daily Activities including Aerobics, Blood Pressure Lecture, Stress for Kids, Healthy Heart and Walk for Your Health); **June, July, August** - Reading for Fun, Choosing A Career Path, Drug Awareness, Summer Camp Computer Time; **September** - Senior Celebration of life Program

Activity #4 College and Educational Awareness Programs

Over 77 people participated in one or more of the two 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,

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PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

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

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

Please submit to EACH of the following:

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

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

Dr. John Trimble
trimble@scs.howard.edu
(202) 806-4822

Please Contact the NTA Office for ADVERTISING RATES in this Newsletter!

In This Issue...

NTA 2001 Conference Announcement—Year 2000 Chapter Reports

National Technical Association, Inc.
PMB 221, Suite 120
5810 Kingstowne Center Drive
Alexandria VA 22315-5711

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