

# ◆ NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS ◆

Volume 8, Number 4

Fall 2002

## NTA 74th National Conference Held in Las Vegas, NV September 14-17, 2002



The ancient and the modern provided an interesting contrast for the NTA 2002 Conference, held at the Excalibur Resort Hotel in Las Vegas, NV.

The first day, September 14, was primarily devoted to the NTA Board of Directors meeting, which included final preparations for the Conference and also for the leadership transition, with Incoming President Frank Robinson, Jr. taking over from Immediate Past President Katherine Coleman.

The second day, September 15, included our School Visitations, a first for the Las Vegas area (the most westerly of any recent NTA Conference site). Thirty NTA members (including astronaut Leland Melvin and incoming NTA President Frank Robinson) visited two high schools, one middle school, and two elementary schools, giving presentations and encouragement to the students to study math and science, and to prepare themselves for potential careers in science, engineering, or technology. We

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**MEMBERSHIP  
NEWSLETTER**  
A Publication of The  
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### 2002-2003 NTA BOARD OFFICERS

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## President's Message



**Frank Robinson, Jr.**

### Joint Leadership Team Summit Held

On November 9, 2002 the Joint Leadership Team of the National Technical Association held a summit in Cleveland, Ohio to develop the strategic goals and objectives for the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year. Included in this leadership delegation were the National Executive Committee (All present); The Regional Directors (All present); and Local Chapter Presidents (Cleveland, Houston, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Jackson State). The team accomplished this task by first identifying the major risks to the organization, and then applying knowledge management principles to prioritize these risks so that our precious few resources are utilized strategically to address our most pressing risks first. As a

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### NTA Joint Leadership Summit, Cleveland, OH

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result, we established the following top five goals for 2002-2003:

#### Goals:

- 1.) Improve the membership processing and solicitation process.
- 2.) Address our dwindling "revenue streams" at all levels.
- 3.) Establish a new permanent location and the functionality of the National Office.
- 4.) Improve our Public Relations/Marketing Strategies
- 5.) Assure NTA Organizational Alignment of Goals (National, Regional, and Local Chapters).

Other goals that were discussed, that will be addressed as we complete some of the above stated goals, were improving internal communication, obtaining diversified sponsorship, establishing a National Scholarship Program, improving poor Chapter meeting attendance, and improving our student programs.

We then addressed, what are the objectives that we are trying to realize for each goal. Our approach was to develop mitigation strategies that would help us to achieve each goal. For example, for "Improve Membership" our objectives/mitigations for 2002-2003 are as follows:

- 1.) Improve Membership
  - a.) Centralize Processing at National Office Only
  - b.) Standardize Dues for All Levels:
    1. \$50.00 Standard Organizational Dues (\$25 National, \$15 Local, \$10 Regional).
    2. The NTA National Office will be responsible for all processing, responses, and dissipation of funds.

At the close of the evening, I am pleased to announce that the Joint Leadership Team had a clear agenda for 2002-2003, that will continue to revive this organization into an International Technical Association that develops its membership, energizes its youth, and promotes the accomplishments of its constituency for many future generations to come.

*(NTA Conference, Continued from page 1)*

also spoke with teachers and principals at the schools, to inform them about the NTA and our continuing support of technical education and outreach.

The local schools' participation in the NTA Conference did not end with the school visits. Several schools had students who attended the NTA Auxiliary Luncheon on Friday, Sept. 27, and heard NASA Deputy Administrator Frederick Gregory's speech. We also had attendance by students from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

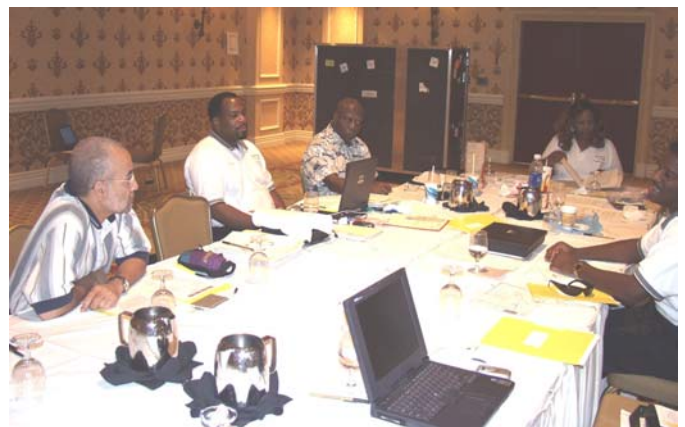
The third and fourth days of the Conference included paper presentations by professionals and students (graduate, undergraduate, and high school), special seminars and workshops, and awards programs. The students also were given the opportunity to visit Hoover Dam, for which NTA provided charter bus transportation, on Thursday afternoon.

The program included 19 professional papers and 20 student papers. This year, for the first time, all professional papers were categorized into sessions (with session chairs appointed in advance) according to the NTA Societies to which they were relevant (Education, Technology, Engineering, Computing, and Science).

The opening Plenary Session featured Dr. Alma A. Allen as keynote speaker. Special workshops included "God as CEO" led by Dr. C. Fred Higgs III; "The Cost of Success" by Dr. Dexter Johnson and Mrs. Philomena Johnson; "Blacks in Management" by Dr. Darryl Tukufu, and "Managing Personal Finances" by Mr. Howard Turnley.

We had an unusually large participation by NASA administrators, including former astronaut Frederick D. Gregory, recently appointed Deputy Administrator of NASA; and NTA Past President James L. Jennings, who was recently appointed Deputy Associate Admin-

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**NTA Board of Directors Meeting, September 24, 2002 at Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas, NV**

**NTA 2002 Conference  
Technical Achiever of the Year Awards**

***Technical Achiever of the Year***

**Dr. Eddie C. Gay**  
Argonne National Laboratory

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Engineer***

**Dr. Daniel Davis**  
Texas Southern University

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Chemist***

**Dr. Eddie C. Gay**  
Argonne National Laboratory

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Scientist***

**Dr. Robert S. Okojie**  
NASA Glenn Research Center

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Educator***

**Jo Ann Charleston**  
NASA Glenn Research Center

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Technologist***

**Gail Wright**  
Batelle-Great Lakes Industrial Technology Center

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Technical Entrepreneur***

**Mr. Gale Burkett**  
GB Tech, Incorporated

***Technical Achiever Award-  
Architect***

**Winston H. Henderson**  
Henderson Architects

***Outstanding Women In Science***

**Katherine W. Coleman**  
C & W Technical Services

**Christyl Johnson**  
NASA Headquarters

***Institutional Award in Education***  
Texas Southern University

***Institutional Award in Business***  
GB Tech, Incorporated

**NTA Membership Awards**

***Samuel R. Cheevers Award***  
**James L. Jennings**  
NASA Headquarters

***A. T. Weathers Technical Achievement  
Award***

**Dr. George Carruthers**  
Naval Research Laboratory

***SNTA Student Achievement Award***

**Carl Seward**  
Elizabeth City State University

**NTA 2002 Conference  
Student Technical Symposium  
Presentation Awards**

***First Place—Graduate***

**Samuel R. Collins**  
Clark Atlanta University and Georgia Institute of  
Technology  
“XML Schema Mappings for Heterogeneous  
Database Access”

***First Place—Undergraduate***

**Carl W. Seward**  
Elizabeth City State University  
“Working on a Toroidal Large Hadron Collider  
Apparatus Transition Radiation Tracker  
(ATLAS TRT) Experiment”

***Second Place—Undergraduate***

**Meagan Wright**  
Clark Atlanta University  
“Durability Studies on the Effects of Humidity and  
Temperature on Aspen Fiber/Polypropylene  
Composites”

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**Third Place—Undergraduate**

**Vincent Davis**

Elizabeth City State University  
 “Microcalorimeters in Astro-E2 and Constellation X”

**Honorable Mentions— Undergraduate**

**Ismail A. Samad**

Case Western Reserve University and Cuyahoga  
 Community College  
 “Estimating Tributary Habitats Using GIS Databases”

**Stern Sabaroche**

Texas Southern University  
 “Solar Battery-Free Refrigerator”

**Vernon Webb**

Morgan State University  
 “Transmission Mossbauer Spectroscopy of Pulsed  
 Laser-Deposited  $\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  Thin Film”

**Louanne Christopher**

Morgan State University  
 “Study of Iron Bearing Phases in Coal Using  
 Mossbauer Spectroscopy”

**First Place—High School**

**Bryan Bemley**

Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC  
 “Lego Mindstorms: A Smart Toy”

**Second Place—High School**

**Ayannah Buford**

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt, MD  
 “Introduction to the Internet”

**Third Place—High School**

**Jessye Bemley**

Archbishop Carroll High School, Washington, DC  
 “The Sun-Earth Connection”

**NTA Auxiliary Special Award**

**Dr. Mildred F. Johnson**

Former Executive Director  
 National Technical Association

For her outstanding support of the NTA  
 1990-1999



NTA members visiting and presenting at Eldorado High School in Las Vegas, NV: from left, Aprille Ericsson, William Lupton, Woodrow Whitlow, Leland Melvin, and Frank Robinson



NTA members presenting at Clark High School in Las Vegas, NV



Leon Collins (standing) and Lester Clemons presenting at Wendell ES in Las Vegas, NV



**NTA Conference On-Site Registration Desk and Hard Working Crew**



**“NASA’s Finest” get-together at the NTA 2002 Conference:**

From left, Leland Melvin (Astronaut, NASA Johnson Space Center), Frederick D. Gregory (Deputy Administrator, NASA Headquarters), Donald J. Campbell (Director, NASA Glenn Research Center), James L. Jennings (Deputy Associate Administrator for Institutions and Assets Management, NASA Headquarters), and Frank Robinson, Jr. (NTA President and NASA Glenn Research Center).



**Dr. Alma Allen, Astronaut Leland Melvin, and NTA Immediate Past President Katherine Coleman at the NTA 2002 Conference**



**Mrs. Philomena Johnson and Dr. Dexter Johnson facilitated a workshop on “The Cost of Success”.**



**Frederick Gregory, Katherine Coleman, and former NTA Executive Director Dr. Mildred F. Johnson at the NTA 2002 Auxiliary Luncheon**



**Dr. Donald J. Campbell gives keynote presentation at the NTA 2002 Awards Banquet.**

## NTA Board of Directors Meeting September 24, 2002 Las Vegas, NV

The NTA Board of Directors met at the Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas, NV on September 24, 2002. Present were Katherine Coleman, Frank Robinson, Tandra Spain, Dexter Johnson, Philomena Johnson, and George Carruthers. Excused absences were Shelia Wagner and Lakeisha Jones. Mr. Henry Ledbetter assisted in recording the minutes. The minutes of the previous meeting, held June 1, 2002 at the Excalibur Hotel in Las Vegas, were approved with some corrections to the Treasurer's Report.

### Committee Reports

The following Committee Reports were presented or distributed electronically, except as noted:

*Editorial Review:* (Dr. George Carruthers)- Report submitted electronically. Abstracts of presentations for the Conference should be submitted electronically; the NTA Web Site is also set up to receive abstracts.

*Membership Committee:* (Ms. Gloria Moon)- report not received, except recommendation to expand the 3 for 1 campaign (disapproved). It was approved to establish a membership incentive program, with awards to members bringing in new members.

*Web Site:* (Darrell Thomas)- Report submitted electronically

*Audit, Budget, and Finance Committee:* (Dr. Dexter Johnson)- Report submitted electronically

*Operations and Management:* (Katherine Coleman)- report not received

*Honors and Awards:* No chair currently appointed

*National Conference:* (Frank Robinson)- report submitted electronically

*Policy and Planning:* (Al Johns)- report submitted electronically

### Regional Director's Reports

*Northwest:* (Al Johns)- report submitted electronically

*Southwest:* (Shelia Wagner)- not present

*Southeast:* (Eric Green)- not present

*Northeast:* No Director currently

### Other Discussions

Among other issues discussed were: The use of the NTA P.O. box in Alexandria, VA (run by a private company) is being discontinued, and a new U.S. Post Office box in Houston, TX will be used instead. It was recommended that we hire, and devise a plan to pay, an Executive Director, to replace retiring ED Gilbert Haynes. The New Mexico chapter has requested to be placed on inactive status (approved). Delegates meeting will be held Thursday 9/26 at 15:15.



**Elizabeth City State University student Carl Seward presents first-prize-winning paper at the NTA 2002 Conference. This was his second year in a row as first place winner.**

### Willie Williams Awarded NASA Administrator's Fellowship

Mr. Willie Williams, Research Program Manager in the International Space Station (ISS) Payloads Office and a member of the NTA Houston, TX Chapter, was selected, under the NASA Administrator's Fellowship Program (NAFP), for a fellowship hosted by Prairie View A&M University. During his fellowship tenure, Mr. Williams will be supporting and conducting research in the areas of software engineering, telecommunications, and information technology.

In his work at NASA, Mr. Williams has developed an avionics Artificial Intelligence (AI) program, for use by flight controllers in Mission Control to determine the on-orbit status and configuration of the space shuttle's avionics system. He has also served as a Flight Controller for 11 space shuttle missions, and has managed the manifesting, certification, flight readiness, and on-orbit resources definition for more than 10 ISS science experiments. He has also managed the ISS Astronaut Payload Training Office and the construction of the ISS Payload Training Capability.

As an NAFP fellow, Mr. Williams will be involved in advanced engineering research and material science research, among other topics; will assist the PVA&MU College of Engineering in developing software-engineering curricula supportive of the ISS; and will participate in PVA&MU's Recruitment Outreach Program, among other activities.



**NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION**  
**CFC Agency Code #1648**

The 2002 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is now underway. Through the CFC, Federal Employees can direct their tax deductible contributions to the NTA through payroll deduction. The Agency Code for NTA is **#1648**

The CFC is the federal government's only authorized fundraising campaign for charitable organizations. When you receive your CFC pledge card, please select the NTA (agency code **#1648**). The NTA is listed as a member organization of the National Black United Federation of Charities.

Your tax deductible contributions provide much needed support for NTA's scientific and education-based missions. Your donations help fund NTA's national programs for excellence in science, engineering, and technology. Contributions provide scholarships, classroom visitations, and enrichment programs to assist under-served minority youth in pursuing science and technology career fields.

As the nation's oldest technical association of minority scientists and engineers, NTA remains pledged to insure that science and technology serve the needs of the minority community. Please assist the NTA by designating **#1648** as the recipient of your CFC donations. Thank you!

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**NTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

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*(NTA Conference, Continued from page 2)*

istrator for Institutions and Assets Management at NASA Headquarters. Dr. Donald J. Campbell, Director of NASA Glenn Research Center, participated as well. Mr. Gregory was keynote speaker for the NTA Auxiliary Luncheon, and Dr. Campbell was keynote speaker for the National Awards Banquet, both on Friday, September 27.

In all, it was a highly successful conference!

**Our Congratulations to James Askew**

James Askew, of Cincinnati, who has been involved in our NTA Conference entrepreneurial workshops, started a company named Diversitech about 10 years ago. Diversitech was featured in the October 2002 issue of **INC. 500 magazine** (listed as #294). James and his wife Loretta were in attendance at this year's conference in Las Vegas, NV and were a sponsor of NTA.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS!**

Please send news items you feel would be of interest to professionals, students, and educators involved in science/technology fields and/or of interest to the NTA Membership (ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION PREFERRED).

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

We format the Newsletter in Microsoft Publisher 2000. Therefore, submissions in MS Word 97/2000 or PowerPoint 97/2000 are preferred (although Word Perfect and .TXT submissions can be converted). Any photographs or drawings should be black and white or color in .JPG or .BMP format.

**Winter, 2003 Issue Deadline: 7 February 2003**

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**In This Issue...**

**NTA 2002 Conference—NTA Joint Leadership Summit—Conference Awards**

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