



NATIONAL TECHNICAL NEWS

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MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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Partner Spotlight



National Aeronautics
and
Space Administration

NTA Recognizes 2005 Top Honorees



The 2005 NTA Technical Achiever
of the Year Award is presented to

Dr. David Veazie

by NTA President Dr. William Lupton
(left) and the Hon. Al Green.



The 2005 NTA Distinguished Service
Award is presented to

Joyce Lattimore

by NTA President Dr. William Lupton
(left) and the Hon. Al Green.

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NTA 77th Annual Conference Summary

The National Technical Association's 2005 National Conference was held in the Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel. The theme of this year's conference was Energy—concerning its uses, means of acquisition and production, and sources.

Despite difficulties induced by the threat of Hurricane Rita to the Houston area, most of the scheduled activities took place with the support of national officers, national committee members, the Houston Chapter of NTA and many other members and supporters.

Attendees were especially enlightened by a presentation by astronaut Cdr. Robert Curbeam (pictured here), who relayed his experiences in flights on the Space Shuttle.

Among "firsts" was a Robotics Competition, involving high school



students from three NTA chapters.

The grand finale was the Technical Achiever Awards Banquet, in which the Honorable Al Green, Congressman (9th District, Texas) was keynote speaker.

President's Message



Dr. William Lupton
NTA President
2004-2006

One does not need an official title or formal position to be a leader. In fact, some of the best “leaders” don't have “leadership” spelled out in their job description – it's understood.

As you enter any room or meeting, it only takes seconds to know who the leaders are. It's their can-do attitude and determination to see a task through to its successful end that characterizes leaders. I am pleased to say that many, if not all, of our members fit this description.

As an association that has withstood the test of time, I am confident that our

tradition of good spirit, energy and commitment to excellence will allow us to prevail over the many challenges the future is sure to bring.

As I reflect on the accomplishments made over the past year, I am proud to be among the achievers of this fine association. We are NTA. We are leaders. Keep up the good work.

October Board Meeting Highlights

The meeting was held October 22, 2005 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cleveland, Ohio.

In the absence of President Lupton who was attending his mother-in-law's funeral services, President-Elect Willie B. Williams called the meeting to order and delivered the President's Report. He said that the challenge is still with strengthening the membership and identifying new members. He noted that several positions are open for national committee chairs and encouraged members to volunteer.

A suggestion was made by the Operations Manager that the board reinstitute regional conferences to reestablish connections with those unable to attend the national conference. Funding and profit sharing strategies were discussed. NW Regional Director Ronnie Pope, Sr. moved to accept the recommendation and the motion was seconded by Stacey Pharrams. The motion passed.

Other recommendations included establishing a professional development committee, a student development committee and a community outreach committee. SW Regional Director Brent Turley moved to accept the recommendation and the motion was seconded by Ronnie Pope, Sr. The motion passed.

There was a motion by Brent Turley, seconded by Cecilia Wright-Brown to enact a 50% off special on life membership dues from October 1, 2005 through January 31, 2006. This would be available to current members only. The announcement would be sent to the membership by mail and/or by email.

An 80th Anniversary Celebration discussion followed. The conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois July 26-29, 2006.

Submitted by Dr. Linda Hayden, National Secretary, SE Member-At-Large

- **Special Membership Offer**
- **Renewed Events**

Questions about Membership, Programs

The national office is available to address any questions related to membership, programs etc.

Write to NTA, 26100 Brush Avenue, Suite 315, Cleveland, OH 44132 or call (216) 289-4682 or email info@ntaonline.org

Conference Planning Committee Update

In preparation for the 2006 conference in our founding place (Chicago), President Lupton has issued a call for national volunteers.

Serving on a national committee is an excellent opportunity to impact the fulfill the mission of the Association, while developing your own project management and team-building skills. Opportunities range from selecting entertainment options to meeting facilities management to program/speaker identification to travel

coordination. Short-term assistance is welcome for ongoing promotions and publicity efforts.

Please forward name, interest, contact information to the national office by January 1, 2006.

Should you have questions about this committee, please contact the national office via email (info@ntaonline.org) or by telephone (216) 289-4682.



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2005 Technical Symposium Student Winners

Graduate Presentation



1st Place: Schinnel Small, Morgan State University, "Application of Optical Tracking Devices in Synthetic Vision"

2nd Place (Tie): Michelle Stewart, Florida A&M University/Florida State University, "Characterization of Fouling for Maintaining the Energy Efficiency of Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cells (PEMFC)"

Eduardo Gomez, Florida A&M University/Florida State University, "Design, Manufacture, and Performance of a Solar-Powered Water Fountain"

Undergraduate Presentation



1st Place: Kester Garraway and Dionna Dunbar, Clark Atlanta University, "Advanced Aerogel for Aerospace Applications"

2nd Place: Renee Etoty, Morgan State University, "Investigation of Terrain Engines for Synthetic Vision Systems"

3rd Place: Devan Jones, Morgan State University, "DPS Velocity in Conjunction with Eye Tracking Device"

CONGRATULATIONS

Book Review



Dreck S. Wilson

African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865 – 1945

Dreck Spurlock Wilson, Editor
Routledge, 2004
ISBN 0415929598

Long after all of the polemics have faded into oblivion, this book will still be standing as the seminal reference that scholars and lay persons will reach for.

Wilson has included factual information on heretofore loosely speculated on topics such as the 'Negro Buildings.'

He covers the first and still most controversial one built at the Atlanta Cotton States Expo and site of Booker T. Washington's infamous 1895 'Speech.'

There is also welcome factual info on the handful of HBCU based architecture programs that continue to this day to produce nearly half of the nation's black architects.

Several of Wilson's 168 architects have achieved star status in America. Battle lines have been drawn as to who was the 'most important' or 'first' professionally trained black architect. Such accolades have usually been accorded to either Julian Abele (1881-1950) or Paul Revere Williams (1894-1980), depending on ones political worldview.

Wilson, whether intentionally or not, makes it impossible to exclude Robert Robinson Taylor (1868-1942) and Howard University's Hilyard R. Robinson(1899-1986) from of any honest debate about 'firsts' or 'most important.'

Wilson has cleared up several recurring errors in the public domain including one

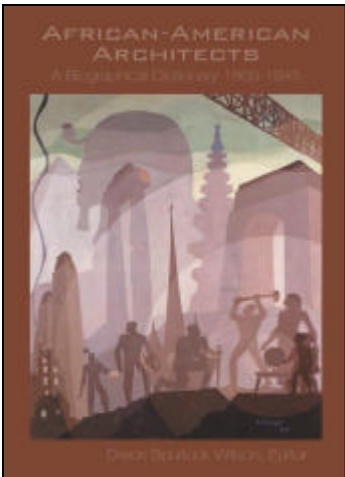
having Abele and Williams matriculating at the Ecole Des Beaux Arts in Paris. Another has Williams graduating from the University of Southern California School of Architecture. The most important error laid to rest is Abele having been the first black graduate of an established architecture school - an honor belonging to Taylor who graduated from MIT in 1892 before joining Booker T. Washington to build his Tuskegee campus.

Wilson clears up the confusion about who was actually the first black female to become licensed in the U.S. - Beverly Loraine Green (1915-1957) who passed the rigorous exam in Illinois at age 27 (that 'first' is usually accorded to Norma Sklarek).

Thanks to Wilson we now have the facts on the four giants - Williams, the eclectic entrepreneur; Abele, the Beaux Arts Francophile who considered himself to be 'a-racial;' Taylor, the master builder of Tuskegee and fountainhead of a school of architect-community developers; and Robinson, the first serious black International Style' modernist.

Wilson's book is just brimming with hard info about people who, often against seemingly insurmountable odds, made significant contributions to the cultural fabric of American life. Wilson has taken away for all times the excuse of 'I didn't know that' when the subject is black (or African American) architects in America between 1865 and 1945.

Reviewed By Melvin L. Mitchell





HAPPY HOLIDAYS

 FROM THE

NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION



Kudos to Members Drs. Earls and Whitlow



Join us in congratulating and thanking Drs. Earls and Whitlow for their accomplishments and services to NASA, and their continued support of the National Technical Association.

Dr. Julian M. Earls, past national president (1976-1977) and co-founder of NTA Cleveland chapter, served as Director of the NASA Glenn Research Center since October, 2003. He is retiring in December 2005.

Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, a long-time NTA member, has been selected by NASA Administrator Dr. Michael Griffin to serve as the next Director of the NASA Glenn Research Center.



2005 Robotics Competition

The NTA 2005 Conference broke new ground, in that it was the first NTA national conference which included a Robotics Competition for middle school and high school students. The participating students were sponsored by the NTA Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Space Coast chapters.

The students demonstrated both their skills in assembling and testing the robots, and utilizing them to perform simple tasks. In the NTA 2005 Conference competition, the students had to direct (by remote control) their robots to perform specific tasks, such as entering and exiting a cave or lifting and emplacing objects.

The team placements, and participating students, were as follows:

- 1st Place: Cleveland—Juwan Mosley, Frank Robinson III, Cameron Whitlock (in red/white)
- 2nd Place: Cincinnati—Angel Ballard, Danny Fluker, Joe King, Tia Ware, Erica Woodson (in green/blue)
- 3rd Place: Space Coast—Darius Thomas, Drake Thomas

Our congratulations to all of the student participants!



80th

Four score, eight decades.. 80 is nigh

The 2006 national conference will celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the founding/incorporation of the National Technical Association.

The conference theme is **Technical Foundations: A Legacy of Achievement**. The conference location is the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, in downtown Chicago. Note, downtown Chicago is conveniently served by rapid transit from both O'Hare and Midway airports.

Plan now for your participation in this historically important conference! Also, please let us know of any suggestions for workshops and/or panel discussions.

We are seeking technical paper presentations by both professionals and college students. Specific details will appear in the Call for Abstracts, which will be announced in the next newsletter issue and at www.ntaonline.org/conference.

Make Reservations Now: 2006 Conference
 Hyatt Regency McCormick Place ~ Chicago, IL
 866.346.3607, Use Code G-NATA for 7/26-29/2006

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