

AABE[®]

All ABout Energy

American Association of Blacks in Energy[™] – Atlanta Chapter
Vol. 6 ♦ August 2007
<http://aabe.org/atlanta>



JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

MONTHLY MEETING

More than 70 members and guests attended the July 12th meeting which focused on “Presenting your best self.”

Letia Scales, founder of e-mode inc., an image consulting firm, gave a lively presentation on how your look and professional image influences the perception of others within the corporate world. Letia presented tips on visual success, your career wardrobe, the total look, and body shape basics. Stigmas and stereotypes were removed on certain styles, and new ideas blossomed on how to promote yourself and still maintain your ethnicity. Special thanks to **Travis Bell, Mary Cantrell, Marcia Dore, Valerie Harris, Kami Jeff** and **Greg Kendrick** who modeled various clothing styles during a fashion show which was also presented.



Dr. Meredith C. Gourdine was the featured Black history maker. His accomplishments were presented by several AABE members in attendance. Photos of

the meeting and a biography of Dr. Gourdine are provided at the end of this newsletter.

ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWS:

ELECTIONS COMING SOON

In accordance with our bylaws, the Atlanta Chapter is seeking nominations for elections of officers during the 2008-2009 term. Officer positions up for election are: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Parliamentarian. Information was emailed to all members in July.

If you are interested in serving our chapter in a leadership position, please fill out the officer questionnaire and send to the Nominations Committee Chairperson, **Valerie Searcy** at vdsearcy@southernco.com by **August 8** no later than 5pm. Elections will occur by electronic voting on September 6 from 8AM to 5PM.

AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING

Learn more about what AABE is doing on a National level, including activities of the national board, AABE's agenda, overall mission, the environment and upcoming conferences during “All About AABE.” Guest speakers are AABE National Board of Directors from the Atlanta Chapter, **Richard Holmes** (GPC) and **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL). The meeting will take place on Thursday, August 9 from 12:00PM to 1PM in the Georgia Power Banquet

Room, located at 241 Ralph McGill Blvd, Atlanta. RSVP to **Cherryl Harris** at 404-506-6689

CBC TOWN HALL MEETING



(Article by **Rosalyn Shareef** Communications First PR): Black Energy, an Atlanta-based energy services company, wants to see black communities more educated on environmental and energy issues.

The company highlighted the issue in a two-hour workshop during the Concerned Black Clergy's (CBC) Monday, July 9th regular meeting from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The seminar was held at the VICARS building on Cascade Road in southwest Atlanta and was facilitated by **Reverend Dr. Richard Cobble**, CBC Vice President for mission.

BlackEnergy's CEO, **Dr. Sonja Ebron**, presented several energy issues to the Concerned Black Clergy in April, but CBC wanted a fuller discussion. Dr. Ebron hopes each pastor, imam and rabbi will take the information presented to their respective congregations to help families make their homes more efficient and environmentally sound.

“Our community hears about ‘global warming,’ but many of us don’t know what that means and the impact it will have on our lives,” explains Dr. Ebron. “We want every home to get educated and concerned about our environment and to take action today,” she adds.

Panelists included **Eric Arnold** and **Clint Lowery** from Georgia Power; **Charlotte King** of Snowden and King Marketing Communications; **Bernard Cameron** from the Georgia Public Service Commission; **Janet Joseph** from the Heating Energy Assistance Team (HEAT); **Wendy Hooks** from the Georgia Department of Human Resources; and **Rev. Woody** and **Carol Bartlett** from Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. The event was co-sponsored by the Atlanta chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy.

25th Anniversary Gala

2007 marks the 25th anniversary of Atlanta chapter being founded. We intend to celebrate with an end-of-year extravaganza available to our entire membership on December 7th. Do you want to help plan our end of year signature event? Please contact event chairperson **Olivia Parks-Woods** at 404-506-2158 or opwoods@southernco.com for volunteer opportunities.

PROMOTIONS

Tiffany Callaway-Ferrell, senior advisor, Federal Regulatory Affairs for AGL, was promoted to manager, asset protection and operations support and will report to **Wendell Dallas**, VP & Gen Mgr, AGLC. In this role, her primary areas of responsibility will be damage prevention, corrosion services, and right-of-way inspection in and around metro Atlanta. Damage prevention specialists, corrosion techs, and row specialists working outside of metro Atlanta in Georgia and Tennessee will

report to local supervisors. Tiffany will also be responsible for the asset protection strategy for Southern Operations. Tiffany brings with her over 10 years of operations experience from General Mills and AGL Resources combined. Her prior roles at AGL include Sr. Business Analyst for Field Operations, Fleet Services Manager and LNG Operations Manager.

Tiffany holds a bachelors degree in chemical engineering from Vanderbilt University and is currently pursuing her MBA at Georgia State University.

Opal Shields is named Director, Call Center Operations. In this role, Opal will be responsible for directing the Customer Care Center, ensuring that the company provides outstanding customer service, meets service level requirements and reaches organizational performance goals. Opal brings 24 years of operational and customer service experience to her new role. Most recently, she served Atlanta Gas Light as region manager, West Georgia, and co-chaired all customer service delivery projects for Southern Operations including the implementation and refinement of Mobility. Prior to her four years with the company, Opal served FedEx for 20 years in a variety of field management and customer service roles, including responsibility for workforce planning and processing customer complaints.

Opal earned her bachelor’s degree, with honors, in Management Communication from Bowie State University, and will continue working toward her MBA this fall.

Jerrold Hill, Manager of client services has been promoted to Operations Manager AGLC.

Jessie Killings, Director of Safety and Training has been

promoted to Region Manager at AGLC.

Jenay K. Johnson, Systems Engineer for Southern Nuclear Company Plant Hatch, has accepted a position as a Transmission Line Design Engineer with Georgia Power Company.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Atlanta Chapter extends a hearty welcome to our newest members, all from Georgia Power...

- ◆ **Glenn Barnes** (Legislative Affairs)
- ◆ **Angela Hosch** (Corporate Communications)
- ◆ **Eddie Kelly** (Customer Service)
- ◆ **Anita Lemon** (Risk Management)
- ◆ **Glenda Thomas** (Supplier Diversity)

AABE NATIONAL NEWS:

AABE Member on CNBC

Houston Chapter member **John Quincey Moaning**, CEO of Blue Diamond Ventures, Inc. will be featured on CNBC on Sunday, August 26 at 9:00 a.m. He will discuss renewable energy resources in the U.S., Africa and Central America. John’s “*China In Africa*” article is featured on the AABE National Website in the News section.

New Regional Coordinator

Appointment for AABE

Debra Smallwood, from Con Edison in New York, has been appointed to AABE Northeast Regional Coordinator covering the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut Chapters. Debra served AABE as the NY Metropolitan Area Chapter President from 2004-2005.

AABE Western Regional Conference: Renewing Our Energy

The AABE Western Regional Conference (WRC) will be held in Denver, Colorado from August 1 - 3, 2007. Please join the Western Region Chapters (Denver, Washington/Oregon, Southern California, Northern California and Alaska) at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 1550 Court Place, in downtown Denver. For registration information, please contact the WRC Chairperson, **Sheila Terry** (Denver Chapter President) at Sheila_terry@nrel.gov or visit the AABE Denver Area Chapter website: <http://aabe.org/denver>.

AABE/ Congressional Black Caucus Meeting

The next quarterly AABE National Board of Director's Meeting will be held September 26 - 29 in Washington, DC at the Grand Hyatt, 1000 H Street NW. The meeting will coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC meeting - www.congressionalblackcaucus.net). The agenda of the 110th Congress includes: supporting the African-American role in the development of alternative fuel sources; support renewable energy solutions; and support climate stabilization & community cleanup efforts. AABE will host a meeting with the CBC to discuss these issues. Please contact the AABE National Executive Assistant, **Lakeesha Wilson**, at lwilson@aabe.org for more information.

AABE National Conference Planning Committees

Volunteers are needed to serve on subcommittees for two AABE National Conference Planning Committees:

AABE 31st Annual Conference

Dates: April 15 - 19, 2008
Location: Hilton Americas, 1600 Lamar St., Houston, TX

The Conference is hosted by the AABE Southwest Region Chapters: Houston (host chapter), Dallas/Ft. Worth, Arkansas, Louisiana, Central South West Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

2008 Conference Chairpersons: **Gilda Joseph** (SW Regional Coordinator - Houston Chapter) and **Sheila Wright** (Arkansas Chapter).

Email contact info:
gjoseph05@yahoo.com
swright@entergy.com

AABE 32nd Annual Conference

Date: April 2009

Location: Orlando, Florida

The Conference is hosted by the AABE Southeast Region Chapters: Florida (host chapter), Birmingham, Atlanta, Gulf Coast, Savannah, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

2009 Conference Chairperson: **Corlene Williams** (SE Regional Coordinator - Birmingham Chapter) Email contact info: corlene.williams@el Paso.com

Volunteers from AABE are needed for both conferences' subcommittees to serve in development and planning. AABE members do not necessarily need to belong to each region in order to serve.

Subcommittees include:

- Finance;
- Volunteer;
- Publicity, Promotion & Marketing;
- Computer Support Specialists;
- Administration & Correspondence;
- Graphics & Program Booklet;
- Fundraising;
- Gifts & Souvenirs;
- Conference Program;
- Hotel Logistics;
- Special Events & Entertainment;
- Youth Forum;
- Exhibits, Career Fair & Healthcare Forum;

- Transportation;
- First Time Attendees Reception;
- And other miscellaneous duties.

For more information, please contact the conference chairpersons or the AABE Board Member and National Conference Planning Committee Chairperson, **Polly Rosemond** (BOD - Louisiana) at prosemo@entergy.com.

U.S. NEWS:

ABB Supports Making Transformers Energy Efficient (ABB News Release - July 17, 2007)

ABB, the Connecticut-based power and automation technology company, announced that it backs the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) effort to increase the efficiency standards of transformers, because the company and others like it manufacture these crucial pieces of equipment that serve the electrical grid.

Distribution transformers are the metal boxes and cylinders found on utility poles across the nation that serve the important function of reducing voltage of electricity so that it can be used by customers in their homes and businesses. The DOE is presently evaluating the efficiency standards for transformers because even a slight improvement would save significant amounts of electricity before it ever reaches customers, thereby reducing emissions from electric generating plants.

The DOE is expected to issue its final decision regarding the new standards by September.

Once in place following a gradual phase-in, the new transformers are expected to save 26 billion kilowatt-hours annually, or roughly equivalent to the

electricity used by 2.3 million U.S. households in 2005. That will in turn reduce annual emissions from electric power plants by 15 million metric tons, about equal to the average annual emissions of 2.7 million automobiles.

The proposal for higher efficiency standards for distribution transformers marks the first-ever agreement on appliance standards from America's investor-owned and public-power electric utilities and major energy efficiency and environmental groups.

GovEnergy Conference

Government Energy (GovEnergy 2007) the premier energy training workshop and exposition for Federal agencies will take place in New Orleans, LA from August 5 – 8, 2007 at the Hilton NO Riverside Hotel. The theme is "Jazz Up Your Energy Program." For more information, please visit www.govenergy.com.

Accelerating Green Communities

The Greenbuild International Conference & Expo will be held in Chicago, Illinois from November 7 – 9. For more information, please visit www.greenbuildexpo.org.

10 Low Cost Energy Saving Tips for the Summer

- Clean or replace the air filter in your central/room AC every one to three months.
- Hire a certified HVAC contractor to tune up your AC.
- Shield your attic with R-30, your floors with R-19 and walls with R-13 insulation.
- Wait until evening to run your dishwasher or laundry equipment.
- Set your thermostat at 78 degrees.
- Close windows, doors, and shades during the day to keep the sun out.

- Use window tint film on windows directly affected by sunlight.
- Open windows at night to circulate cooler air.
- Shut off computers and other electronic equipment at night.
- Use an energy saving power strip to connect your TV, Cable and other accessories.

GEORGIA NEWS:

New Goals for the NEEA

The new executive director of the Atlanta-based Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA - www.seealliance.org), **Benjamin L. Taube**, has set an ambitious goal of reducing the 11-state region's projected energy growth by half within the next 10 to 15 years through deployment of energy-efficiency practices and programs. Taube's goals for SEEA also include building an effective organization that will bridge the gap on energy and sustainability strategies across the Southeast, a region that lags behind other parts of the country in adopting energy-efficiency practices. SEEA promotes energy efficiency in 11 southeastern states – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia – to achieve a cleaner environment, a more prosperous economy, and a higher quality of life in the region.

WEEC Conference

The World Energy Engineering Congress (WEEC) will hold its 30th anniversary conference in Atlanta from August 15 – 17, at the Georgia World Congress Center. Entry costs range from \$795 to \$895. Keynote speakers include **Leonard Haynes**, EVP Supply Technologies, Southern Company. Registration info can be found at the WEEC website www.energycongress.com.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Quake Affects Japan's Nuclear Power Plant (Wall Street Journal – July 18, 2007)

Japanese government officials said Wednesday that latest surveys conducted by the meteorological agency showed that Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant may sit right above an active fault line, suggesting the plant may be prone to severe damage in case of a major earthquake. That fault line was the epicenter of the July 16th 6.8-magnitude earthquake in Niigata Prefecture in central Japan that killed nine people and destroyed hundreds of homes.

The quake was far stronger than what the plant was designed to withstand, and caused scores of problems, such as the leakage of small amounts of radioactive matters into the sea and the air, as well as a fire at an electric transformer outside one of its seven reactors.

Tokyo Electric and Japanese government officials say the leakage was so small that its impact on the environment was negligible. The plant weathered the quake with no problems at its critical facilities, including the reactors, which shut down automatically when the quake first hit, the officials say.

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

The PhD Project™

The PhD Project is an alliance of foundations, corporations, universities, professional and academic organizations dedicated to increasing minority representation in the business world. Since 1994, the PhD Project has increased the number of minority business professors from 294 to 842 and has 380 minority doctoral students in the pipeline. For more information, visit: www.phdproject.org.

Employment Opportunities:

Energy-Related Job Search Engines and Websites

www.live.aabe.org
www.careerbuilder.com
www.diversejobs.net
www.energyvortex.com
www.energycentraljobs.com
www.energyjobsnetwork.com
www.energyjobsportal.com
www.ecojobs.com
www.greenengineeringjobs.com
www.globalenergyjobs.com
www.sustainablebusiness.com/jobs/
www.monster.com
www.powermarketers.com
www.utilityjobsonline.com

Atlanta Chapter Committees:

Volunteers are needed to support the following AABE committees:

BEAM – (Black Energy

Awareness Month) Manage the Career Day event presented to area high school students.

Communication –

Preparation of the *All About Energy* newsletter & website.

Fundraising – Development of our Golf Outing to finance our scholarships.

Membership – Recruitment of new members.

Program – Creating quality monthly meetings.

Scholarship – Selection of qualified high school seniors for the annual **James K. Davis** energy awards.

Conference Planning – Serve on subcommittees to plan the 2009 32nd Annual AABE National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Mentoring – CHOICES:

Monthly peer advice for 9th graders.

Philanthropic/Charitable –

Donations for needy families.

Energy Education – Enlighten the community about energy.

Legislative & Regulatory –

Lobby AABE's agenda with governmental agencies.

For more info, contact AABE Secretary **Cherryl Harris** at cmharris@southernco.com.

Member Company Websites:

www.aabe.org

www.atlantagaslight.com
www.aglresources.com
www.blackenergy.com
www.ch2m.com
www.gas-south.com
www.gasoc.com
www.gepower.com
www.georgianaturalgas.com
www.georgiapower.com
www.grevstonepower.com
www.heatga.org
www.honeywell.com
www.htsenterprise.com
www.mirant.com
www.opc.com
www.psc.state.ga.us
www.scana.com
www.slking.com
www.southerncompany.com
www.southstarenergy.com
www.snpo.org
www.thinkenergygroup.com
www.willyoujoinus.com

What is AABE®?

"The American Association of Blacks in Energy™ is dedicated to ensuring the input of minorities into the developments of energy policy, R&D technologies, and environmental issues."

Visit AABE's National website at <http://www.aabe.org> for more info.

Atlanta Chapter 2006-2007 Officers

Eric Duncan, President
Cordell Carter, Vice President
Olivia Woods, Treasurer
Tiffany Ferrell, Asst. Treasurer
Cherryl M. Harris, Secretary
Monica Reese, Asst. Secretary
Tanya Ligons, Parliamentarian
Jennifer Henson, Chapter Coordinator

SouthEast Region Coordinator

Corlene Williams
(@ Southern Natural Gas)
(205) 325-3559

Atlanta Chapter Address:

AABE – ATL Chapter
P.O. Box 55216
Atlanta, GA 30308-5216

Atlanta Chapter Website:

<http://aabe.org/atlanta>

GOT NEWS?



Please send all comments, suggestions, AABE

information, energy-related news and announcements to Communications Committee Chair **Wayne X. Young** at wayne.young2@honeywell.com. The deadline for the next monthly newsletter is **Monday, Aug. 27th**.

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door!"

-Author unknown

More scenes from 7/12 meeting:



HISTORY MAKER BIOGRAPHY -

DR. MEREDITH C. GOURDINE (1929-1998)



My nickname is "Flash". I was born on September 26, 1929 in Newark, New Jersey. I grew up in the streets of Harlem and Brooklyn. My father worked as a painter and janitor and instilled within me the importance of a strong work ethic. I attended Brooklyn Technical High School and after classes helped my father on various jobs, often working eight hour days. However, my father believed that education was more important than just developing into a hard worker and he told me "If you don't want to be a laborer all your life, stay in school." I minded my father's advice, excelling in academics.

I was also an excellent athlete, competing in track and field and swimming during my senior year. I did well enough in swimming to be offered a scholarship to the University of Michigan, but turned it down to enter Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. I paid my way through Cornell for my first two years before receiving a track and field scholarship after my sophomore year. I competed in sprints, hurdles and the long jump. Standing 6' and weighing 175 lbs., I starred for my school, winning four titles at the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America championship and led Cornell to a second place finish at the 1952 NCAA Track and Field Championship (The University of

Southern California won the meet but boasted 36 athletes while Cornell had only five).

I was so heralded that I was chosen to represent the United States at the 1952 Summer Olympic Games in Helsinki, Finland. I received a silver medal in the long jump competition, losing to fellow American **Jerome Biffle** by one and a half inches. "I would have rather lost by a foot." I still have nightmares about it."

After graduating from Cornell with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering Physics in 1953, I entered the United States Navy as an officer. I soon returned to academia, entering the California Institute of Technology, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. I received a Ph.D. in Engineering Science in 1960 from the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. During my time at Cal. Tech., I served on the Technical Staff of the Ramo-Woolridge Corporation and then as a Senior Research Scientist at the Cal. Tech. Jet Propulsion Laboratory. After graduation, I became a Lab Director for the Plasmodyne Corporation until 1962 when he joined the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, serving as Chief Scientist for the Aeronautical Division where he became aware of an 18th-century procedure, and developed a generator based on the principle.

I pioneered the research of electrogasdynamics. Electrogasdynamics is a way to disperse fog and smoke. By applying strong electrical forces to either you can control those elements. I was responsible for the engineering technique termed Incineraid for aiding in the removal of smoke from buildings. My work on gas dispersion developed techniques for dispersing fog from airport runways. I also created a generator that allowed for the cheaper transmission of

electricity. I held more than 40 patents for various inventions.

I built a multi-million dollar corporation that is based on my ideas in the field of electrogasdynamics (EGD). Using the principles of EGD, I successfully converted natural gas to electricity for everyday use. Applications of EGD include refrigeration, desalination of sea water, and reducing the pollutants in smoke.

I served on the technical staff of the Ramo-Woolridge Corporation from 1957-58. I then became a Senior Research Scientist at the Caltech Jet Propulsion Laboratory from 1958-60. I became a Lab Director of the Plasmodyne Corporation from 1960-62 and Chief Scientist of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation from 1962 to 1964.

In 1964, after failing to sell my ideas and my invention to my employer, I borrowed \$200,000.00 from family and friends and founded my own research and development company. I opened Gourdine Laboratories, a research laboratory located in Livingston, New Jersey and at its height I employed 150 people. That year, I also served on the President's Panel on Energy.

In 1973, I founded and served as CEO for Energy Innovation, Inc. in Houston, Texas which produced direct-energy conversion devices (converting low-grade coal into inexpensive, transportable and high-voltage electrical energy). My company's performed research and development, specifically in the fields of electrogasdynamics.

Electrogasdynamics refers to the generation of energy from the motion of ionized (electrically charged) gas molecules under high pressure. My biggest creation was the Incineraid system, which was used to

disperse smoke from burning buildings and could be used to disperse fog on airport runways. The Incineraid system worked by negatively charging smoke or fog, causing the airborne particles within to be electro magnetically charged and then to fall to the ground. The result was clean air and a clear area. I also received patents for the Focus Flow Heat Sink, which was used to cool computer chips as well as for processes for desalinating sea water, for developing acoustic imaging, and for a high-powered industrial paint spray.

Over my career I held over 30 patents and many of my creations serve as the basis for allergen-filtration devices common to households across the world. He was inducted into the Engineering and Science Hall of Fame in 1994. Towards my latter years, I suffered from diabetes, and lost my sight as well as one leg due to the disease.

To my credit, I invented all of the following:

- a Device to Directly Convert Gas into High Voltage Electricity;
- an Exhaust Purification Device for Automobiles;
- an Air Pollution Measuring Device;
- Generators for Power Stations;

I was still serving as the president of Energy Innovation, Inc. of Houston, Texas at the time of my death on November 20, 1998.

AUGUST BLACK HISTORY ENERGY MOMENTS:

August 2, 1847 – **William A. Leidesdorff** launches the first steamboat in San Francisco Bay.

August 5, 1914 – The first electric traffic lights (invented by **Garrett Morgan**) are installed in Cleveland.

August 23, 1900 – **Booker T. Washington** forms the National Negro Business League in Boston.

August 28, 1963 – The largest civil rights demonstration in U.S. History, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, takes place in DC.

***"You can have
everything in life you
want, if you will just
help enough people get
what they want."***

-Zig Ziglar
