

AABE®

All ABout Energy

American Association of Blacks in Energy® – Atlanta Chapter
Vol. 7 ♦ September 2007
<http://aabe.org/atlanta>



AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

ATLANTA CHAPTER MONTHLY MEETING

The August 9th program “All About AABE” presented updates on AABE from a national perspective including AABE’s mission, the environment, and national laws and policy. Guest speakers were AABE National Board members from Atlanta Chapter, **Richard Holmes** (GPC) and **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL).

Ralph discussed AABE’s mission including getting more African Americans involved; growing our economy; the need to understand more broadly what the issues are; opportunities for exposure; and the need for more minority representation in the commercial aspect of the business -- i.e., project and venture development. Ralph also stressed the need to ensure there is a pipeline of young people interested in energy careers. To this end, he is a key force in developing Georgia Tech’s Student Chapter.



Richard stated that AABE is on the verge of reinventing itself and is revising its strategic plan. This is critical due to the environment

and energy issues. Now is a great time for members to be students of the business and maximize leadership opportunities. As a Finance Committee member, Richard also stressed the need to increase revenues, strengthen local chapters, and grow AABE’s membership, which has experienced a 20% decline nationwide.

Inventor **Bessie Blount** was the August Black History Maker, who was presented by Atlanta Chapter Secretary **Cherry Harris** (GPC). A biography of Mrs. Blount is provided at the end of this newsletter.

ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWS:

September Monthly Chapter Meeting

Learn more about the State of Georgia’s Energy Strategy. The Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee will host the “*State of Energy in Georgia*” meeting on Thursday, September 13th at AGL Resources’ Corporate Headquarters, 10 Peachtree Place, Atlanta, GA, 2nd floor conference room, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Guest speakers include **Stan Wise**, Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission, and **Kevin Kelly** from the Georgia Environmental Facility Authority. **Dr. Sonja Ebron** (BlackEnergy) will serve as moderator.

BEAM PROGRAM

AABE’s annual Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM)

program will be presented in October. BEAM is an energy-related career day event for high school (9th and 10th grade) students. Our goal is to provide an interactive learning environment about the energy industry and new technologies, as well as introduce and pique students’ interests in various career opportunities within the energy field.

Last year, Atlanta Chapter hosted students from Stephenson, Martin Luther King Jr. and Booker T. Washington High Schools to BEAM day at Georgia Power’s corporate headquarters. This year, we will visit two high schools and host the presentation on-site. BEAM programs will be presented to Redan High School in Stone Mountain, GA on **October 11th**, and to South Atlanta High School on **October 18th**. Please contact **President Eric Duncan** at elarnold@southernco.com or **Greg Kendrick** (GPC) at gkendric@southernco.com for more information or to volunteer.

25th ANNIVERSARY GALA

This year marks the 25th Silver Anniversary of Atlanta chapter being founded. We intend to celebrate with an end-of-year dinner gala available to our entire membership. Special guests include **Clayton Webb** (inventor of the Automated Meter Reader) and **AABE National Chairman Wilton Cedeno** (Con Ed – NY Chapter). Members from other AABE Chapters will also be in attendance. Volunteers are needed to help plan this signature

event. Please contact Chairperson **Olivia Parks Woods** (GPC) at opwoods@southernco.com for volunteer opportunities.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration will be held on **Friday, November 30, 2007** in Georgia Power's auditorium, with a reception from 5-6pm, and the dinner and program from 6-8pm.

BlackEnergy is "Green"

Dr. Sonja Ebron, CEO of BlackEnergy, is featured in the summer issue of *Ms. Magazine*. The article, "*The Green Bottom Line*," profiles female-owned businesses who are environmentally conscious. For the complete article, please visit www.ms magazine.com.

Georgia Power in CL

The August 23 – 29 issue of *Creative Loafing* highlights Georgia Power's position that the state of Georgia needs a new plant by the year 2016. Based on the population growth, Georgia Power needs an additional 500 MW a year in base load capacity. On average, Georgia residents use 25% more electricity than the rest of the country because power costs less in the Southeast. GPC is proposing 2 new reactors at Plant Vogtle. Nuclear power is considered as a possible energy source.

Southern Company Record

On August 22nd Southern Company set a systemwide demand of 40,870 MW. Southern Company surpassed last year's record of 38,056 MW five times in August!

High School Mentors Needed:

Nevada Weatherspoon is looking for volunteers to mentor, and present brief educational and life skills programs to metro area 9th graders. The time commitment is one class period per month. Contact Nevada at nkweathe@southernco.com or at 770-603-5349.

Past Scholarship Recipient and Local Designer Wins National Contest



Carl Bowen, son of AABE member **Therese Bowen** (GPC), has been selected the winner of the **J. Anthony Brown** Favorite Designer National Contest. Carl, the creator of Crescendo Tailored Menswear, received over 700 votes and will help develop Mr. Brown's new clothing line. Carl was a recipient of Atlanta Chapter's **James K. Davis** scholarship in 2001. Brown is a co-host on the **Tom Joyner** Morning Show. Carl received his award from Mr. Brown in Las Vegas. Congratulations go out to the Bowen family.



...and recognition are in order to the following members:

The American Nuclear Society (ANS) has nominated **Garry Harris** to its Board of Directors for a three-year term. Garry is the second African American in ANS' 53 year history to serve on its Board. Garry is President and

CEO of HTS Enterprise LLC, a nuclear engineering consultancy.

Cherryl Harris (GPC) and **Tarece Hassell** (AGL) have been accepted into Leadership DeKalb's Class of 2008. Their ten-month leadership program begins September 23rd.

Kudos to **David Campbell** who is ending a successful term as Leadership DeKalb's 2006-2007 Chair of the Board of Directors.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Atlanta Chapter extends a hearty *welcome aboard* to the following members who recently joined during the past few months: **Gerri Dickerson** (CH2M-Hill), **Ivan Crosling** (Think Energy Group), **Alan Johnson** (Mirant), **Jeffrey Allen** (Diversity Solutions) and **Percy Smallwood** (Georgia Systems Operations Corp.)

AABE NATIONAL NEWS:

Supplier Diversity at APC

In the August 17th issue of *Birmingham Business Journal*, **AABE Birmingham Chapter President Alice Gordon** was quoted on how Alabama Power Company has increased successful relationships with minority owned businesses. "When we develop good solid relationships, it is positive and a win-win for Alabama Power and the suppliers it involves," Gordon said. APC spent \$131million in 2006 with diverse suppliers.

"Here is a test to find out whether your mission in life is complete... if you're alive, it isn't.."

-Author Unknown

AABE Assists in Little Rock Anniversary



Arkansas Chapter Secretary **Sheila Wright** (Entergy) is a busy person. Not only is she co-chair of AABE's 2008 31st national conference, she also serves as the Little Rock Central High School PTSA President and assists in planning the 50th Anniversary of the Little Rock Central High School milestone in civil rights.

On September 4, 1957, an angry mob and the Arkansas National Guard tried to bar nine African American students (aka The Little Rock Nine) from integrating the school. Fueled by **Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus'** protest over the U. S. Supreme Court ruling *Brown vs. The Board of Education* (1954) legalizing integration of public schools, the late **U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower** ordered the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division to escort and protect those students from violence.

Featured events and ceremonies will take place from September 21 – 25. Special guest speakers will include The Little Rock Nine and former **U.S. President William J. (Bill) Clinton**. For more information about the anniversary please visit www.arkansasglobecoming.com.

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 – Chevron, 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 – El Paso/Southern Natural Gas, Birmingham Chapter) Email contact info:
corlene.williams@elpaso.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;
- 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 – Entergy-NO, Louisiana) at prosemo@entergy.com.

AABE/ Congressional Black Caucus Meeting



The next quarterly AABE National Board of Director's Meeting will be held September 27-29, 2007 in Washington, DC at the Grand Hyatt, 1000 H Street NW. The meeting will coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) – www.congressionalblackcongress.net. The agenda of the CBC 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.

GEORGIA NEWS:

Windmill Causes Debate

Georgia's first residential windmill was installed in Grant

Park in August. **Curt Mann** hopes the 50 foot wind turbine will generate between 25 to 60% of his home's power and help preserve the environment. Neighbors complained that the windmill ruins the historical character of the area. Signs were posted in protest that read "Trees Yes, Towers No." The Mann's commitment to the environment was also criticized because the family drives two SUVs and a truck.

Cooling Fans Needed

Greater Works Assembly Church in Jonesboro is sponsoring an Atlanta Cooling Drive. They wish to collect and donate 500 fans to the elderly and poor who are unable to afford air conditioning during this heat wave. **Pastor Darryl Winston** is also asking for volunteers to help distribute the fans. His contact number is (404) 627-1874 if you are interested in participating.

U.S. NEWS:

House Energy Bill Passes (by the ACEEE 8/7/07)

The energy bill was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on August 4. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) assessment finds that the bill's energy efficiency provisions would reduce U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by 670 million tons, or 8%, in 2030 relative to the current Department of Energy forecast.

The efficiency provisions in the final House bill would save consumers and businesses a net \$420 billion (in 2005 dollars) on a cumulative basis from 2008-2030, an increase of \$80 billion, or 24%, from the version sent to the floor.

The two new efficiency provisions in the House bill are the inclusion of energy efficiency as an eligible resource for a national Renewable Electricity

Standard (RES), and the addition of walk-in commercial refrigerators and metal halide lighting to the list of appliance efficiency standards. These augment provisions in the bill that was sent to the House floor, which included improvements to national and state building codes, efficiency standards for incandescent lamps and other products, an update and expansion of the federal appliance and equipment standards program, and provisions to increase use of combined heat and power systems in the industrial and institutional sectors. The House bill also includes a tax package that extends and expands energy efficiency tax incentives.

The bill the Senate passed in June does not include many of these House provisions. On the other hand, the Senate bill includes two major provisions not in the House bill - increases to Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards (CAFE) for cars and light trucks, and steadily increasing mandatory targets for oil savings over the 2016-2031 period. Neither provision is iron-clad, in that both allow substantial regulatory discretion. The Senate Finance Committee also reported out a more comprehensive set of energy efficiency tax incentives than are contained in the House bill.

Florida Energy Committee's New Chair

Republican **Florida State Representative Paige Kreegel** was promoted to Chairman of Florida's Energy Committee on August 15th. Former Chair **Bob Allen** was removed from this position and other seats on the state's environmental and natural resources councils after allegedly being involved in an undercover prostitution sting. Kreegel, says he hopes to work together with the Florida Governor and House

Speaker to resolve some of Florida's energy issues.

Black Enterprise Articles

Energy related articles in the September issue of *Black Enterprise* include "Mixing Creativity and Innovation" by **Gregory Kimble**, manager of customer service for Southern California Edison. Greg discusses how deregulation changed his business model and forced new ideas. The "Cut Costs at the Pump" article lists websites to assist in finding stations with the lowest prices in gasoline (www.gasbuddy.com); map an optimal route to reduce waste (www.fuelcostcalculator.com); and other money saving tips (www.aaa.com).

Hottest Years on Record

NASA released revised statistics on the top 20 hottest years on record for the U.S. since 1880. NASA claims a slight error in calculations bumped 1998 from the #1 spot and made 1934 warmer by 0.04 degrees to 72.3°F.

The top 20 hottest years are as follows: 1934, 1998, 1921, 2006, 1931, 1999, 1953, 1990, 1938, 1939, 1954, 1987, 2001, 1986, 1946, 1991, 2005, 1993, 1981 and 1941.

These revisions dispute environmentalists' claims that 80% of man-made carbon dioxide, the cause of global warming, was generated after 1940. 1934 and 1998 are still tied for the top hottest years for the planet at 62.06°F.

Mining Disaster

AABE extends its condolences to the families of the Crandall Canyon miners and volunteers who perished in Utah during the month of August. Six miners practicing form of drilling coal called "retreat mining" lost their lives in an unverified accident. Three volunteers also perished during the weeks that followed

trying to save the miners after tremors caused a collapse. Retreat mining is a perilous technique in which pillars of coal hold up portions of the roof, and when the area is mined, the pillars are pulled down, capturing the useful coal and collapsing the roof.

The worst mining disaster in U.S. History occurred in Monongah, West Virginia on December, 6, 1907, when 362 men and boys died. They were later immortalized in the song, “*My Darling Clementine*.”

Most Dangerous Jobs

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released data in August on fatalities by profession for 2006. These numbers were down slightly from 2005.

Grand Totals

Total Fatalities – 5,703 (2006)/ 5,734 (2005)

Fatality Rate (per 100,000 employees) – 3.9 (2006)/ 4.0 (2005)

Fatalities/Fatality Rate by Industry (2006)

1. Construction – 1,226/10.8
2. Transportation & Warehousing – 83.2/16.3
3. Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting – 646/29.6
4. Government – 501/2.3
5. Professional & Business Services – 449/3.1
6. Manufacturing – 447/2.7
7. Retail Trade – 351/2.1
8. Leisure & Hospitality – 252/2.2
9. Wholesale Trade – 217/4.8
- 10. Mining – 190/27.8**
11. Other Services (excluding Public Administration) – 175/2.5
12. Educational & Health Services – 172/0.9
13. Financial Activities – 122/1.2
14. Information – 64/1.9
- 15. Utilities – 52/6.2**

Top 10 Most Dangerous Jobs (Fatality Rate - 2006)

1. Logging Workers – 92.4
2. Aircraft Pilots – 92.4
3. Fishers – 86.4
4. Iron & Steel Workers – 47.0
5. Refuse & Recyclable Material Collectors – 43.2
6. Farmers & Ranchers – 37.5
7. Roofers – 34.9
- 8. Electrical Power Line Installers/Repairmen – 30.0**
9. Truck Drivers – 27.6
10. Agriculture – 21.7

Top 10 Work-Related Total Fatalities by State (2006)

1. Texas – 486
2. California – 448
3. Florida – 355
4. Pennsylvania – 240
5. New York – 233
6. Illinois – 207
7. Ohio – 193
- 8. Georgia – 192**
9. North Carolina – 167
10. Missouri – 166

INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

New Oil in Angola (by The LA Times 8/10/07)

Chevron Corp, the 2nd largest U.S. oil producer, announced that it made a “significant” discovery of oil off the coast of the West African country of Angola. The well, named Malange-1, produced 7,669 barrels of oil per day during a test in March. More drilling is needed to determine the extent of oil reserves.

GE Energy in the Middle East (by The Atlanta Business Chronicle 7/27/07 to 8/2/07)

Atlanta-based GE Energy, a unit of General Electric Company, has won \$1.8 billion in power plant contracts in Kuwait and Qatar. The first contract is for 20 Frame 9E gas turbines to the Sabiya Power Station in Kuwait; the 2nd contract is for gas, steam and power plant systems services for a 2GW power plant in Qatar; and the 3rd contract will provide 4 gas and 2 steam turbines for an aluminum smelter in Qatar. GE Energy recently opened offices in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

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.

Join Us For a Debate --

Participate in Chevron’s online energy debate at www.willyoujoinus.com.

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.greystonepower.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, Sept. 24**.



"Opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor."

-H, Jackson Brown Jr.

HISTORY MAKER BIOGRAPHY –

BESSIE V. BLOUNT-GRIFFIN



Bessie Blount was born on November 24th in 1914, in Hickory, Virginia. Little is known of her family or her childhood but it is known that she had long wanted to work in the medical field. Blount left home and traveled north to New Jersey to become a physical therapist. She studied at both Panzar College of Physical Education and at Union Junior College. Then she moved on to Chicago where she finished her training.

Then came World War II, and it had left many people severely disabled. It was while working with amputees that inventive ideas were cultivated to assist her patients in regaining their independence. By 1951 Blount was living in Newark, New Jersey and teaching Physical Therapy at the Bronx Hospital in New York. She taught people to do the work that their feet and hands once did. Eating was a great challenge for many of the people that she was working with. To assist disabled people in gaining greater independence she invented a device that delivered food through a tube, one bite at a time, to a mouthpiece that could be used whether the patient was sitting up or lying down. When the person wanted more food they just bit down on the tube and it signaled a machine to send the next morsel.

This electric self-feeding device eventually was donated to France. In 1951, she patented a simpler device called a "portable receptacle support" which also allowed people to feed themselves. It used a brace around the neck to support a bowl, cup or dish. Blount also appeared on the Philadelphia television show "The Big Idea" in 1953, becoming the first Black and the first woman to be given such recognition.

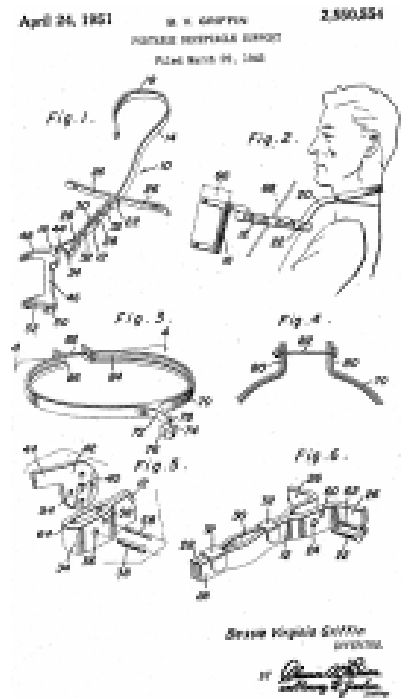
While her inventions had the potential to revolutionize the lives of many people, getting them patented and marketed for use by patients was not easy in the United States. Frustrated by the lack of interest by the American Veteran's Administration, Blount signed the rights to her other inventions over to the French government with the statement that she had proven "that a Black woman can invent something for the benefit of humankind." Around this time she became a close friend of **Theodore M. Edison** the son of the **Thomas Alva Edison** the electric light inventor.

This was while she worked caring for Mrs. Edison's mother in East Orange, New Jersey. Blount held many in depth scientifically and otherwise mid-night conversations with Theodore Edison. The two shared development of ideas for his company as well. Blount is also the inventor of the disposable cardboard emesis basin. She designed this from old newspaper, cake flour and water, shaping it and baking it her own oven. Again the American Veteran's Administration Hospital wasn't willing to use her invention and it was never patented in America. These (now slightly modified in design) basins are currently in use all over the country of Belgium. American hospitals still use the

old standard kidney shaped basins of 1913.

Many of Blount's trail blazing efforts and inventions made the lives of everyone safer from disease and have been influential to the independence of the lives of soldiers disabled since World War II. In 1969 Blount began a career in forensic science with law enforcement. This included serving the departments in Vineland, New Jersey, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia. By 1972 she had advanced to become the chief document examiner of their laboratories.

In 1977 Blount became the first Black woman to train and work at Scotland Yard. This experience occurred after **J. Edgar Hoover** of the FBI turned down her application. A religious woman motivated by personal drive and the inspiration of inventor **Louis Latimer** and others, Blount ran her own business at the age of 83. She has used much of her forensic training to examine and research the authenticity of African-American slave "papers" and pre-civil war documents. Blount has worked with material from Native-American treaties made with the United States too. She also serves as a consultant in "special investigations" for many law enforcement agencies while being a member of the South Jersey Chapter.



September Black History Energy Moments

September 4, 1858 – Inventor **Lewis H. Latimer** is born.

September 4, 1957 – U.S. **President Dwight David Eisenhower** sends the Army to protect The Little Rock Nine from an angry mob as they integrate Little Rock Central HS.

September 18, 1980 – Cuban Cosmonaut **Arnoldo Tamayo**, becomes the first Black to travel in space.

September 22, 1915 – HBCU Xavier University opens in New Orleans, Louisiana.

September 29, 1980 – The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture opens in New York City.