

THE AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS  
IN ENERGY (AABE®)

**SPECIAL  
BEAMS OF  
LIGHT:**

- **New AABE National Officers Elected for 2008—2010**
- **New AABE Chapters Officially Recognized**
- **AABE Awards its Premier & National Scholarships**
- **New Scholarship Golf Tournaments Announced**

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# THE AABE® ENERGY NEWS

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## AABE National News: Conference was “Over the Top”

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE®) celebrated 31 years as an advocate for minority involvement in energy issues, policies and technologies this past April at its National Conference in Houston, Texas.

“Advancing the Understanding of Energy ... from local to global” was the theme of the 4-day event. The 31st annual AABE National Conference focused on energy policy, strategy & technology and featured guest speakers from across all sectors of the industry. The conference drew a record crowd of 525 attendees and received over \$900K in corporate sponsorships. To quote **Polly Rosemond** (Enterergy-Louisiana Chapter), AABE National Conference Planning Chair,

it was “over the top.”

The conference was planned and hosted by the Southwest Region Chapters of AABE. These chapters included Houston, Arkansas, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Louisiana, Central SW Louisiana, Mississippi,



**The CEO Roundtable Session at the Conference.**

Oklahoma and the University of Tulsa. The 2008 Conference

Chairpersons were AABE SW Region Coordinator **Gilda Joseph** (Chevron-Houston) and Arkansas Chapter Officer **Sheila Wright** (Enterergy-Arkansas).

Houston is the Nation’s premier hub for energy and exploration. The AABE organization was re-energized with the inclusion of new member companies such as Anadarko Petroleum, Blue Diamond Ventures, Osyka, Shell, Marathon Oil, Schlumberger and Sequent Energy Management.

Dynamic speakers and panelists were provided by organizations and corporations such as Chevron, Enterergy, CLECO, GE Energy, American Electric Power (AEP) and Valero.

*(Both articles are continued on the next page)*

## AABE Elects New Officers to the National Board of Directors

AABE is pleased to announce the election of Officers to the National Board of Directors for the 2008-2010 term of office.

During the General Meeting at the 2008 National Conference in Houston, the American Association of Blacks in Energy selected

new Officers and Directors.

**Carolyn Green** (Sunoco-Philadelphia Chapter) was elected National Chairperson of AABE. **Robert Holmes** (Alabama Power Company-Birmingham) is 1st Vice-Chair. **Warner Williams** (Chevron-

California Central Valley) is 2nd Vice-Chair. **LaDoris “Dot” Harris** (GE Energy-Atlanta) is Secretary. **Gilda Joseph** (Chevron-Houston) is Assistant Secretary. **Sabrina Campbell** (AEP-DC) is Treasurer. **Rufus Gladney** (Consumers Energy-Michigan) is Assistant Treasurer.



## “Over the Top” Conference cont.



US Texas State Representative Harold Dutton, Founder of the AABE Houston Chapter

AABE also welcomed the participation of government agencies such as NASA, BPA, DOE, EEI, EPRI, TVA, NREL, NRC, and the NARUC. Political figures included Houston **Mayor Bill White, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee, Council. Robert Green, Rep. Harold Dutton and Sen. Rodney Ellis.**

The conference inspired its attendees to become “healthy, wealthy and wise.” Featured workshops included Lean Six

Sigma quality control procedures and financial planning. GE Healthcare sponsored a Wellness Fair for blood pressure screening and healthy cooking. An Entrepreneur’s Forum provided helpful insights into building and maintaining a successful minority-owned business. The conference also provided a 1st Time Attendees meeting, College Symposium, Young Adult Forum and Career Fair with 26 booths from various companies.

Energy sessions featured legislative debates on global warming issues with emissions and the current government energy policies. AABE discussed innovations in clean coal technologies, renewables, oil and natural gas. New sessions provided this year focused on nanotechnology, transportation, economics, international affairs and energy security.

As AABE grows, we will continue to educate the community on such compelling topics.

### AABE National Nominations &

### Elections

### Committee is

### chaired by Board

### Member Frank

### Johnson, President

### & CEO of CMS

### Electric & Gas Co.

### Michigan Chapter

## New AABE Officers and Directors cont.

**Derrick Freeman** (Nuclear Energy Institute-DC) became a new Board member. **David Owens** (Edison Electric Institute-DC), **Polly Rosemond** (Entergy-Louisiana), **Stephanie Hickman** (Trice Construction-Chicago), **Joyce Hayes-Giles** (DTE Energy-Michigan) and **Calvin Talley** (Consumers Energy-Michigan) were re-elected to the Board.

**Marion Brackett** (National Grid-NYMAC) announced that she is retiring from the Board of Directors after 10 years of service.

Outgoing AABE National Chairman of the Board, **Wilton Cedeno** (Con Edison-NYMAC) was commended for his commitment to the organization, energy industry and as a leader in the community.

Wilton also honored **David Owens** (EEI-DC), **Wayne Young** (Honeywell-Atlanta), **Landri Taylor** (Forest City-DAC), **Steve Johnson** (EPA), **Samuel Bodman** (DOE), **William Suggs** (ConEd-NYMAC), **Henri Ward** (GE Energy-Atlanta), **Morry Davis** (Peabody-SMSI), **Dot Harris** (GE-Atlanta) and **Sabrina Campbell** (AEP-DC) in his *State of Our Energy* speech.

## AABE Awards Special Honors

James E. Stewart (1912-1977) Chair of the NAACP Energy & Economic Development Committee



During the **James E. Stewart** Awards Ceremony at the National Conference, AABE bestowed special honors to several key members and chapters.

The Outstanding Regional Coordinator Award went to Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator and DC Chapter Presi-

dent **Sabrina Campbell** (AEP-DC). The Special Service Award went to Board member **Richard Holmes** (Georgia Power Company-Atlanta) for his community outreach initiatives. Board member **Charles Tinker** (Michigan) received a Special Service Award for his efforts in maintaining the finan-

cial stability of AABE. **Polly Rosemond** (Entergy-Louisiana) also received a Special Service Award for working tirelessly on AABE National Conferences since 2000.

*Continued on next page*

# AABE Awards Special Honors continued.



The **Clarke A. Watson** Chairman's Cup was bestowed upon **David**

**Owens** (Edison Electric Institute-DC) for leading the Legislative Issues and Public Policy Committee (LIPP) to create the *AABE Public Policy Principles*.

The **James E. Stewart** Award (JES) was presented to former

**David Owens is EVP of Business Operations at EEI**

Board Member, Indiana Chapter Co-Founder & past NIPSCO Executive **Barrett Hatches**, now President & CEO of Swope Health Services.

The Chairman's Cup was named after our late founder. Watson founded AABE in 1977 and was the President & CEO of Watson Associates in Denver, Colorado. Clarke also founded the Denver Chapter.

The JES Award was named after the

late NAACP Board member who was instrumental in partnering AABE with the NAACP and the National Urban League.

During the ceremony, the SW Region Chapters of Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi and Central SW Louisiana received commemorative crystal vases. Wilton, Sheila and Gilda also received special honors at the Gala.

**AABE was founded from July 25 to 26, 1977 in Washington, DC at the Watergate Hotel by Clarke Watson.**

## Inspiring Speeches Energize the Conference

The conference provided great speeches by distinguished guests and TV personalities.

The conference opened with a keynote address by Chevron's Vice-Chairman of the Board **Peter Robertson** (pictured on right). Peter discussed the "Six Myths that Prevent Energy Literacy." These myths are:

- Energy security can only be achieved by expanding supplies.
- Renewable fuels are the only long-term answer for energy security.
- Small entrepreneurs acting independently can lead us to energy security.
- Energy security is impossible because we are running out of oil.
- Private oil and gas companies are not investing in energy security.
- Energy security is impossible because of initiatives for reducing emissions and renewable technologies.



*Continued on next page*

## AABE Awards its National & Premier Scholarships

The presentation of AABE National Scholarship awards took place on Friday, April 18th at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon. Longtime AABE supporter & sponsor, Consolidated Edison of NY, Inc. President & CEO **Kevin Burke**, welcomed AABE members, scholarship winners and their families. Seventh & eighth grade students from Teague Middle School and the To-

coa Academy were also in attendance.

The event featured an invocation from **Rev. Kenneth Howard** of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and entertainment by the Willowridge High School Jazz Combo. The keynote speech was conducted by **Rev. Dean Brown**, Founder & Sr. Pastor of Christ Alive Christian

Center.

**Terrence Griffin** (Entergy-Mississippi) and Houston Chapter President **Xchelsia Bledsoe** (GE Energy-Houston) awarded 12 Houston Chapter scholarships to graduating high school seniors.



**Linda Ugbah wins the Premier AABE National Scholarship**

*Continued on page 5*

# Great AABE Speeches continued.



**Mike Morris,**  
CEO of American  
Electric Power

## DID YOU KNOW?

*The Houston Chapter was the 1st Chapter officially recognized by AABE in 1979*

**Wayne Young & Dr. Randal Pinkett at the JES GALA**



AABE National President and Chief Operating Officer **Frank Stewart** informed the breakfast audience on how “Water is the New Oil.” He discussed how the affects of drought conditions and environmental hazards disproportionately affects Africans and Black Americans.

**Dr. Woodrow Whitlow, Jr.,** Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Glenn Research Center, took the AABE membership to the great beyond. Dr. Whitlow provided a history of how NASA revolutionized the renewable energy industry with ground breaking technology and included plans for future space exploration.

AABE received Official Proclamations from **Texas State Representative Sylvester Turner** and **Houston City Councilman Ronald Green.**

**Texas State Representative Harold Dutton** provided us with a history of the formative years of AABE. Dutton spoke about how few African-Americans there were in the energy industry during the 70s and how he was instrumental in obtaining government support for energy policies that affected minorities during that period. Rep. Dutton is a former Board member with AABE and was instrumental in directing our organization to expand with local chapters. Harold is the Founder of the AABE Houston Chapter. Houston is the first AABE Chapter officially recognized by the organization in 1979.

**Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee** provided a na-

tional and international perspective on issues related to energy and homeland security during the “Securing our Energy Borders” Session. Congresswoman Lee is the driving force behind the Congressional Black Caucus’ “Energy Brain Trust.”

Gulf Power Company President & CEO **Susan Story** gave a moving speech about the challenges women face as corporate executives in a male dominated industry during the CEO Roundtable Session.

**Ellen Petrill,** Director of Public/Private Partnerships for EPRI, entertained the audience by providing examples of how the nanotechnology industry has become “mild, wild and crazy” as it develops innovative and fun tools to revolutionize energy applications in the future.

**Michael Morris,** Chairman, President & CEO of American Electric Power, expressed his views about corporate commitment to energy conservation, global warming issues and to support minority communities affected by environmental hazards.

**Leo Sherman,** Chief Pilot for Continental Airlines and member of the Organization of Black Airline Pilots (OBAP) shared his experiences flying across the globe and how the aviation industry is coping with rising fuel prices and new carbon emission reduction requirements for airplanes.

**Dr. Isaac Crumbly,** Student Chapter Coordinator at Fort Valley State University (FVSU) presented to the Board the successes of FVSU’s Minority Engineering Program.

**Dr. Randal Pinkett,** Chairman & CEO of BCT Partners and winner of NBC’s *The Apprentice - Season 4*, was the keynote speaker at the **James E. Stewart** Gala. Randal urged the crowd to explore and promote new opportunities as entrepreneurs in the energy industry. His speech also focused on the challenges we face as African-Americans in the professional arena. Dr. Pinkett acknowledged the experiences and commitment of AABE’s founding fathers along with our mission as an advocate for minorities affected by energy issues.

There were many informative and inspiring speeches during the conference. A few of these were highlighted above. The agenda for the conference was developed by the AABE 2008 Conference Agenda Planning Sub-Committee Chairs **Wayne Young** (Honeywell-Atlanta) and Tennessee Chapter President **Lisa Wheeler** (Valero-Tennessee). AABE thanks all conference chairs, speakers, panelists, moderators, agenda committee members and session coordinators for providing an exciting and informative National event.



**Xchelsia Bledsoe, Sheila Jackson-Lee and Dot Harris**

# AABE Awards National & Premier Scholarships continued.



**Gilda Joseph and Gerald Dawes presents Kevin Burke, CEO of Con Edison, an honorary award for sponsoring the scholarship luncheon.**

AABE Houston Chapter Scholarship winners are as follows:

- **Adriana Gamboa** (Woodlands HS-accepted to Rice University-Bioengineering Major)
- **Chibueze Amanchukwu** (John Foster Dulles HS-Texas A&M-Chemical Engineering)
- **David Moses** (Westfield HS-Rice Univ.-Computer Science)
- **Johanna Sidel** (Spring HS-Texas A&M-Interdisciplinary Studies)
- **Kirrah James** (Morton Ranch HS-MIT-Nuclear Engineering)
- **La-Krystal Williams** (James Madison HS-Univ. of Houston-Chemistry)
- **Linda Ugbah** (Elsik HS-Harvard-Biochemistry)
- **Ndubisi Onuora** (Woodlands

- HS-MIT-Computer Science)
- **Raheem Bello** (Westbury HS-Univ. of Texas-Astronomy)
- **Vianni Recano** (San Isidro HS-Texas A&M-Aerospace Engineering)
- **Xanthia Baptiste** (Robert E. Lee HS-Texas A&M-Biomedical Science)
- **Lauren Gilbert** (Pearland HS-Univ. of Tulsa-Business)

The seven AABE National Scholarships were presented by AABE Scholarship Committee Chair **Gerald Dawes** (AGA/Con Ed-NYMAC) and **Sheila Patterson** (Consumers Energy-Michigan).

The AABE Premier and SW Region National Scholarships were awarded to **Linda Ugbah**. Linda received a total of \$9K in AABE related scholarships during the luncheon.

Other AABE Regional Scholarships

were awarded to the following high school seniors:

- Northeast Region Winner - **Earl Roach** (NJ Chapter sponsor-accepted to Rutgers-Engineering Major)
- Mid-Atlantic Region Winner - **Saliou NDao** (DC-MIT-Electrical Engineering/Computer Science)
- Mid-West Region Winner - **Makenzie Moss** (Michigan-NC A&T-Bioengineering)
- Southeast Region Winner - **Reuben Johnson** (Tennessee-Christian Brothers Univ.-Computer Engineering)
- Western Region Winner - **Luis Ochoa** (Southern California-Harvard-Civil Engineering)

AABE scholarship candidates were selected by local AABE Chapters and the National Scholarship Committee. AABE congratulates all its awardees and looks forward to the next generation of energy professionals.



**Willowridge, Texas High School Jazz Combo entertains the AABE National Scholarship Luncheon crowd.**

## Outstanding AABE Chapters for 2007-2008

AABE Outstanding Chapter of the Year Awards were presented banners at the AABE National Conference:

- Atlanta Chapter
- Birmingham Chapter
- Chicago Chapter
- Cincinnati Chapter
- Columbus Chapter
- DC Metropolitan Chapter
- Denver Area Chapter (DAC)
- Florida Chapter
- Gulf Coast Chapter
- Houston Chapter
- Kansas-Missouri Chapter
- Michigan Chapter
- Mississippi Chapter
- North Carolina Chapter
- Savannah Chapter
- South Carolina Chapter (SCCAABE)
- Tennessee Chapter
- Washington/Oregon Chapter



**Birmingham wins Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award**

## AABE National Office Report - 1st Quarter 2008



**Morry Davis - Peabody Energy, SMSI Chapter member & AABE LIPP Committee Leader, at NYMAC meeting.**

**AABE's National Public Policy Principles include strategies on Climate Change, Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Technology.**

**LIPP Committee at April Atlanta Chapter meeting**



The National Office participated in the Global Roundtable on Climate Change hosted by Columbia University. The discussion focused on the directions and outcomes of the Bali Climate Change Conference. Of particular interest was the review of various fledgling cap & trade programs and national adaptation efforts or activities being put in place to mitigate the risks of climate change.

AABE was asked by Operation Push to develop a session on renewable energy technologies for the Push annual Wall

Street conference. DC Chapter President **Derek Dyson** and Houston Chapter member **John Q. Moaning**, CEO of Blue Diamond Ventures, offered a very compelling session on the entrepreneurial opportunities in these new energy technologies.

The Office has been in touch with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the possibility of developing a memorandum of agreement to establish an on-going consultative relationship. Given the expected role that Congress will assign to the EPA

regarding climate change may well require a significantly expanded role for the agency, particularly regarding communications with Minorities.

On February 12th, the Office participated as a panelist for a discussion on global climate change at the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association's Environment Committee Meeting. The discussion dealt with the social, economic and political impacts of the leading approaches to the mitigation of an adaptation to climate change.

The Office served as the AABE representative & delegate to the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference from March 3rd to March 6th. During the conference, AABE and the US-DOE were party to sidebar meetings with the Energy & Mining Minister from Morocco and the Energy, Mining & Environment Minister from South Africa. The purpose of the meetings was to establish a relationship between all parties.

AABE met with the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies and the Bipartisan

Policy Center to discuss a potential collaboration on providing energy and environmental information to the minority community. The discussion involved a potential role for AABE on a series of advisory groups and other forms of consultations.

Dr. Patrick Wilson of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) invited AABE to participate in a series of training efforts in Botswana, Liberia and Nigeria in an effort to increase the participation in trade authorized by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). This training is scheduled to begin this summer and to continue for several months. The role for AABE will be to consult on the energy implications of increasing the level of trade in agriculture and agricultural-related products.

To find out more about AABE's mission and policies, please visit the AABE National website at

<http://www.aabe.org>.

## AABE Public Policy Principles

The National Office, Board and the Legislative Issues & Public Policy (LIPP) Committee had the opportunity to participate in four chapter kick-offs of the roll-out of the *AABE Public Policy Principles*.

AABE selected **Redefining Progress** as the vendor to update the *State of Energy in Black America Report*.

The Washington DC Chapter began its roll-out activities on January 22nd. NYMAC held a meeting soon after.

The North Carolina Chapter held its Energy & Environment Conference on February 21st. LIPP Committee Leader **Morry Davis** (Peabody Energy-SMSI Chapter) gave a detailed presentation on the Principles dur-

On April 2nd, the Committee was invited to Atlanta to brief its members on the Principles. LIPP Committee Chair **David Owens** (EEI-DC), **AABE National Chair Carolyn Green** (Sunoco-Philadelphia), **AABE President & COO Frank Stewart** and Morry answered questions about the Principles and the roll-out.

# New AABE Chapters Officially Chartered

AABE is pleased to announce the addition of five new chapters



into the organization. All chapters were formally recognized as chapters in good standing during the Board Meeting at the annual Conference on April 16th.

The California Central Valley Chapter contains metro cities such as Fresno and Bakersfield. The Chapter was founded by AABE 2nd Vice-Chair **Warner Williams**, VP-North America for the Chevron Corporation.

**AABE 2nd Vice Chair Warner Williams (Chevron)**

The Baton Rouge Chapter was also recognized at the meeting. Baton Rouge is located in Louisiana.

The Atlanta Chapter created two chapters with college students attending Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech Chapter) and Fort Valley State University (FVSU Chapter). At the GA Tech Chapter, graduate student **Dimitri Hughes** became the Chapter President and **Dr. Co-mas Haynes** is the Chapter Coordinator. For the FVSU Chapter, **Dr. Isaac Crumbly** was announced as the Chapter Coordinator.

The North Carolina Chapter formed an AABE Student Chapter at NC Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T Chapter). Fort Valley State and NC A&T are Historic Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs).

There are now currently 45 Chapters within the AABE organization. Current membership stands at 800. This includes 33 active Chapters, 6 Student Chapters and 6 inactive Chapters across the 6 regions of the US. AABE membership dues are \$100/person for National membership. Additional dues are applied for local Chapter memberships. Student members pay \$25 per year. All Chapter membership applications can be found on the AABE website.

*To view a complete list of AABE Chapters, please visit Chapters' News from pp. 10 - 16*



*The Houston Museum of Natural Science hosted the AABE Conference attendees with a private viewing at the Wiess Energy Hall, Frensley Hall of African Wildlife, Cullen Hall of Gems & Minerals and the Lucy Exhibit.*

# A New AABE Website Under Development

The AABE President & COO **Frank Stewart**, National Technical Development Committee (TDC) and AABE General Counsel **Paul White** (NREL-DAC) have successfully entered into an agreement this April with **Filnet**, a Virginia-based firm hired to maintain and redevelop the entire AABE

website. Filnet is managed by its CEO, **Chris Baltazar**.

The website project is currently in the implementation stage, where members are testing the proposed template. The new website will contain a redesigned look, security, online registration, forums and emails, along with easier accessibil-

ity for all members and visitors. The project is expected to be complete by July. Chairs are **George Williams** (Exelon-Chicago), **Wayne Young** (Honeywell-ATL) and Phase Leader **LC Scott** (AEP-Columbus).

**Filnet is a minority-owned Alexandria, VA-based website solutions company.**

## AABE Energy Entrepreneur's Take Charge



LaDoris "Dot" Harris, Synergy Leader - Energy Services at GE Energy,

The inaugural Energy Entrepreneur's Forum was a complete success at the conference this year. Thanks to the work of the AABE National Energy Entrepreneur Committee Chair's **Dot Harris** (GE Energy-Atlanta) and **Tonja Wicks** (DC), the event drew a crowd of over 75 minority-owned businesses.

Topics focused on the first experiences that minority entrepreneur's face in the industry and how to finally build

your own business. The do's and don'ts when dealing in the energy arena were also explored. The forum also provided a networking demonstration where companies can form alliances with government agencies and major corporations.

Featured panelists at the Forum included **Steve Hightower**, President of Hightower Petroleum Company; **Vicky Bailey**, President of Anderson Stratton Interna-

tional; **Milton Scott**, President of the Tagos Group; **Greg White** of Northwestern University and **Jewel Smith**, Supplier Diversity Manager at Centerpoint Energy.

Please contact Tonja at [twicks50@aol.com](mailto:twicks50@aol.com) to enter to win the *AABE Energy Entrepreneur of the Year* award. The deadline is November 30, 2008.

### 2008 AABE Conference

#### Honorary Chairs:

**Sam Combs (ONEOK)**

**Michael Harness (Osyka)**

**Reginal Spiller (Frontera)**

**Roderick West (Entergy, NO)**

**Warner Williams (Chevron)**

Michael F. Harness, President & CEO of the Osyka Corporation.



## MLK Day of Service Resolution

A RESOLUTION that the American Association of Blacks in Energy recognize the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** holiday as a Day of Energy Service.

WHEREAS, the AABE is the nation's leading advocate for minority involvement in energy issues; and

WHEREAS, African American households, irrespective of income, spend a greater portion of their income on energy than do their non-African American counterparts; and

WHEREAS, minority and low income communities are harmed most by rising energy costs; and

WHEREAS, underrepresented communities also are more likely to live in older, less energy efficient homes, use older less efficient appliances, and drive less fuel efficient vehicles; and

WHEREAS, there are steps that citizens can take to reduce their energy bills, whether they own or rent their homes, and whether they own an automobile or use public transit; and

WHEREAS, saluting the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, through a day of service has become a national practice; and

WHEREAS, educating our nation's disadvantaged citizens and communities is crucial to the formulation of a sound national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, education regarding home weatherization, vehicle maintenance and repair, and energy conservation and efficiency are examples of ways that low-income, disabled, elderly and minority consumers can reduce their energy expenditures; and

WHEREAS, AABE members have the skills and access to information that underrepresented communities need to become wiser energy consumers; and

WHEREAS, the AABE has identified community education as an important component of its mission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY **THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY** that this Association hereby designates **Dr. Martin Luther King Day** as a Day of Utility Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AABE, through its local chapters throughout the nation, makes community energy education and assistance on the MLK holiday a priority outreach activity.



# Join AABE in Orlando in 2009



FL/AABE is proud to host the 2009 AABE 32nd Annual National Conference in Orlando during the month of April. The theme is "Clean Energy...A New Economy."

The AABE Southeast Region (SE) Chapters of Florida, Atlanta, Bir-

**The SE Region promotes next year's conference**

Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, the site of the conference.

FL/AABE Chapter President **Greg Owens** (JEA-FL), Board Member & National Conference Committee Chair **Polly Rosemond** (Entergy-LA) and SE Region Coordinator **Corlene Williams** (EIPaso/SNG-

mingham, Gulf Coast, North Carolina, South Carolina, Savannah and Tennessee will hold planning meetings on July 28th, October 12th and December 5th in 2008 at the

BHM) are the Conference Co-Chairs.

Volunteers are needed to help create the conference. Subcommittees include administration, agenda planning, college symposium/career fair, computer support, distribution, entrepreneur's forum, finance, 1st time attendees session, fundraising, gifts/souvenirs, program booklet, logistics, exhibits, publicity/promotions, silent auction, entertainment, training/workshops, transportation, volunteers and youth forum. To volunteer for a subcommittee, please contact Corlene at Corlene.williams@elpaso.com.

**AABE National Conference Planning Committee Chairs are Polly Rosemond (Entergy - LA) and William Suggs (Con Edison - NYMAC).**

## Young Adults join AABE in Houston

Opportunities were abound for young men and women who sought career advice and mentorship's during the AABE National Conference.

Over 200 college students from local colleges such as Texas Southern University (TSU) and Rice University were hosted by AABE to attend a special college symposium developed by AABE SW Region Chair **Gilda Joseph** (Chevron-Houston), **Althea Reid** (TVA-TN) and **Dr. Robert Ford** (TSU). Attendees were provided sessions on mentoring, internships and job market trends. Speakers included **Dr. Robin Petgrave**, Executive Director for Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum; **AABE President & COO Frank Stewart**; AABE 1st-Vice Chair **Robert Holmes** (APC-BHM); **Najla Moore** (Chevron-Houston); **Dr. Kumasi Adoma**, Fulbright; **Roger Dupre** (Entergy) and **Al Sullivan**, President of Inspirus Consulting.

AABE provided 26 career booths

from various companies at the conference for recruitment efforts.

AABE Houston Chapter VP **Sheldon Taylor** (Entergy) and member **Lee Kellough** (Entergy) developed a dynamic youth forum that "took education to another level." Forty-six seventh and eighth grade students from Teague Middle School and the Tocoa Academy were exposed to the energy industry with interactive projects and motivational speeches.

The Chevron Corporation provided *Energyville*, a program that helped students make wise energy choices and develop solutions to our current energy needs. Guest speakers included **Dr. Paul Landrew**, President of the Landrew Group; **Jerry Burrell**, Founder of Impact Entertainment; **Reginald Spiller**, EVP at Frontera Resources; **Jolecia Marigny**, Director at Entergy; **Olivia Harting** of Chevron and **Mary Miller** of Edison Electric

Institute.

A part of AABE's overall mission is to encourage African-American students to pursue careers in energy-related fields.



**Entergy's booth at the Career Fair during the Conference.**

# AABE Chapters' News



**Dorothy Herring,**  
Atlanta Chapter  
and Past AABE  
SE Regional  
Coordinator

*"Volunteering has  
always been a  
part of every day  
life for me"*

*- Dawn Cooper  
Cincinnati Chapter*

**Landri Taylor,**  
Vice President  
of Community  
Affairs at  
Forest City  
Stapleton -  
Denver Area  
Chapter



## Atlanta Chapter

The Atlanta Chapter's Energy Education Committee will participate in the Sweet Auburn Springfest 2008 taking place from May 9-11 on Auburn Avenue in downtown Atlanta. The theme of the 3-day festival is "Live Green, Save the Planet" and is expected to have 500,000 attendees.

The Sweet Auburn Springfest is one of the most anticipated annual outdoor events in the city. Auburn Avenue is a historic Black landmark in Atlanta in which Ebenezer Baptist Church, The King Center, the Civil Rights Walk of Fame and the King Family Tomb all reside.

The Chapter will sponsor a booth to distribute LIHEAP applications, AABE pamphlets and energy conservation information.

Past AABE Southeast Region Coordinator **Dorothy Herring** announced her retirement from Georgia Power Company this May. Dorothy served on the AABE National Board of Directors from 1998 to 2002.

## Cincinnati Chapter

AABE Cincinnati Chapter member **Dawn Cooper** (Duke Energy) received the US President's Volunteer Service Award for volunteering over 400 hours in 2007 on National Adoption Day, Nov. 16, 2007 at the White House in Washington, DC.

The agency asked Dawn to write an article for their publication. The article was submitted to *People Magazine* through the White House staff explaining her efforts and that of the agency in more detail. For a copy of the entire article, "AABE Member Recognized for

*Volunteer Efforts,"* please click on the AABE website under NEWS.

## Denver Area Chapter (DAC)

The Colorado Black Hall of Fame held the 2008 induction ceremony on Saturday, February 2nd, at the Ford-Warren Branch Library in Denver. Honorees are chosen for the major contributions they have made to the community on a municipal, state or national level.

Four individuals were honored including AABE DAC Officer **Landri Taylor**, VP of Community Affairs for Forest City Stapleton. Forest City is the development company that has transformed the former Denver Stapleton International Airport into a new community of 12,000 homes and apartments, 35,000 jobs and more than 1,100 acres of parks and open space. Taylor is responsible for small business development, job training, and Minority & Women-Owned Business Enterprise Outreach. He has served as AABE DAC Treasurer since January 2005. Landri is the 2nd DAC member to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. DAC founding member and former AABE National Board Director **Syl-Morgan Smith** (NREL) was first inducted in 2005.

AABE DAC Vice President **Jerome Davis** (Xcel Energy) recently graced the cover of *African-American Career World: The Diversity Employment Magazine (Winter/Spring 2008)*. Davis is the Area Manager of Community & Local Government Affairs at Xcel Energy. In an article titled "Energy, Gas, and Utilities: Careers in the Power Industry," Davis discussed how he made his way up in the ranks at Xcel Energy and what advice he gives to students

who are still trying to decide what they want to do with their lives.

## Florida Chapter (FL/AABE)

FL/AABE's goal is to enter into dialogue with the Florida Black Caucus of the Florida Legislature to establish our chapter as a subject matter energy resource expert for African-American State Officials. In addition, FL/AABE participated in an energy workshop held in Tallahassee on March 20th at the Center for Plasma Research on the campus of Florida A&M University (FAMU).

In February, we launched a fundraising initiative which promises to raise money for our chapter programs including energy education and awareness for our key constituents. This project will be on-going and will function as a standing committee within our Chapter's leadership structure.

## Houston Chapter

The Houston Chapter hosted its' 1st Annual Golf Classic aimed at "Energizing Tomorrow by Investing in Our Youth Today," at the Gleannloch Pines Golf Club in Spring, Texas. This stellar event concluded the AABE National Conference hosted in Houston from April 14- 18, 2008 at the Hilton Americas in downtown Houston.

This benefit tournament was a fundraising event sponsored by the Houston Chapter in support of their Scholarship/Mentoring Program. The tournament raised over \$7,500.

# AABE Chapters' News continued.



## Kansas-Missouri Chapter

The KS-MO Chapter will host the AABE National Board of Directors and Chapter Presidents' quarterly meeting from Friday, June 20 to Saturday, June 21 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, MO. The AABE room block closes on May 19th. Reservations can be made by calling 1-888-627-8538.

## Mississippi Chapter

The Mississippi Chapter will award \$5,000 in scholarships to area high school seniors at its 18th Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 15th. The event begins at 7 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson. **Miss Mississippi Kimberley Morgan** will be the keynote speaker.

This year's scholarship recipients are **Sade M. Bell**, of Greenville, a senior at the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science; **Deonna P. Jenkins** from Wingfield High School in Jackson; **Labreshia T. Mims** from Murrah High School in Jackson and **Lauren Taylor**, a senior at Corinth High School.

"This scholarship program has proven to be a solid investment in Entergy's future," said **Jean Jacobs**, AABE Mississippi Chapter President and Entergy Account Services Manager. "It's gratifying to see the continued successes of past recipients and know we are able to continue to recognize deserving students in our area."

## Michigan Chapter

The Michigan Chapter would like to invite you to celebrate its 8th Annual **Louis H. Latimer Awards**

**Louis H. Latimer**  
(1848 - 1928)

Program where we will be honoring **Raymond Lozano**, the Executive Director of the Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. **Carla Walker-Miller**, President and CEO of Walker Miller Energy Services, will be the keynote speaker. The event will be held on May 22nd at the San Marino Club in Troy, Michigan.

**Lewis Howard Latimer** (pictured), worked as a draftsman for inventors **Alexander Graham Bell**, **Hiram Maxim** and **Thomas Edison**. In 1879, he invented the carbon filament to make incandescent lamps last longer and become more affordable. During subsequent years, Lewis received patents for his numerous designs and formed his own light bulb factory in London. Latimer's Queens, NY home was preserved as a museum in 1988.

The purpose of the awards program is to raise money for AABE's annual scholarship program and to increase visibility of the organization within the communities that we serve. Since 1995, AABE has awarded over \$155,000 in scholarships to minority students in Michigan. Tickets cost \$100/person and sponsorship levels are available. Please contact **Brenda Lee** (CMS-MI) for a donation form.

## New Jersey Chapter

The New Jersey Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), held their Scholarship Awards Dinner on March 7, 2008. The Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) – who co-sponsored the event – hosted the celebration in the **E.J. Ferland** Conference Center at their corporate headquarters in Newark, New Jersey.

The New Jersey Chapter awarded four scholarships to graduating seniors planning to attend a four-year college or university this fall. The winners of the Chapter's 2008

Scholarships were: **Zabriell Brown-Ross** (Franklin), **Jasmyn Ledford** (Bishop George Ahr) – daughter of PSE&G employee **Calvin Ledford, Jr.**, **Jordan Hall** (Piscataway), and **Earl Roach, III** (Piscataway). While the students continue down the home-stretch of their high school careers – preparing for the prom, studying for finals, and trying to win the battle against Senioritis – the next chapter of their lives has yet to be written.

In addition to the scholars and their families, PSEG employees, and AABE members, the Northeast Regional Scholarship Chairperson (AABE) – **John Skipper**, an employee of Con Ed in New York – was in attendance. He encouraged the students to keep striving for excellence in whatever they do; understanding there are a myriad of opportunities available to them, and not to lose sight of the big picture, "because we're counting on you." In fact, an underlying theme throughout the event was a need for some of the brightest minds to use their collective intellect and resourcefulness to help preserve and develop our most precious, shared resource – the Earth.

"I am very proud of the achievements of each of the scholars and our Chapter," stated **Gwendolyn Ratliff** – Chapter Scholarship Chairperson. She went on to say, "The dedication and commitment of our membership, makes our organization responsible to our communities and our employer."

**Kevin Kimbo** – Chapter President added, "I'm very excited about the potential of these students, and others like them. You are our future leaders; and I'm glad AABE is able to help you pursue your dreams."

*"It's gratifying to know we are able to continue to recognize deserving students in our area"*  
- Jean Jacobs  
(Entergy)  
AABE Mississippi Chapter President



**AABE NJ Chapter & Scholarship Winners**

# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## Arkansas Chapter

Arkansas Chapter President **Glenn Freeman** (Entergy) was the moderator of the Coal Session, "Keeping it Clean: Carbon Sequestering and Clean Coal Technology," during the conference.

Arkansas Chapter Secretary, **Sheila Wright** (Entergy) managed the administration, distribution and volunteer committees as well as serving as the 2008 National Conference Planning Co-Chair.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to Glenn and Sheila for their participation and commitment to one of AABE's most successful conferences.

## Birmingham Chapter

Over the 1st quarter of 2008, the Birmingham Chapter of AABE hosted three events for their members. Special guest speakers included **Dr. Stan L. Mims**, Superintendent of the Birmingham City School System; **State Representative Oliver Robinson** (58th District); and **Mindy Hammond** of Ameriprise Financial Services.

The Chapter plans to host several community related programs during the 2nd quarter including InRoads leadership training sessions, internships, Bethel Ensley Action Taskforce (BEAT) and the **Iva B. Williams** Scholarship Golf Tournament.

## Connecticut Chapter

Connecticut Light & Power, Yankee Gas and The United Illuminating Company have signed on to again sponsor the Scholarship Program

for the Connecticut Chapter of AABE. As part of the corporate sponsorships, students receiving AABE scholarships will also have an opportunity to participate in an internship program. This year the chapter plans to award up to five \$2,500 scholarships at it's annual reception sometime this spring. Efforts focused on developing a fundraising strategy for 2008 are underway and include the *7th Annual Bowling For Scholars* event scheduled for October.

## Gulf Coast Chapter

During the month of February, the Gulf Coast Chapter recently held a forum titled "Black History Reflection Across Generations." The forum had the format of an open-panel discussion. The four-person panel consisted of GC Chapter Founder **Daryl Brown**, Manager of supply chain management, Mississippi Power; **Moanica Caston**, VP External Affairs and General Counsel, Southern Nuclear; **Anthony James**, Shared Services President and EVP of Southern Company Services; and **Jarl Young**, Regional CIO, Gulf Power.

The forum focused on the concept for first time in the nation's history there are four generations in the workforce at the same time, and the goal of the forum was to gain the perspectives of the different generations. The facilitator, **Shardra Scott**, Assistant to President, Gulf Power, asked the panelists challenging questions in reference to workforce generation. Among the topics covered were, how can

Southern Company benefit from this phenomenon, what challenges will the company face, will the Southern Company culture have to change, and what the different generations can learn from one another. The panelists agreed that Southern Company, as well as, our society is headed in the right direction as far as diversity is concerned. They also discussed their different mentoring styles and how important it is to mentor and share experiences.

## Central SW Louisiana

CLECO Corporation's President and CEO, **Mike Madison**, participated on the *Legislative Crossfire Session* during the conference. Mike discussed the challenges CLECO faced to make large investments in clean coal technology in Louisiana.

## Louisiana

AABE member and President & CEO of Entergy, New Orleans, **Rod West** participated in the *CEO Roundtable* during the conference. Rod was promoted to CEO on January 1, 2007 and shared his experiences as one of the youngest African-American executives in the energy industry.

The April 2008 issue of *EnergyBiz Magazine* featured the article "Entergy New Orleans is Jazzed" on the utility's efforts to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina. DC Chapter members **Clint Vince** (Sullivan & Worchester) and Board member **David Owens** (EEL) were quoted in this report.



**Sheila Wright**  
Arkansas Chapter  
2008 National  
Conference Co-Chair

## AABE Regional Coordinators

**Gilda Joseph - SW**

**R. Kirsten Watts - West**

**Sabrina Campbell - Mid-Atl**

**Rodney Powell - NE**

**Debra Smallwood - NE**

**Corlene Williams - SE**

**Calvin Talley - MW**

## AABE Gulf Coast Chapter Black History Forum panelists



# AABE Chapters' News continued.



## Columbus Chapter

The Columbus, Ohio Chapter of AABE started 2008 off strong with both member participation and support from state and local leadership within Central Ohio. Our January meeting, which focused on the strategic plan for 2008, was hosted by Jones Day – a national and international law firm here in the Columbus area. The Chapter was joined by our Regional Coordinator, **Cal Talley**, who came in from Michigan to offer his support of the chapter, as well as to give us words of encouragement as we embarked upon a New Year. Also in attendance was the **First Lady of Ohio – Mrs. Frances Strickland**. Mrs. Strickland was invited by our Chapter President, and indicated that she was delighted to learn of AABE as both a national and local organization. In her brief remarks, she stated that she looks forward to partnering with us to serve the people of Ohio.

The January meeting was also the inaugural meeting of our new leadership team which consists of **Jatona (Toni) Cunningham** – Chapter President, **John Johnson, Jr.** – Vice President, **Mary Gallion** – Treasurer, and **Kellye Wright** – Secretary. We also have **Michelle Kinds** and **Deborah Gaines** serving as Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary respectively. The Chapter also has two new Directors, **Darnita Bradley** and **Al**

## **Columbus Chapter Officers & Ohio 1st Lady Strickland**

**Dyson**, who joined the Board as of January 2008.

The January meeting was followed by successful meetings in February, March, and April. These meetings have been made possible by the sponsorship and support of such organizations as Columbia Gas of Ohio and the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Since January, the Chapter has also launched an aggressive membership drive and held its first “Happy Hour/Membership Mixer”, as well as identified the 2008 scholarship recipients – and planned an event to honor them. In addition, a “meet and greet” with **Governor Ted Strickland**, and his team, is planned for the latter part of May.

## Indiana Chapter



Indiana Chapter Co-Founder, **Barrett Hatches** (Swope Health Services) received the **James E. Stewart (JES)** Award during

the JES Gala at the conference. The Chapter is planning to hold Energy Fairs in Ft. Wayne, NW Indiana and St. Joe later this year.

## Southeastern Missouri/Southern Illinois Chapter (SMSI)

The Chapter held 2 quarterly meetings so far this year and plans to hold a Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) meeting and SMSI

Chapter Mixer later in 2008.

## Oklahoma Chapter

**Joe McCormick** (Oklahoma Natural Gas/ONEOK) was elected Chapter President for the 2008-2010 term of office. **Sam Combs**, President of ONEOK Distribution Companies was an Honorary Chair of the 2008 AABE National Conference.

## Southern California Chapter

The Chapter and Southern California Edison produced an outstanding Black History Program in February. The 6th annual event entitled “Connecting the Evolution of Electricity to Black History” featured a tour of the latest technologies to save energy and highlights of past African-American inventors. The keynote speaker was **Earvin “Magic” Johnson**, former LA Lakers basketball star and CEO of the Magic Johnson Foundation.

## Chicago Chapter

**Stephanie Hickman**, President of Trice Construction Company, has successfully been re-elected to another 2-year term on the AABE National Board of Directors.

## Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

**Robert “Bobby” Byrd**, Director of the NuBuild Project for Luminant Power was a guest panelist on the “Revitalizing the US Nuclear Industry” Nuclear Session during the AABE 2008 National Conference.

## **DID YOU**

## **KNOW?**

**AABE® was incorporated as a non-profit organization on December 1, 1977 in Denver, Colorado.**



**Samuel Combs III, President of ONEOK Distribution Co.**

# AABE Chapters' News continued.



**AABE NC Chapter  
Energy & Environ-  
ment Conference  
with NC A&T Univ.  
Chapter Students**

*“Energy is  
probably one of  
the most  
important topics  
at this time.”*

*- Wilton Cedeno*

*AABE National  
Chairman*

**Board Member Hilda Pinnix-  
Ragland (Progress Energy) is  
the keynote speaker at the  
NC Chapter  
Energy Conference**



## **New York Metropolitan Area Chapter (NYMAC)**

NYMAC honored outgoing **AABE National Chairperson Wilton Cedeno** (ConEd-NYMAC) for his outstanding service and contributions to society on March 26th at Con Edison 's corporate headquarters in NYC. Wilton is currently employed as the Director of Information Resources for Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (ConEd). Wilton has served on the AABE National Board of Directors for 8 years and was elected AABE National Chair from 2006 to 2008.

He was the 3rd person to serve as Chair from NYMAC. Past Chairs included **Mary Boyd-Foy** (Consultant) from 1990 to 1992 and **Woody Dorsey** (ConEd-Retired) from 1996 to 1998.

The keynote speaker at the reception was incoming AABE National Chairperson, **Carolyn Green** (Philadelphia). Carolyn is currently employed as the VP of Health, Environment and Safety Regulatory Affairs for Sunoco, Inc.

AABE Board Member **Marion Brackett** (NYMAC) announced her retirement from her employer, the National Grid and resigned from the Board. Marion served on the AABE National Board of Directors from 1998 to 2008 and was the Past National Scholarship Committee Chair. Congratulations go out to Marion

for her years of dedicated service to the community and AABE.

## **North Carolina Chapter**

*“Energy Justice Concerns Minorities” By **Morgan Josey Glover**, Staff Writer, Greensboro, North Carolina News & Record – February 22, 2008*

Black energy industry professionals concerned about the vulnerability of low-income minorities to supply and price volatility want to have a greater say in the distribution of fuel, electricity and other energy sources.

“Energy is probably one of the most important topics at this time,” said **Wilton Cedeno** (ConEd – NYMAC), Chairman of the Board of Directors for the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE). “It is not true to say these issues are not relevant to African-Americans and they are not involved.” On February 21st, AABE and NC A&T University (pictured above) co-sponsored a conference in Greensboro to discuss initiatives and a possible partnership that would offer mentoring and provide scholarships and internships to engineering students.

Members now are tackling environmental and social justice concerns as fuel and electricity become more expensive and some scientists attribute severe weather in the US and Africa to climate change. For example, US unemployment among Blacks outpaced that of

Whites after the Middle East oil embargo during the 1970s, said **Leslie Fields**, Director of Environmental Justice for the Sierra Club.

Low-income households and small businesses could also suffer lost wages and revenue, disruptions in mass transit and health problems if extended electricity outages occur similar to those in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, said **Morry Davis** (Peabody Energy), AABE National LIPP Committee Energy Principles Co-Leader. Creating policies that equitably distribute resources will be key to overcoming these challenges. “If this doesn’t happen correctly, this will have a profoundly negative impact on the African-American community,” Davis said. “How do we make this an even playing field for everyone?”

Presentations held during the AABE NC Chapter Energy & Environment conference included executives from the AABE National Office, various government representatives, NC Sustainable Energy Association, Progress Energy, Advanced Energy, and the Department of Energy.

The Chapter held its 1st Annual Golf Tournament on April 7th at Bermuda Run Golf Complex in Advance, NC. To view pictures please visit <http://www.mandsonlineexpo/abbengolf.htm>.

# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## Philadelphia Chapter



During the 2008 Conference, Board Officer **Carolyn L. Green** (Sunoco) was elected the 13th AABE Na-

tional Chair of the Board of Directors to serve the 2008-2010 term of office. She became the 1st National Chair from the Philadelphia Chapter and the 3rd female to lead the AABE organization.

The AABE Philadelphia Chapter is pleased to announce the re-election of **Willa Hightower** (PECO Energy) as its Chapter President for the 2008-2009 term of office. Willa is employed as Manager, Regulatory Support & Revenue/Load Forecasting for PECO Energy Company. In January, the Chapter also elected **Valeria Bullock** (PECO Energy) as Vice President, **Tracy Woods** as Secretary, and **Melvin Campbell** (Exelon Generation) as Treasurer.

Congratulations go out to Chairperson Green and all newly elected Philadelphia Chapter Officers!

## Savannah Chapter

**Anthony R. James** (Pictured), Executive Vice President of Southern Company and President of the company's Shared Services Group, retired on April 1, 2008. Anthony founded the AABE Savannah Chapter in April 2002 when he served as President & CEO of Savannah Electric, a subsidiary of Southern Company from 2001 to 2005. In 2004, James was selected as "Black Engineer of the Year" by *US Black Engineer Magazine and Career Communi-*

## **AABE National Chair of the Board Carolyn L. Green**

*cations.* We commend Anthony on his many achievements including years of service, future endeavors and contributions to the AABE organization.

## South Carolina Chapter (SCCAABE)

The SCCAABE AHA team participated in their first SCANA American Heart Association (AHA) Heart Walk in March. The team raised a total of \$585. The following SCCAABE members from SCANA donated their time and efforts to this worthy event: Team Captain **Allison Spry, Michael Ferguson** (SCCAABE President), **Tamara Jacobs, Zach Taylor, Myrelo King, Elaine Burton, Tia Blyther, Rachel Bourke, Mary Johnson, Angie Webb, Kimberly Brown, Anthony Stewart, Alvin Bonaparte** and **Charles Bellamy**.

Our organization continues to have tremendous success in our outreach efforts to young students and acquainting them with the energy industry. SCCAABE is happy to report that our involvement with the Claflin Shadow Day was a tremendous success and involved a dozen of our members in a collaborative effort with SCANA and Claflin University. Students spent time with our SCCAABE members learning about energy and SCANA in various roles and responsibilities. This was the first such Shadow effort. After the event, one student wrote to **Myrelo King**:

"I would like to take this time and say thank you for the awesome experience I had today with you. Thank you for all the important things that you told me. I plan to

implement all the wonderful things you said to my everyday life. I look forward to even working with you in the future. Who knows, I may end up with a Co-Op/Intern with SCANA. Once again thank you and God Bless you more each day. I pray that he give you the strength to keep doing your job and be the leader that he has called you to be. God bless!"



We believe this is truly fulfilling our role of "feeding the pipeline" and aiding SCANA in its effort to introduce students and others to the energy industry. This effort is part of our SCCAABE Strategic Plan.

Secondly, it gives us great pleasure in noting the accomplishment of the Robotics Team (Robo-Raiders) from Keenan High School. SCCAABE is closely affiliated with Keenan and is the school where we hold our Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) events. The team won the 2008 Regional Chairman's award (the highest award given) at the Palmetto Regional Robotics Competition held 3-29 in Clemson. SCCAABE is a sponsor of this team. Our immediate Past-President, **Angie Webb**, was one of the judges at the event. This is the second time the Keenan team has won this event in the past 3 years.

The SCCAABE article is continued on the next page.

**SCCAABE member Allison Spry and family member at the AHA Heart Walk**



**Anthony R. James - Founder of the AABE Savannah Chapter**

# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## SCCAABE Continued

SCCAABE begins preparation for its annual large scale Professional Development seminar. The event is scheduled for September 24-25, 2008 in Columbia, S.C. The Professional Development subcommittee is led this year by **Zach Taylor**, Supervisor of Nuclear Training, V.C. Summer Nuclear Station.

As in previous years, the seminar will focus on the hot topics related to the energy industry. Of paramount significance this year is SCANA's recent submittal of a Combined Operating License (COL) to obtain a permit and acceptance to build two new nuclear units expected to provide capacity to the grid starting in 2015.

Committed presenters already include SCANA's CEO **Bill Timmerman** and South Carolina Electric and Gas President and COO **Kevin Marsh**. The seminar will have a stronger emphasis on personal professional development in the form of self-help presentations for our constituents as we try to navigate the maze of the energy industry. We will present avenues and opportunities available within SCANA as the Company attempts to address the looming workforce planning issues and employee retention efforts.

SCCAABE is in the process of developing a AABE Student Chapter at Claflin University and/or S.C. State. We hope to have these young students and future energy leaders involved in our seminar.

## Tennessee Chapter

On February 29th, the AABE Tennessee Chapter honored its Past President and former AABE Southeast Regional Coordinator, **Alonzo Weaver**, Vice President, Engineering and Operations, for Memphis, Light, Gas & Water (MLGW). Alonzo was SE Region Coordinator from 2002 to 2006.

The Chapter also hosted the Memphis Weekend Academy's Black History Month essay contest winners. Awards (pictured) were presented to Cummings Elementary 3rd grade student **Brittany Saulesberry** for her report on **Annie Easley**, Hamilton Elementary 4th grade student **LaDajah Sheppard's** essay on **Louis W. Roberts**, and Hamilton Elementary 5th grade student **Christopher Duckett's** presentation on **Dr. Jesse Ernest Wilkins, Jr.**

## Washington DC Metropolitan Area Chapter (DC)

The DC Chapter congratulates its immediate past President **Sabrina V. Campbell** (AEP) as the new Treasurer on the AABE National Board of Directors. Sabrina has also served on the Board as the Mid-Atlantic Region Coordinator, Vice-Chair of the LIPP Committee and as AABE's Conference Chair at the historic 30th Annual AABE National Conference held in DC in April 2007.

The new DC Chapter President is **Derek A. Dyson**, a law partner at Duncan,

Weinberg, Genzer & Pembroke, P.C.

## Washington/Oregon Chapter (WA/OR)

The West Region Chapters will host the 33rd AABE National Conference in Seattle, Washington or Portland, Oregon in April 2010. The AABE West Region Chapters include Washington/Oregon, Alaska, California Central Valley, Denver, Northern California and Southern California. The 2010 Conference Chair is AABE West Region Coordinator **Kirsten Watts** (BPA-WA/OR).

## New AABE Chapters

### California Central Valley

### Baton Rouge, Louisiana

### NC A&T Student Chapter

FVSU Student Chapter - Dr. Isaac Crumbly (Chapter Coordinator)

GA Tech Student Chapter - Dimitri Hughes (Chapter President) and **Dr. Comas Haynes** (Chapter Coordinator)

## Other AABE Chapters

Alaska, Wisconsin, Northern California, Boston, Baltimore, Boston, Dayton, Pittsburgh and Virginia

## Other Student Chapters

University of Tulsa, Michigan State University and the University of Kansas



Tennessee Chapter  
Black History Month  
essay winners

*AABE is on a membership drive to expand the organization. Help bring in new members! Membership applications can be found on <http://aabe.org/membership>.*



Derek Dyson is the new  
DC Chapter President



# Energy and Environment News



## Kyle's Korner

*"Enter Brazil: The New Oil Heavy-weight of the World"*

Brazil, once considered a relative afterthought in the global oil marketplace, has some energy analysts changing their forecast assumptions. After a recent announcement in 2008 of a massive oil discovery off the coast of Brazil in the Carioca-Sugar Loaf, which the Brazil National Petroleum Agency (NPA) estimates contains as much as 33 billion barrels of oil, the nation catapults into eighth position in the global oil rankings. This discovery is the third largest ever and is adjacent to the Tupi Field. Brazil's last major oil discovery came in 2007 when oil was discovered in the Tupi field, which analysts suspect will produce between 5 billion and 8 billion barrels. This additional oil field discovery is quite fortuitous for Brazil. Brazil's oil reserves were suspected to be relatively modest at about 12 billion barrels at the beginning of 2007, or about 1% of the world's total.

Both Tupi and the Carioca-Sugar Loaf, lie beneath a thick layer of salt that is some 500 miles long and 125 miles wide. Petrobras (the state owned oil company of Brazil) and its partners, BG of Britain and Repsol-YPF of Spain are heading the drilling efforts. The firm's head of exploration says, "There is practically no exploratory risk" in the area.

**Dilma Rousseff**, Petrobra's chairman has declared that Brazil will soon be on a par with Venezuela or

## Brazil's Petrobras P-40 oil platform

Saudi Arabia. The government must be thrilled at the prospect of the revenue from the new fields but they will take many years and huge sums to develop (drilling a single well at Tupi cost \$240m).

Goldman Sachs has coined the term "BRIC", for what it considers the future economic powers in the world. "BRIC" stands for Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Brazil, although modest when compared to China and India, experienced 5.4% GDP growth last year. Brazil has grown at an average of 4.5% since 2004 and grew an average of 7% between 1940 and 1980.

Recent reports have indicated that Brazil has been receiving offers to join the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). However, At the Energy Information Administration's 2008 conference held in Washington D.C. April 7-8, I confronted the head energy analyst of Lehman Brothers who said that not only was there no assumption of the sort built into his forecast model but that he hadn't even heard that Brazil had received any offers to join OPEC. Brazil joining OPEC would certainly be troublesome for the US as it attempts to move away from dependence on the whim of the oil cartel. Whatever Brazil eventual decision may be regarding membership in OPEC, one thing is certain, Brazil has entered the arena of global economic powers.

**Kyle Elliott** is AABE's National Research Assistant in DC.

## US Nuclear Energy Generation Makes Record

EIA Press Release – March 31, 2008

The U.S. nuclear industry supplied a record 806.5 billion kWh of electricity in 2007. The largest increase came in Tennessee, with 4 billion kWh more nuclear-provided electricity in 2007 than in 2006, an increase of 16 percent, according to preliminary US Department of Energy's (DOE) Energy Information Administration (EIA) data released today.

National total nuclear generation was 2.4 percent higher than in 2006, and 2.3 percent higher than in the previous record year, 2004. The capacity factor (the amount of power actually generated compared with the maximum amount that could be generated) for 2007 was 91.8 percent, exceeding the previous record capacity factor of 90.3 percent in 2002.

The total number of operating commercial nuclear reactors in the U.S. increased from 103 to 104 in 2007 with the return to service of the Brown's Ferry 1 reactor, which had been shut down in 1985. The total number of operating U.S. commercial reactors remains well below the peak level of 112 in 1990. However nuclear power generation in 2007 was 40 percent above the 577 billion kWh produced in 1990, largely reflecting a major improvement in utilization rates.

## Federal & State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency

DSIRE is a database of Federal and States' tax incentives and utility rebate programs for energy efficiency projects. Please visit the DSIRE website, <http://www.dsireusa.org>, for detailed information on residential, commercial and industrial energy conservation programs in your area.

Visit AABE's website at <http://www.aabe.org> for Career Opportunities, AABE Events, Energy Conservation Information, Membership and Scholarship Applications.



## The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE®)

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Website: <http://www.aabe.org>

**Frank Stewart** - President & COO

**Lakeesha Wilson** - Director of Member Services

### AABE® Mission Statement

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) is a national association of energy professionals founded in 1977 and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and other minorities into the discussions and developments of energy policies regulations, R&D technologies, and environmental issues.

The purposes of AABE are the following:

- To serve as a resource for policy discussion of the economic, social and political impact of environmental and energy policies on African Americans and other minorities.
- To ensure involvement of African Americans in governmental energy policymaking by recommending capable sensitive and informed personnel to appropriate officials.
- To encourage both the public and private sectors to be responsive to the problems, goals and aspirations of African Americans in energy-related fields.
- To encourage African American students to pursue careers in energy-related fields and to provide scholarships and other financial aid for such students.

AABE was founded in 1977 and is largely comprised of African-American professionals in energy-related careers. AABE is a not-for-profit organization with 45 chapters across the country and over 1,300 members.

## Upcoming AABE Events

### AABE Board of Directors & Chapter Presidents Meetings

June 20-21: Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel, Kansas, Missouri

September 25-27: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Washington, DC

December 5-6: Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida

### Upcoming AABE Chapter Golf Tournaments in 2008

May 16: Atlanta Chapter 6th Annual **James K. Davis** Scholarship Golf Outing - Summer Grove Golf Club, Newnan, GA

June 5: Gulf Coast Chapter 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament - Grand Bear Golf Course, Saucier, MS

June 6: Birmingham Chapter Annual **Iva B. Williams** Scholarship Golf Tournament - Oxmoor Valley Golf Course, Birmingham, AL

June 7: Connecticut Chapter 6th An-

nual Scholarship Golf Outing - Blue Fox Run Golf Course, Avon, CT

June 13: South Carolina Chapter 12th Annual **Josie K. Claiborne** Scholarship Golf Tournament - Charwood Country Club, West Columbia, SC

June 20: Michigan Chapter 12th Annual **George C. Turner** Scholarship Golf Outing - Reddeman Farms Golf Club, Dexter, MI

July 18: Cincinnati Chapter 9th Annual Scholarship Golf Benefit - Pebble Creek Golf Course, Cincinnati, OH

August 26: Kansas-Missouri Chapter 9th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament - Deer Creek Golf Course, Overland Park, KS

December 6: Florida Chapter 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic, Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL

3rd Quarter 2008: Southeastern Mis-

souri/Southern Illinois Chapter 1st Annual Scholarship Golf Fundraiser, To Be Determined

3rd Quarter 2008: Columbus Chapter 1st Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, To Be Determined.

For applications and registration information, please visit the Chapters' websites on [www.aabe.org/chapter](http://www.aabe.org/chapter).

### AABE Energy News Article Submissions Deadlines

News items from AABE members or outside sources are welcome. Reprints of articles must have permissions from the source of the document. Events announcements must be provided at least 3 months in advance. Word documents, emails, Adobe files and pictures (.GIF, .JPEG and .JPG extensions only) are requested. Deadline: **Monday, July 7, 2008** Editor: **Wayne X. Young**, AABE Communications Committee Chair Email: [wayne.young2@honeywell.com](mailto:wayne.young2@honeywell.com)

**AABE PHOTO GALLERY**

