


# AABE<sup>®</sup>



## All ABout Energy

American Association of Blacks in Energy – Atlanta Chapter  
Vol. 5, Issue 5 ♦ January 2007  
[www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org)



### DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

More than 50 AABE members and guests gathered on December 14<sup>th</sup> in Georgia Power's Banquet Room for the last meeting of 2006 -- a year-end celebration which included a 2006 Review. Several members traveled from Plant McDonough and the Customer Care Center to attend this meeting, which was the very first AABE meeting for some! President **Eric Duncan** gave a highlight of the 2006 monthly programs, national activities, and Atlanta Chapter's goals and accomplishments for the year. Programs Committee Chair **Eric Arnold** presented the 2007 meeting schedule, Treasurer **Olivia Woods** provided membership information and motivation to join and participate in AABE events. TOUCH Committee Chairperson **Dorothy Herring** solicited members to become presenters for the 2007 mentoring program (CHOICES) at **Booker T. Washington** High School. At least seven volunteers are needed. Fundraising Committee chairperson **Tangela Martin** presented an honorary award to **Marsha Johnson**, SVP Talent Management and Chief Diversity Officer at Southern Company, for her significant support of the 2006 golf tournament and scholarship program.

Special thanks to Chapter Secretary **Cherryl Harris** for planning the event, and members **Joyce Green** and **Valerie Huff** for creating the year-in review poster boards (*shown on page 7*).

Congratulations also go to **Mitchell King** and **Conrado Marion-Landais**, winners of the American Express gift certificates. Their names were selected from members who had paid their 2007 membership dues by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWS: Donations Received

AABE wishes to thank everyone who donated items and money for *My Sister's House*. Our Chapter collected over 300 packages of diapers, 200 rolls of toilet paper, boxes of detergent, clothing and other toiletries. My Sister's House is Atlanta Union Mission's full service center for women and children, located in Atlanta. The items were delivered on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Photos are provided on the last page of this newsletter. Melissa Clayton, Volunteer Coordinator for Women's & Children's Services, was especially touched by our generosity and offers her sincere thanks on behalf of the citizens they serve. Remember volunteers are always needed. Contact Melissa at 404-367-2473 for more information.

### January Chapter Meeting:

AABE is partnering with Energy Exchange and the African American Women's Networking Group to present the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration program which will take place Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in Georgia Power's Arkwright Auditorium. The guest speaker is **Dr. Jane E. Smith**, Executive Director for the Center of Leadership and Civic Engagement (LEADS) at Spelman College. No RSVPs are required, and lunch is provided. Attendees admitted as space permits. Doors open at 10:45 a.m.

### 2007 Atlanta Chapter Monthly Meeting Schedule:

With the exception of January, February, and April, our monthly meetings occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. 2007 dates and locations are as follows:

- ✓ 1/10 – GPC Auditorium (MLK Program)
- ✓ 2/13 – GPC Banquet Room (Black History Month)
- ✓ 3/8 – AGL Auditorium
- ✓ 4/10–4/13 Washington, DC, 30<sup>th</sup> Annual conference
- ✓ 4/19 – GE Energy Auditorium
- ✓ 5/10 – GPC Auditorium 4pm (Scholarship Banquet)
- ✓ 6/14 – AGL Auditorium
- ✓ 7/12 – Georgia Power Park (AABE Picnic)

- ✓ 8/9 – GE Energy Auditorium
- ✓ 9/13 – AGL Auditorium
- ✓ 10/11 – GPC Banquet Room (BEAM Program)
- ✓ 11/8 – GPC Banquet Room (TOUCH Program)
- ✓ 12/13 – GPC Banquet Room

#### **GEORGIA NEWS:**

##### **Burgess loses seat on PSC**

In an election runoff with 93% of the districts reporting, incumbent Georgia PSC Commissioner **David Burgess** (D) conceded defeat to **Chuck Eaton** (R) at 10 p.m. Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Although turnout was extremely low, Eaton was able to receive 53% of the vote compared to 47% by Burgess. Burgess was a PSC member for 7 years and served on Staff before that.

##### **African-American SoCo**

##### **Employees in Print:**

Several magazines and newspapers recently featured Southern Company African-American employees: **Marsha Johnson**, SVP Talent Management & Chief Diversity Officer - Southern Company, **Ronald McGee** – Georgia Power, and **Kimani Silva** – Gulf Power were all profiled in recruitment ads within *Black Enterprise* magazine and *The Atlanta Business Chronicle* (ABC). **Arthur McClung Jr.**, City of Atlanta Operations Director for GPC, was photographed by the ABC with his wife at the Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Foundation 1000 event at the Georgia Aquarium on November 28<sup>th</sup>, which was published in the ABC on 12/15. The same issue of ABC featured an interview with Southern Company Transmission Line Engineer **Felicia Taylor** on how the city of Atlanta attracts young African-American professionals.

##### **New Performing Arts Centre in Cobb County**

Cobb Energy contributed \$20 million to the construction of a new performing arts facility in the Cumberland/Galleria area. The Cobb Energy Centre for the Performing Arts will be a venue for operas, concerts and corporate events. It will include a 2,750 seat theater, 10,000 square foot ballroom and 11 acre park. The total cost to complete the project is \$145 million. It is slated to open in September 2007.

##### **Customer focus to Patient focus**

After 10 years in the utility industry, former AABE member and BEAM chairperson, **Louis Bates Jr.**, has chosen a new path as the business manager of his wife's company, Pediatric Dentistry at Vinings [www.pediatricdentistryatvinings.com](http://www.pediatricdentistryatvinings.com). The office, located just off of I-285 & South Cobb Drive in Smyrna is owned by **Dr. Faith Bates**, a board eligible pediatric dentist with over seven years of clinical experience. Pediatric Dentistry at Vinings caters to children from aged 1 to 18 years and accepts most major dental insurance plans. Start off the New Year right by scheduling your child's dental appointment at (678) 305-1090.

##### **Atlanta Business Chronicle Book of Lists 2006 – 2007**

The *Book of Lists* was recently released and includes several energy, engineering, consulting and environmental related companies in its annual statistics. They are as follows:

##### ATL Top 20 Best Places to Work – Medium Companies:

#20 – McKenney's Inc.

##### ATL Top 20 Foreign Owned Subsidiaries:

#1 – Siemens Energy & Automation Inc.  
 #9 – Yokogawa Corp. of America

##### #16 – Herry International ATL Top 50 Fastest Growing Private Companies:

#13 – Ellis Astin Grading Co., Inc.  
 #20 – AEC Company LLC.  
 #31 – Premier Environmental Services, Inc. / PREMO Group Inc.

##### GA 50 Highest Paid Executives – Public Companies:

#5 – **M. Michelle Burns** (Mirant Corp.)  
 #10 – **S. Marce Fuller** (Mirant Corp.)  
 #19 – **David Ratcliffe** (Southern Company)

##### ATL Top 100 Private Companies

#3 – RaceTrac Petroleum Inc.  
 #9 – Oglethorpe Power Corp.  
 #14 – Colonial Pipeline Co.  
 #22 – MACTEC Inc.  
 #32 – H.J. Russell & Co.  
 #48 – Cleveland Group Inc.  
 #56 – Georgia Transmission Corp.  
 #62 – PS Energy Group  
 #73 – Golden Associates Inc.  
 #84 – Sunbelt Marketing Inc.  
 #93 – Diversitech Corp.

##### GA Top 200 Public Companies:

#8 – Southern Company  
 #17 – Mirant Corporation  
 #20 – AGL Resources Inc.  
 #56 – RPC Inc.  
 #84 – Intercontinental Exchange Inc.  
 #103 – Servidyne Inc.

##### GA 50 Most Valuable Public Companies:

#6 – Southern Company  
 #12 – Mirant Corp.  
 #21 – AGL Resources Inc.

##### ATL Top 25 Commercial Construction Companies:

#16 – **Herman J. Russell** (H.J. Russell & Co.)

##### ATL Top 25 Engineering Firms:

(w/ African-American Executives)  
 #1 – **Anthony B. Taylor** (Parsons Corporation)

#2 – **Gerri B. Dickerson**  
(CH2M Hill Inc.)  
#4 – **Douglas R. Hooker**  
(PBS&J)

GA Top 25 Performing CEOs:  
#4 – **Paula R. Reynolds** (AGL Resources Inc.)

ATL Top 25 Minority-Owned Firms:  
#2 – H.J. Russell & Co.  
#6 – PS Energy Group Inc.  
#12 – Cape Environmental Management Inc.

ATL Top 25 Women-Owned Firms:  
#2 – PS Energy Group Inc.

ATL Top 25 Technology Employers:  
#4 – GE Energy Inc.  
#5 – Siemens Energy & Automation Control Inc.

ATL Top 25 Largest Colleges & Universities:  
#1 – University of Georgia  
#5 – Georgia Institute of Technology  
#11 – Clark Atlanta University  
#12 – DeVry University  
#13 – Atlanta Technical College  
#16 – Dekalb Technical College  
#19 – Morehouse College  
#23 – Spelman College

### **Georgia Economic Outlook**

The Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business presented its annual forecast for the state last week. As reported by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* in December, the Terry College of Business reported that the Georgia economy will outperform the U.S. economy in 2007. The Georgia economy grew by 4.3% in 2006 and is forecasted to grow by 3.3% in 2007. The U.S. is estimated to grow by 2.3%.

### **Several projections:**

The Gross State Product (GSP) will increase to \$413.2 Billion in 2007.

Inflation will be down by 1% to 2.6% in 2007. It was 3.6% in 2006.

Savannah, Albany, Athens, Augusta, Columbus and Macon show positive job growth.

**Construction:** There appears to be a slowdown in the housing market. New single family home construction has decreased by 10% while multi-family units have gone up by 4%. The costs of concrete, timber and land have also increased.

**Manufacturing:** The industry overall is experiencing a decline but there are a few promising expansions. Perdue Farms will add 1,000 workers to its Houston County facility, Wrigley Co. plans to expand its plant in Hall County and there are new investments in several of the industrial textiles, geosynthetics and other new highly engineered products. The Financial, IT, Retail, Services and Transportation sectors all show a moderate increase in profits and average in performance. IKEA plans to open a store in Savannah in 2007. Other retail companies show high utility costs as one of the factors in their performance output.

Agriculture and Life Sciences continue to expand with great performance. Electric utilities in GA have one of the lowest operating costs in the country however it's expected that oil and natural gas prices will be high and volatile. Coal prices remain steady. The winter outlook and hurricane season is expected to make a difference in forecasting energy prices for the year.

### **NATIONAL ENERGY NEWS: U.S. Short Term Energy Consumption Outlook...**

Actual information for 2006 and forecasts for 2007 are provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Association.

**Electricity:** Residential electricity demand in 2006 is estimated to have increased by 0.3 percent over 2005 demand. Cooling degree-days in 2007 are assumed to be about 10 percent lower than 2006, keeping residential electricity demand growth low at a rate of 0.6 percent. Commercial electricity consumption follows a similar pattern with demand expected to grow 2.2 percent for 2006 and a more modest 1.1 percent in 2007.

Electric consumption in the industrial sector is expected to increase by 2.0 percent in 2007 reflecting the continuing economic growth and recovery of hurricane-damaged facilities in the Gulf of Mexico region.

**Natural Gas:** As a result of warmer-than-normal weather in the early part of 2006, total natural gas consumption is projected to decline by 0.5 percent for the year. With a return to normal weather, consumption is expected to recover in 2007 and grow by 1.5 percent. Residential and commercial sector consumption is expected to grow by 6.9 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively, in 2007. Natural gas consumption in the industrial sector, which dropped 1.0 percent in 2006, is expected to reach its highest level since 2004 with a 1.8-percent rise in demand in 2007. Due to expectations of more moderate summer temperatures in 2007 compared to 2006, power sector consumption is projected to decrease by 3.6 percent in 2007.

**Petroleum:** Total U.S. Petroleum Products Consumption in 2006 is projected to decline 0.6 percent from 2005 consumption. Motor gasoline consumption, however, is expected to increase by 1 percent. Despite the dampening effects of a mild winter on heating oil demand earlier this year, total distillate demand,

driven by strong diesel consumption, is projected to rise 2.1 percent. Some other petroleum products, however, are projected to decline. Jet fuel demand is expected to fall by 2.6 percent because of lower fuel demand for air transportation. Residual fuel oil demand, under pressure from low natural gas prices and a mild winter earlier in the year, is projected to shrink by 25 percent. In contrast, 2007 demand for all the major petroleum products is expected to increase. Motor gasoline consumption, buoyed by an overall decline in retail prices and continued economic growth, is expected to increase 1.1 percent. A recovery in air transportation is expected to boost jet fuel demand by 1.9 percent. Projections by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) call for a fourth quarter 2006 that is 3 percent warmer than normal, but slightly colder than last year. NOAA's expectations for the first quarter 2007 remain nearly 9 percent colder than one year ago. Assuming that NOAA's weather projections hold for the remainder of the winter, distillate consumption is expected to grow by 1.8 percent in 2007. Residual fuel oil demand is also expected to increase by 6.6 percent from the depressed levels of 2006. **President George Bush** wants to increase funding for alternate sources of energy in 2007 such as solar and wind power if more exploration is allowed for oil and natural gas off the Alaskan coast and the Gulf of Mexico. Bush also wants more nuclear plants built.

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

AABE's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference is April 10–13, 2007 in Washington DC at the Washington Hilton. The theme is "Back to the Past, Shaping the Future." Guest speakers include

**Charlie Cook**, political commentator for CNBC and **U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman**.

Check out [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org) for registration info, or call (202) 371-9530. Registration fee is \$650 for AABE members.

#### **OPRAH'S GLOBAL WARMING 101 SHOW**



Former **Vice President and Senator Al Gore** was the special guest on the December 5<sup>th</sup> episode of the **Oprah Winfrey Show**. VP Gore aired clips of his documentary on global warming called *An Inconvenient Truth*. Based on findings by leading scientists, the world is on the edge of an environmental disaster within the next few decades. Massive amounts of industrial, warfare and automobile emissions have been released into the atmosphere faster than what is naturally generated for centuries. This is reportedly causing the temperature of the Earth to rise exponentially, causing the ice shelf to melt and changing the ecosystem. Gore recommended several energy conservation measures that we could do to help preserve our planet, such as installing compact fluorescent lamps; programmable thermostats; insulation; and using efficient water heaters. *An Inconvenient Truth* is available on DVD.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ENERGY NEWS:**

##### **The Other Georgia Pays More for Gas**

Russia's natural gas monopoly is reducing production and distribution this winter and is forcing Europe and Russia to pay higher prices for heat. Gazprom, the world's biggest natural gas producer, has forced Georgia to pay more than double for natural gas effective New Year's Day. Georgia claims that Russia is punishing them for having western ideologies. Gazprom claims it's reflecting current market prices. Utilities in France and Italy have also agreed to the price hike.

##### **AFRICA TURNS TO ENERGY TO BOOST GROWTH**

According to the following article which appeared in the December 6, 2006 *Wall Street Journal*, Africa is positioning to become an even bigger player, with heated competition and new ambitious oil and gas projects on tap. Major Western and Asian oil companies are battling over investment opportunities in unexplored areas offshore of places such as Gabon and Mozambique even as emerging oil powerhouses such as Equatorial Guinea and Angola seek to strengthen their fledgling national oil companies and leverage foreign companies into fostering local development. At the same time, state-owned giants with longer tenure, such as Algeria's Sonatrach, are pursuing partnerships across the globe with international oil companies. Expanding production "puts Africa in a position of increasing strategic importance to the U.S. and global markets," **U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman** said Friday at an oil conference in Bethesda, Md., sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa. The continent currently provides 12% of global oil production and 20% of U.S. imports. Mr.

Bodman says those proportions will grow significantly in the coming years.

The oncoming windfall is reviving the long-unfulfilled promise of African development, but the road ahead is rough. Rampant corruption, deficient infrastructure, and political instability hamper private investment and the fair distribution of oil revenue.

Moreover, many countries still lack the substantial professional class needed to lead national oil industries into the next stage of development. In order to solve the problem, countries are insisting that foreign oil companies employ more local workers, or even pay to train bureaucrats. Algeria has established a national petroleum institute in partnership with Statoil ASA to improve the quality of local engineers. Norsk Hydro ASA has signed a similar agreement with Angola's Sonangol. But a "shortage of people" remains an issue for national oil companies and foreign operators alike, said **Dan Yergin**, chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates. The continent's oil output is expected to grow to 16 million barrels per day from 11 million barrels per day in over a decade, Mr. Yergin said. Africa also has 27% of the world's liquefied-natural-gas market while LNG developments in Nigeria, Algeria and Equatorial Guinea mean that "at the very least, it will maintain that share in a growing market," Mr. Yergin said.

The growth is driven mostly by offshore oil projects in Angola and the Gulf of Guinea. Increasing confidence in its production potential has prompted Angola to seek membership in the oil world's most exclusive cartel: the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. As their technical capabilities grow, the national oil companies of emerging energy producers will

progress from being interest holders and "technology seekers" -- relying on foreign partners to develop domestic resources -- to becoming operators and even shouldering the burden of national development, said **David Kirsch**, energy analyst at PFC Energy, an energy consulting firm based in Washington, D.C. "Sonatrach has already done that," he said, referring to the Algerian national company, which is the world's second largest LNG exporter. Algeria's oil minister, **Chakib Khelil**, said that Sonatrach, which has both upstream and downstream investments in Europe, North America and other African countries, is intent on partnering with international oil companies, including U.S.-based firms, in opportunities far away from Algerian shores. The company is currently negotiating with BG Group PLC and Statoil to swap gas assets with access to important U.S. LNG terminal capacity.

Energy-rich countries expect to jump on the fast track to development. Equatorial Guinea, a formerly impoverished West African republic, has seen its hopes jump along with its oil output, which increased to 385,000 barrels a day from 5,000 barrels a day a decade ago. The country wants to be "the Dubai or the Singapore of Africa," said **Gabriel Nguema Lima**, energy vice minister. An older generation of oil producers such as Nigeria have dreamed such dreams before, only to become victims of the "oil curse" -- unequal economic distribution paired with rampant corruption. "To avoid the resource curse, countries need greater transparency," said **Stephen Hayes**, head of the Corporate Council for Africa. Corruption allegations concerning foreign energy companies are still pervasive in countries ranging from Equatorial Guinea to

Nigeria. Better institutions would also help secure foreign investment, Secretary Bodman said. Addressing African energy ministers at the conference, he encouraged more "market transparency and dedication to regulatory certainty and the rule of law." In order to ward off the oil curse, Equatorial Guinea has "requested advice from the International Monetary Fund on how to utilize our petroleum resources," said Mr. Nguema, the vice minister. Emerging African countries are also short on technology and skilled professionals. Mr. Bodman said these nations need to "increase institutional and human capacity" to harness their resources for long-term sustainable development. Competition for scarce resources is also pulling foreign oil companies into the game of development in a more direct way. Countries that have long relied on Western oil firms are now openly flirting with Asian companies that promise to build schools, hospitals and other basic infrastructure. "The reason Africans approach China is because the Chinese know the needs of Africans," Mr. Nguema said. Intense competition for Africa's riches can also hinder the political maturation needed for its development. Some U.S. lawyers say that Asian oil companies -- spurred by an official imperative to secure resources -- also enjoy the advantage of more lax foreign corruption laws. But strengthening of political institutions comes first, analysts say. "The problem is that most countries that have the oil curse don't have a thriving democracy," Mr. Hayes said. Check out [www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com) for more additional information.

**Atlanta Chapter Committees:**  
Volunteers are needed to support the following AABE committees in 2007:

**BEAM** – Career Day event for High School students.

**Communication** – Preparation of the *All About Energy* newsletter.

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

**Membership** – Recruitment of new members.

**Program** – Developing quality monthly meetings.

**Scholarship** – Selection of qualified high school seniors for energy related awards.

**Mentoring** – CHOICES: Monthly peer advice for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Philanthropic/Charitable** – Donations for needy families.

**Energy Education** – Promote AABE in the community.

**Legislative & Regulatory** – Push AABE’s agenda with governmental agencies.

For more information contact AABE Chapter Secretary **Cherryl Harris** at [cmharris@southernco.com](mailto:cmharris@southernco.com)

**MEMBER COMPANY**

**WEBSITES:**

- [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org)
- [www.aglresources.com](http://www.aglresources.com)
- [www.blackenergy.com](http://www.blackenergy.com)
- [www.ge.com](http://www.ge.com)
- [www.georgianaturalgas.com](http://www.georgianaturalgas.com)
- [www.honeywell.com](http://www.honeywell.com)
- [www.htsenterprise.com](http://www.htsenterprise.com)
- [www.opc.com](http://www.opc.com)
- [www.southernco.com](http://www.southernco.com)
- [www.southstarenergy.com](http://www.southstarenergy.com)

**2007 MEMBER DUES**  
**ACCEPTED NOW:**

Please remember to join AABE or renew your 2007 membership ASAP. Dues are only \$150 for the year. Applications were emailed last month and should be forwarded to Atlanta Chapter at P.O. Box 55216, Atlanta, GA 30308, for faster processing.

Benefits of membership and the top five reasons to act now include:

- ✓ Network with over 1300 of the best and brightest in the industry, from line supervisors to chief executives.
- ✓ Stay engaged through monthly chapter meetings, quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors, and the annual conference.
- ✓ Show your employer you're committed to a career in the energy industry. (Employers often pay membership dues.)
- ✓ Discover new opportunities in today's deregulated energy environment.
- ✓ Develop your leadership abilities by serving at the chapter or national level.

**GOT NEWS?**

Please send all comments, suggestions, AABE information, announcements, and energy-related news to Wayne Young at [wayne.young2@honeywell.com](mailto:wayne.young2@honeywell.com). The deadline for the next monthly newsletter is **Monday, January 29, 2007.**

*“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.”*

**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

***Scenes from donations delivery to My Sister’s House – Thank You AABE members!***



**We collected two truckloads!**



**President Eric Duncan.**



**My Sister's House employees unloading donations.**

*Year in Review Posters from December meeting:*

