Personnel Profiles

How do you begin a "Profile" about Mary Winston Jackson? You begin it with trepidation because this human dynamo of service has already been described as "gentle lady, wife and mother, humanitarian and scientist" and each and every one of those adjectives contain enough background for a respective article.

Selected as one of the triumvirate who share the Center's Volunteer of the Year Award, Mrs. Jackson has received many accolades and honors over the years, e.g. The Daniels Alumni Award for Outstanding Service to Disadvantaged Youth; The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Service to the Community; and The Distinguished Service Award for the Peninsula Combined Federal Services, to name just a few. In addition, she is listed in the 1976-78 Bicentennial Memorial Edition of Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans.

Here at the Center, Mary is an Aerospace Engineer in the Theoretical Aerodynamics Branch of the Subsonic-Transonic Aerodynamics Division.

A native of Hampton, the eleventh child of the late Frank C. and Ella Scott Winston. She graduated with highest honors from what was then the George P. Phenix Training School, having served during her senior year as the first president of that school's chapter of the National Honor Society – an indication of things to come.

She continued her education at Hampton Institute with the aid of scholarships (one of which was from the Reader Digest) graduating in 1942 with a B.S. degree in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences.

A stint as a high school teacher in Calvert County, Md. followed but her father became ill and this necessitated her return to Hampton and she came to work at the Center in 1951 as a Research Mathematician. In 1958, by way of an Engineer-in-Training program and enrollment in courses at the Hampton Center of the University of Virginia, she qualified as a research engineer. At present she is working toward an advanced degree at the Golden Gate University.

She imparts her enthusiasm for science, and the opportunities for careers in the sciences, to youth through such endeavors as the formation of a science club at the King Street Community Center (of which she is First Vice-President of the Board of Directors) under the sponsorship of the National Technical Association (NTA). She is presently Treasurer of the Hampton Chapter of that organization. Recently she advised and directed nine young people of junior and senior high school age in the building of a Smoke Tunnel for the study of air flow characteristics around airfoils.

"We have to do something like this to get them interested in science," Mary was quoted. "Many times, when children enter school they shun mathematics and science during the years when they should be learning the basics," she continued.

Mary spends many hours in speaking to youth groups, as well as religious and adult groups. She is a member of the Speakers Bureaus of the NTA and the NASA, and is an Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor for the NASA. She is also on the Area Committee for Employment of the Handicapped.

Another activity concerned with youth in which she is particularly involved, and very enthusiastically talked with us about, is the Continental Societies, Inc., a women's organization dedicated to foster, promote, and develop the educational, recreational, and cultural opportunities for disadvantaged children. She has served in various offices in that organization and is the current president of the Newport News-Hampton Chapter, one of twenty-one chapters throughout the United States and Bermuda.

Her interest in youth includes the Girl Scouts and at present she is a volunteer worker and Second Vice-President of the Board of Directors of the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Regional Center, Peninsula Association for Retarded Citizens. She is also active with the Phyllis Whearley YWCA, Citizens Boys Club, Hampton Roads Boys Club, Citizens Organization, Hampton NAACP, and Hampton Institute Alumni.

Retirement Parties

The friends of Mike Panz are planning a party in honor of his recent retirement. The party will be held on Friday, April 16, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., in the Williamsburg Room, Langley Officers Club. There will be a stand-up buffet and a cash bar. The cost is $5 per person (which includes gift). Contributions to the gift only are welcome. Send money to Ron Amole, MS-216. For reservations, contact Joan Travis, MS-216, ext. 3987, by April 7.

Cecil M. Holt, Technician in Operations Support Section-B, will be honored with a retirement dinner on Friday, April 9, in the Activities Building. Cocktail hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. (cash bar) with dinner (delmonico steak) at 6:30 p.m. The cost will be $5.50 per person or $10.00 per couple, which includes $1.00 for gift. Contributions for the gift only are also welcome. Please send your reservations to Barbara Eutsler, Mail Stop 230, by the close of the day April 2.

Key Positions

James L. Miller was recently named Acting Head, Electronics Fabrication Development Branch, Fabrication Division.

and Hampton Institute Alumni.

Mary is a member of the Pride of Hampton No. 150, Order of the Eastern Star and has been a member of the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Hampton since the age of nine. She has served as Sunday School worker and for fourteen years she was organist for the Senior and Youth Choirs, and is still active as Woman Liaison to the Trustee Board and Chairman of the Debt-retiring Committee.

Mary and her husband, Levi, a retired Civil Service employee and an active volunteer worker himself, are the parents of Levi, Jr., and Mrs. Carolyn Jackson Williams, presently living in Turkey with her Air Force husband. There is also a six-year-old granddaughter.

One of the few home-bound interests that Mary has is her interest is sewing. She makes some of her own clothes as well as some for her granddaughter.

Space doesn't permit adequate elaboration on the positive effect this remarkable person has had on so many people, but directing you to a re-reading of the second paragraph of this piece would be how we would begin.