TWO NASA RESEARCH ENGINEERS SELECTED FOR SIMMONS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Two aerospace technologists at NASA's Langley Research Center have been selected for the Simmons College Graduate Management Development Program. Nancy Orlando Sliwa of the Automation Technology Branch, Information Systems Division, and Dr. Kelli F. Willshire of the the Technology Office, Space Station Office, will attend an eight-week program to better prepare themselves for higher levels of management.

The program, started in 1977, has gained wide response and recognition for its unique curriculum and excellent education. The curriculum is divided into functional and behavioral courses.

The functional courses cover accounting, finance, operations, marketing, quantitative skills, management information systems, strategy and economics and the relationships of a specific function to the organization as a whole.

The behavioral courses examine the complexities of managing people in organizations and develop strategies and the practical skills necessary to be an effective

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manager. In addition, these courses examine the differences between male and female in behavior organizations, analyze the implications of these differences and encourage participants to adopt strategies for implementation at work.

Sliwa believes "NASA will have a critical need for competent and dedicated management in the near future." She said, "I have a very strong loyalty to NASA and wish to make a significant contribution to its future. I feel my innate talents make me suitable for technical management, and my multiple research interests require that I direct a team to pursue them. I expect the Simmons program will equip me to shoulder significant management responsibility by teaching me techniques for managing both programs and people."

Willshire says one of her career goals is to become a top-level manager with NASA. "I expect all the functional areas to be of benefit to me in striving for that goal," she explained. "However, I am particularly interested in studying methods for increasing and quantifying productivity of engineers and scientists and for the effective introduction and use of automation technology for these types of individuals."

A member of the Langley staff since 1981, Sliwa works with computer techniques attempting to make human-controlled robotic devices more intelligent and adaptable so they can safely be used in future space operations, such as the construction of the Space Station Freedom. She received bachelor and master of science degrees in computer science from Old Dominion University in 1981 and the University of Pennsylvania in 1986, respectively.
The author or co-author of 12 technical publications, Sliwa is a member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, where she serves on the AIAA Computer System Technical Committee, and the Systems Autonomy Intercenter Working Group.

Sliwa lives in Yorktown with her husband, Dr. Steven M. Sliwa, who is assistant chief, Guidance and Control Division. They have one daughter, Tabitha.

Willshire began her NASA career in 1979 as an engineering research psychologist in the Acoustics Division and now promotes automation and robotics technology development for Space Station Freedom.

She received bachelor and master of science degrees in psychology from Georgia State University in 1974 and Georgia Institute of Technology in 1979, respectively. She was awarded a doctorate in industrial engineering (human factors) from North Carolina State University in 1984.

The author or co-author of 33 technical publications and presentations, Willshire is a member of the Tidewater Chapter of the Human Factors Society, American Institute of Industrial Engineers and AIAA.

She has received three achievement awards for her research in human factors with specialties in automation and robotics and in acoustics. She was listed in Outstanding Young Women of America in 1982, Who's Who in South and Southeast 1984–86, and Who's Who of Emerging Leaders in America in 1987.

Willshire is married to William L. Willshire Jr., an aerospace technologist in the Acoustics Division. They live in Tabb.

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