

THE RIGHT STUFF

**Astronaut Winston E. Scott
(Captain, USN)**

Joined NASA in March 1992.
"My first flight was in January 1996. It was STS-72 on board the space shuttle Endeavour. We spent nine days in space. We did a whole host of experiments. The highlight of the flight for me was my first space walk (6 hours, 53 minutes) testing tools, equipment, and techniques to be used for construction of the International Space Station.

My second flight was in November-December of 1997. It was on the space shuttle Columbia, STS-87. We spent 16 days in space conducting micro-gravity experiments. Again, the highlight was two space walks for me. Again, the spacewalks consisted mostly of space station hardware testing. But we also flew a device - a robotic controlled camera called an Air-Cam Sprint. And, the biggest attention grabber on my second flight was having to manually capture an out-of-control satellite that was spinning in space. It was spinning in such a way that we weren't able to grapple that satellite with the space shuttle's robot arm. So during the first three hours of our first space walk, my EVA partner and myself did a manual capture of the satellite. It was the second time in history that's been done. We were able to successfully bring that satellite home to be repaired and reused."

Astronaut Stephanie D. Wilson

Joined NASA in April 1996.
"As a crew member, my main interest is being a resident on the International Space Station, help to build the structural elements and participate in a space walk... The astronaut program has about 30% women. I was selected among 44 in a class. Of that number, nine of us were women the largest percentage of women selected to train. Every year, our percentages are better... I hope to fly (a space shuttle) in three years... Before I started training, I couldn't swim. And in order to be able to do the EVA training, you have to pass the scuba test. I put a lot of time into training in order to pass and complete this training and it's just very fun and challenging to be in a space suit and be under water and working with these tools."

Astronaut Mike Anderson

Joined NASA in December 1994.
"The year that I applied, there were 3,000 applicants. They interview 120 people. I was selected along with 19 other U.S. astronauts and three foreign astronauts... To be a part of NASA's space shuttle program, you have to come prepared with the proper academic background. That means generally a Master's degree or Ph.D. in Engineering or the Hard Sciences. They combine that with something else. In my case, I'm a military pilot (about half the astronauts are that) or some operational experience such as a Flight Test engineer, something of that sort.

Also, they look at your interpersonal skills - how well do you work with other people because they're going to send you up into their spacecraft for 2-3 weeks at a time. You're going to be confined in a relatively small environment with four or five other astronauts and you have to be able to work and live together with other individuals. It's very important that the people that they pick for this job have very good skills in working with other people... My most memorable experience going up in space is the moment when the engines get cut off. You experience zero gravity for the first time. You have this 8 1/2 minute ride into space that's like a rock & roll show with lights and vibration and an engine hurling you into space. Once you get there, the engines get cut off. At that moment, everything around you just starts to float and you know you're in space. For me, that was achieving a life-long dream."

Astronaut Joan E. Higginbotham

Joined NASA in April 1996.
"I worked originally at the Kennedy Space Center for NASA starting out in 1987 launching space shuttles. I got to launch 56

of them. After working on them for such a long time that I thought the next progression for me was to be able to fly on one... The International Space Station is basically a bunch of modules (like LEGO blocks) put together. When we finish, it's probably going to be the size of a football field. Each module is going to be self-contained and have something particular in it. Each module itself will not be very large. It will have its own volume, but each of the piece parts will fit together to be this International Space Station.

On the station, we will be able to do some experiments from the American side. The lab will be provided by the Italians, as well as some things from the Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada who is going to build our big "arm". We'll put together a T-shaped unit with solar rays jetting off the sides of them that's going to provide our power... Once we're up there, we're just going to run experiments all the time. The International Space Station is going to provide us with a constant micro-gravity laboratory. We can grow perfectly shaped protein crystals which in turn will help us provide more pure medicines. And hopefully, in time it will help us find a cure for cancer and AIDS."



"SEI makes me believe I can be somebody."

In celebration of Black History Month, Self Enhancement, Inc. would like to salute the schools, families and community organizations who bring hope to youth while enhancing the quality of community life.



3920 N. Kerby Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97227-1255
(503) 249-1721
fax (503) 249-1955



"SEI makes us feel like we're part of something good."