

Movie Night

Pastimes History Club, Math Club, IWIL Gather for 'Hidden Figures'

By Mary Lewe
Staff Writer

Three groups on campus came together last week to view "Hidden Figures," a 2016 biopic based on the true story of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. The three women worked at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and its successor, NASA, during the Space Race of the 1960's.

Katherine Johnson, the main character of the film, worked as a physicist and mathematician and made many calculations which were vital to the success of many early NASA missions including the trajectory used for Alan Shepherd's 1961 flight as the first American in space and the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing mission. Johnson was also the first woman to have her name listed as an author on a report in her division.

Dorothy Vaughan was a mathematician and the supervisor of a group of women of color known as the West Area Computers. Vaughan and her team completed complex mathematical problems by hand and with early calculators.

As mechanical computers became incorporated into NASA procedure, Vaughan helped to

pioneer their use by learning and teaching the other women on her team FORTRAN computer programming.

Mary Jackson began her career as a research mathematician in Vaughan's West Area Computers but continued her education in order to become an aerospace engineer. Jackson also worked in NASA's Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, promoting the hiring of women and people of color. She also served as a Girl Scout troop leader for over 30 years.

The groups chose to meet on Feb. 7 in honor Black History Month and to celebrate a math-related holiday: e-Day. The holiday is celebrated on Feb. 7 in the US as the date when written as "2/7" is close to the value of Euler's Number, an irrational number used as a constant in logarithms and exponential functions.

"It's rare to find a movie that brings together the Math Club, History Club, and IWIL all in one." Pastimes History Club faculty sponsor Dr. Margaret Brown said.

She also said that Hidden Figures is "A great film about how change happens."

"It captures the excitement of the Space Race and how much it was motivated by keeping up with the Russians," Brown said.

L.I.F.E. Club sees moderate turnout for workshop

The reinvented business and leadership club, L.I.F.E, had a successful turnout Sunday evening for their first club workshop of the Spring. Twelve Brevard students participated in the LinkedIn Workshop.

The workshop consisted of L.I.F.E club representatives explaining helpful tips and describing the different components of LinkedIn.

"With it being our first club workshop, I thought we did a wonderful job getting straight to the point," L.I.F.E Club President Megan Shina said, "Helping our peers with LinkedIn was very beneficial for everyone involved."

Several attendees said the workshop was helpful in providing clarity in the uses of LinkedIn, as well as the importance of networking. "LinkedIn is becoming more important than resumes," said Student attendee, Jackson McKaig.

"After the workshop was over, I received several connection requests from many of the attendees, which really showed that we stressed the importance of networking," Shina explained.

L.I.F.E will be hosting a "Next Step: Take Your LinkedIn Photo" event in the near future to allow students to take a photo and have it edited for their personal profile. Shina and other club representatives encourage students to join L.I.F.E and keep checking their campus wide emails to see when the next event or meeting will be.

—Kelly Kearnan

