

The Class of 2003 Selects...

Paula J. Smith Hartley (Class of 1980)



Paula J. Smith Hartley is manager of Advanced Metallic Structures for Lockheed Martin Space Systems in New Orleans. Her work has primarily focused on friction plug welding, an innovative weld repair technique instrumental to the space transportation system.

Hartley holds two U.S. patents for her friction weld research and has published extensively on friction stir technology. She served on the team that developed a new aluminum-lithium alloy, reducing the weight of the space shuttle's external tank by 7,500 pounds. She was recognized in "The Power Generation 2000" as one of the Top Business Executives under the age of 40 in the New Orleans area. Lockheed Martin has presented her with two Technical Achievement awards, plus Corporate Engineer of the Year and Independent Research and Development Principal Investigator of the Year. President of the Class of 1980, Hartley was involved in the selection of the first Butler High School Distinguished Graduate Award recipient.

She went on to graduate from the University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Science degree in metallurgical engineering and materials science and later earned an executive masters of business administration degree from Tulane University. Hartley attended Center Avenue School. She lives in New Orleans.