

2008 ALUMNI FELLOW

Heather L. Rarick



Heather L. Rarick '87 Eng is flight director for Mission Control at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. As flight director, Rarick manages shuttle flights and space station expeditions, and leads the planning and integration activities with flight controllers, international station partners, and others.

Rarick began her career as an ascent flight design engineer for the space shuttle at Rockwell Space Operations in Houston and supported NASA's Mission Control as a targeting operator for shuttle launches and ascents. Rarick also worked as a supervisor with United Space Alliance and as a project manager for its chief information officer.

Rarick returned to Mission Control in 1999, working as the operations lead and Russian interface officer in the International Liaison Office. Two years later, she accepted a similar role at NASA, taking on the technical lead for the Russian Interface Officers. In 2004, she became chairperson of the Russian Joint Operations Panel, which addresses long-term resolution of U.S.-Russian operational issues. In May 2006, NASA selected Rarick as one of two new flight directors.

For her service and expertise, Rarick has received numerous awards, including the NASA Going the Extra Mile Award (1993), the Rockwell Space Operations Sustained Superior Performance Award (1994), the United Space Alliance Employee of the Month Technical Achievement Award (1997), and the NASA Silver Snoopy (1997).

Rarick is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association. She and her husband, Douglas, live in Seabrook, Texas.