Stephanie Louise Kwolek Encyclopedia Article

Stephanie Louise Kwolek

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Stephanie Louise Kwolek

1923-

American chemist who invented Kevlar and other high-strength synthetic fibers. Kwolek studied chemistry in college, working with polymers at DuPont after graduation. Actually, Kwolek started working at DuPont as a way to save money to attend medical school, only later deciding to make chemistry her career. At DuPont she developed or helped develop hundreds of new fibers, including Kevlar, used in bulletproof vests and other high-strength applications. Since its invention, Kevlar has saved the lives of many police, soldiers, and others.