

## Edward M. Frymoyer '59, '67g

Dr. Edward Frymoyer credits Penn State with teaching him to think beyond established boundaries. "Eric Walker, who was then dean of engineering, saw the need for integrating more science into engineering," he recalls. "I was one of 19 students picked after our freshman year for the engineering science program, which was like an honors program that exposed us to math, physics, and different parts of engineering. I had more math than the math majors did!" Fourteen of the 19 who graduated from the major—including Frymoyer—went on to earn doctorates, his in physics at Penn State.



Frymoyer's strong foundation in science and engineering (he also has a master's in electrical engineering from Northeastern) and natural business instincts have served him well as a pioneer in the information technology field. Frymoyer has spent the past 17 years working with storage area networks (SAN) and fibre channel, the highspeed links that allow quick access to vast quantities of remotely stored data. "There's something like 10-20 petabytes, which is a million gigabytes, being produced in scientific work every few months," he says. "And that's just science!" The technology is also used for financial data, medical records, and in the movie industry.

Earlier in his career, Frymoyer worked for Bell Labs and Hewlett-Packard. During his time at HP, he served as program manager of the Fibre Channel Systems Initiative, a joint effort of IBM, SUN Microsystems, and HP to create standard technical profiles for the fibre channel industry. Frymoyer holds multiple patents and has started several companies. Though he says he's "semiretired," Frymoyer remains actively involved in his companies. Infinity I/O trains people on storage networking fibre channel technology around the world. In 2001 he founded Pulsar Ventures, Inc., a venture capital company focused on the technologies likely to dominate this century: nanotechnology, biotechnology, energy technology, and storage ecosystems in information technology. Frymoyer is also president of Frymoyer Holdings, a real estate investment and management company with properties from California to British Columbia.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Frymoyer was an active member of the Penn State Alumni Association's Silicon Valley Chapter. He served as chapter president for two years and helped raise money for a scholarship fund for undergraduate students attending Penn State from California.

In 1999, Frymoyer and his wife, Del Mindle, established the Frymoyer Foundation with \$5 million to provide leadership for educational, scientific, and humanitarian efforts. The foundation gave the University \$2.2 million in 2000 to establish the first endowed faculty chair in the School of Information Sciences and Technology and to endow five honors scholarships: two in IST, two in engineering science, and one in physics. Frymoyer has also given of his time, serving on the IST Grand Destiny committee, the Penn State Research Foundation Board, the Eberly College of Science Dean's Advisory Board, and as chair of the IST Advisory Group.

The University has previously honored Frymoyer with the Outstanding Engineering Alumni award (2001) and Alumni Fellow award (Science, 2002). Frymoyer and his wife live in Half Moon Bay, Calif. He has a daughter, a stepson, and two grandchildren.

\*This career summary is excerpted from the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony booklet (June 4, 2004, The Pennsylvania State University).