

Arthur Glenn '56

General Electric didn't invent computed tomography: They made it better. And much of the credit goes to Art Glenn. In 1978, eighteen other companies made CT scanners, but "many of those didn't really understand the medical diagnostic imaging business," Glenn says. "They didn't appreciate the importance of marketing and service." Glenn did. A 20-year veteran of the company, he was manager of programs for the world's most complex and powerful radars at GE's Aerospace business in Syracuse when the company transferred him to their Medical Systems Division near Milwaukee.



As general manager of the CT business-sometimes called computed axial tomography or CAT-Glenn led his team to capture 65 percent of the U.S. market share and dominate the world market as well. GE's CT was faster, exposed patients to less radiation, and produced clearer images. Inspired by that success, GE asked Glenn to oversee the development and marketing of the emerging magnetic resonance imaging technology or MRI. Under Glenn's leadership, GE was soon number one in world market share for MRI, too.

Though he's proudest of his work on CT and MRI because it has helped so many people, Glenn's 35-year career with GE also included stints as corporate vice president of both the Defense Systems Division in Pittsfield, Mass., and the Communications and Strategic Systems Division in King of Prussia, Pa.

It was at the King of Prussia post with GE that Glenn became involved with Penn State Great Valley School of Graduate Professional Studies. Glenn served as founding chair of the Great Valley Advisory Board, a post he held for six years. He's also served as a member, vice president, and president of the College of Engineering's Industrial and Professional Advisory Council. He is currently a member of the advisory boards of the Schreyer Honors College, the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, and the Leonhard Center for the Advancement of Engineering Education, where he was chairman for six years. As his involvement with Penn State increased, Glenn became interested in engineering education reform- specifically introducing more design and practical experience into the curriculum. "It wasn't easy," he says. "People are often understandably reluctant to change something they don't think is broken, and changing a curriculum requires everybody to change." He's currently working with Renata Engel, associate vice provost and professor of engineering science and mechanics and head of the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and the Teaching and Learning Consortium, on making the undergraduate education more student-centered and outcomes-based.

In addition to his extensive support of the University, Glenn has continued working since retiring from GE in 1993. He served as president and chief operating officer of Air and Water Technologies, an environmental systems and services company, for three years. Since 1996, he's worked with Burdeshaw Associates, a consulting firm. He is chairman of Kaleida Systems, Inc., a software development company managed by his son David.

Penn State previously honored Glenn as an Outstanding Engineering Alumnus (1990) and Alumni Fellow (1996). He sponsored a professorship of education in mechanical engineering

and has supported course development in mechanical, civil, industrial, and aerospace engineering. Glenn's wife, Betty, is a 1957 alumna of the College of Health and Human Development. They have two grown children and four grandchildren. The Glenns are members of the Mount Nittany Society and the Laurel Circle. They live in Newtown Square, Pa.

*This career summary is excerpted from the 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony booklet (June 3, 2005, The Pennsylvania State University).