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Intro-biography Duane D. Pearsall, Ph,D.

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intro - biography

DUANE D. PEARSALL, Ph.D.

Raised in Michigan, Duane Pearsall had just completed his Sophomore year at General Motors Institute when WWII interrupted his college. He served as a Navy pilot for three years, coming to Denver where he received a BSBA degree from the Univ. of Denver in 1947.

After 7 years with Honeywell he started Pearsall Co., a manufacturer's representative in 1955.

He then founded Statitrol Corp. in 1963 to make static control devices using ionization. His discovery that ions are absorbed by particles of combustion led to the development of the first ionization smoke detector made in the U.S. This was followed three years later by the introduction of the first battery-powered home smoke detector in 1970. Statitrol grew to 1,000 employees and was merged into Emerson Electric in 1977.

A venture capital loan of \$250,000 in 1965 was critical to his survival. More important, he says, was the advice and counsel of the venture capitalist, who then served on his board for the next 12 years.

Mr Pearsall invested in an early V.C. fund in 1979 and later became a founding General Partner of Columbine Venture Funds in 1983, retiring in 1993.

His most significant awards include:

National Small Business Person of the Year, SBA, 1976.

Fire Protection Man of the Year, ~~Nat'l~~ Nat'l. Society of Fire Protection Engineers, 1980

Honorary Dr. of Science, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 1996.

TECHNOLOGICAL HUMANIST, 2001 " " , 2004