

## Bill Fenoglio : Credits Rose-Hulman education for his success

Bill Fenoglio joined the Rose-Hulman Board of Trustees in 1992, however his ties with the school go back much further. A 1961 mechanical engineering graduate, Fenoglio credits his Rose-Hulman engineering education for much of his business acumen and success.

“It’s a great foundation. A Rose-Hulman education teaches you how to think—how to problem solve—how to eat the elephant one bite at a time,” he said. “It stands in good stead- no matter what you pursue. I don’t think I could have advanced as far as I did without that kind of education.”

And advance he did. Fenoglio served The General Electric Company (GE) for 23 years, culminating in the position of vice president and general manager of GE’s component motor division, heading 28 domestic and offshore operations with annual sales of nearly \$1 billion. Fenoglio is also past president and CEO of the 135 year-old Barnes Group, a diversified global components manufacturer and logistical services company, where he served as the first president and chief operating officer who was not a Barnes family member. From the Barnes Group, Fenoglio took over as CEO of Augat Corporation, one of the world’s largest manufacturers of connector products with applications in communications, computers, automotive and industrial markets. He retired from Augat in 1996.

Fenoglio noted that Rose-Hulman graduates instinctively seek innovation, leadership, and global experiences. “I think a lot has to do with the type of personalized education Rose-Hulman provides and the great focus on teamwork. All the extracurricular activities students have to choose from [over 90 clubs] induce students to take leadership positions. I think the size of the school has something to do with it, too. With 1800 students, the participation rate in extracurricular activities is fairly staggering compared to larger colleges and universities [Rose-Hulman’s participation rate is 85 percent.] This type of leadership experience is motivating and creates a yearning to lead.”

In 1987 Fenoglio received an honorary doctor of engineering degree from Rose-Hulman in recognition of his contributions to the engineering profession. He currently serves as chairman of the Rose-Hulman Board of Trustees and on the Industrial Board of Standex International. Fenoglio is a native of Clinton, Indiana and currently resides in Greenwood, Indiana.

Giving back to Rose-Hulman is a “labor of love,” Fenoglio said. “I think it is a great school, provides an excellent engineering education, and is on poised on greatness. It played such an important part of my life, if I can give back, I want to do that.”

