After working at General Electric, John D. Ryder joined the ISU faculty. He authored seven textbooks in the fields of electronics and circuits. With former department chair Warren B. Boast, Ryder constructed the AC network analyzer that power utilities used to simulate entire transmission and generating systems; this relationship resulted in ISU having more EE doctoral graduates employed in industry than any other institution during the 1950s. Ryder was instrumental in designing the ISU Electrical Engineering Building, now Coover Hall. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Radio Engineers, now part of IEEE, and he received the IEEE Haraden Pratt Award. The John Ryder Professorship in Engineering honors his impact.