As a boy working at his parent’s gas station in Orlando, Florida, Dr. Glenn Miller watched the NASA commuters every morning on their way to Cape Canaveral. “The engineers in their white shirts and their pencil-thin black ties, the big glasses that you see in ‘Apollo 13’—those were real people driving out to the Cape every day. It was an era of astronauts, science, astronomy, space, and rockets. I thought I’d like to be an astronaut, scientist, or an engineer.”

When Glenn was 13, a friend took up astronomy as a hobby, piquing his interest. He went on to pursue it as a field of study and obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Working at the Space Telescope Science Institute is the fulfillment of a dream. “It’s the career I have trained for since I was in grade school. It was why I went to graduate school, got a Ph.D., and did research.”

As deputy division head of the Institute’s information technology services, Glenn is responsible for computer operations at the Institute. “Computers are instrumental to everything you do in astronomy,” Glenn, who has been at the Institute for 26 years, has also been a software developer, operations astronomer, and lead of Hubble Space Telescope scheduling. One of his proudest accomplishments was being a part of the revolution that changed the way astronomy is done today. “Asking observers what they want, mixing it all together, and doing an efficient science program—that was radical when Hubble went up in 1990, and there was a lot of controversy that it couldn’t be done. Now everybody does it that way, both space- and ground-based telescopes.”

Glenn is also proud of the way Hubble has changed the way we think about the universe. “Dark energy is something that was unsuspected when I was in graduate school and would have been considered a fringe idea. And we thought that maybe there was dark matter, but that was very controversial. Also, at one point we thought maybe our solar system was unique or rare. Now we know that planets around other stars are common. It’s more the case that practically every solar-type star—and some non-solar-type stars—have planets.”

Outside of work, Glenn plays ice hockey in a recreational league. “I learned to play hockey because my kids had so much fun doing it. I figured I should have some of that fun, too.”