

## Norman Kurtz '58 honored with scholarship and innovation funds



When friends and family of Norman Kurtz '58 gathered in New York in January, they did just the things for which they so fondly remember him: They cel-

ebrated their love and friendship and created lasting ways to help other people.

Kurtz, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack in May 2005 at age 69, founded a premier international engineering firm, helped create some of the world's largest and most advanced buildings, pioneered the field of sustainable engineering and taught architecture at Princeton, all while leading a rich family life, playing competitive tennis, skiing avidly, and being a friend and mentor to scores of people.

"Norman's love for life was contagious," long-time friend and business associate Gene Kohn said in a memorial video that was shown at the gathering. "He packed so much into life, it seemed as though he lived the life of three people."

Remembering the many facets of Kurtz's life, his family, friends and associates gathered at New York's Center for Architecture and announced several gifts to Princeton that honor Kurtz's commitment to his profession and to helping future generations. Michael Celia '83, chair of Princeton's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, described the gifts:

- Family and friends created the Norman D. Kurtz '58 Scholarship, which will enable students from all backgrounds to receive the benefits of a Princeton Engineering education. "Norm deeply valued his own education and recognized the importance of helping others gain access to great education," Celia said. "He felt strongly that such access is critical to the future of the architecture and engineering industries."

- The firm Kurtz co-founded, Flack and Kurtz, established the Norman D. Kurtz '58 Fund for Innovation in Engineering Education, which will support students who are engaged in real-world engineering projects outside the classroom and outside the country. "This fund reflects Norm's love of work inside and outside the classroom and his desire to prepare and inspire future generations of engineers," Celia said.
- The Princeton School of Engineering and the Center for Architecture in New York created the Norman D. Kurtz Memorial Lecture Series, which will include speakers who share Kurtz's interests in engineering, architecture, sustainability and the improvement of the built environment.

provided engineering services for the construction of Malaysia's Petronas Towers, the tallest buildings in the world. For 22 years, he served as an adjunct professor at Princeton's School of Architecture.

"He had a real presence," Mrs. Kurtz said. "But for all his accomplishments, he was very modest. He was just a very talented guy with a great sense of humor." Even at the gathering eight months after his death, it was hard to grasp that Norman was not physically in the room, she said.

Friends recounted how Kurtz took every opportunity to build relationships and help people, whether in business, sports or personal life.



Photos courtesy of Flack and Kurtz

"He loved Princeton," said Kurtz's wife of 40 years, Helen (Honey) Kurtz. "It was really very important to him. It gave him the background and tools to go out in the world. And he could never have gone to Princeton without a scholarship." One of the Kurtz's daughters, Lori, graduated from Princeton in 1989. Kurtz also is survived by another daughter, Stephanie.

Kurtz graduated magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1958. He earned a master's degree from Stanford, and by 1969 he and partner Peter Flack had founded their own firm, which grew over the decades to have more than 350 people and offices around the world. Among many projects, Flack and Kurtz

"He was just a delightful guy," said Bruce Fowle, founder of the architecture firm FXFowle and frequent tennis partner with Kurtz. "He would play to your game. He would make sure you were playing as well as you possibly could. He was the same way with architecture. He wanted to make sure you were doing the best you could." —SS