KENT KEEGAN 1939-1991

Kent Keegan died this year following a long, bravely fought battle with cancer. Although we all were aware of his illness, his death still came as a terrible shock--we all thought he was invincible, a permanent fixture in the studios and classrooms, a person whose indomitable spirit and unending enthusiasm for teaching would transcend everything.

Kent really was an exceptional teacher--his passion for education, coupled with his extraordinary breadth of knowledge, made him a compelling instructor and one who touched the lives of many alumni and students. He had the ability to make students reach deep inside themselves and come up with some startling work which they hitherto didn't know they were capable of doing. Even now, the School is receiving telephone calls from alumni long since graduated who remember the dramatic effect Kent had on their lives during their school days, and how he helped them strive for personal excellence.

As an architect and an engineer, Kent had a wide range of accomplishments to his name. However, the one of which he was most proud was the Amoco Teaching Award, which he won in 1983. This award signified a peak of achievement in the arena he loved best--the classroom--where his exceptional talents were appropriately recognized.

Many of you will remember Kent; he was well known as a fine teacher, but also worked with many of you on University-wide committees and task forces where he proved to be a capable, and occasionally controversial, individual. Certainly, his colleagues in architecture can attest to his tenacity in cheerfully raising thorny issues we would much rather have passed by, and forcing us to address them--usually it turned out, for the better. Kent fought constantly for what he believed in, and what he believed in most were students. He was their friend, advisor and ombudsperson who unquestioningly took their part and believed that, first and foremost, their interests were our chief concern. His commitment to the undergraduate core curriculum meant that most students were treated to his special style of teaching, and his highly popular Honors Program course also enabled him to inspire students outside his discipline.

His departure leaves a gaping hole in our School, and we will miss him more than I can possibly say.

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