

GIVING BACK



Cornell's School of Applied and Engineering Physics gave Brian Kushner '78 M.S. '80, Ph.D. '84, the foundation for a successful career. After graduation, he rose to head the advanced technology and high-risk systems division of a major defense systems and information technology company, helped lead a turnaround of an advanced computer R&D consortium, and, with his wife Wendi (Blum) '82, an English major, founded a computer remanufacturing company. Nearly ten years ago he started an interim management and advisory services firm that specializes in restructuring struggling companies. Today, the successor company, CXO LLC, works with private equity firms, hedge funds, and money center banks on four continents.

Now that Kushner is able to give back to the College of Engineering, he has chosen to support AEP. Not only did he give money for the school's director to use for expenses like innovative graduate courses, student travel, and hosting conferences, he and his wife have also given a substantial gift to the Physical Sciences Building, where AEP faculty will enjoy enhanced research and teaching space. This new space is critically important for both recruiting and retaining faculty.

"Applied and Engineering Physics really taught me how to think—to analyze problems, identify different solutions, and come up with one that maybe had not been seen by others. I have found that enormously useful in every aspect of my career since graduating," says Kushner. "I've been fortunate that life has been very good to me monetarily and I'm very pleased to be able to give back. Wendi and I have given money for scholarships, but helping students is not enough. You also need world-class facilities to attract top-notch faculty in order to make the university truly great."

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