

Disabled Alum Inspires Students With Story

DISABILITIES

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described a new undertaking that may provide a forum for Kim's suggestion.

"We are currently in a planning period for strategically integrating better accessibility in the curriculum," Fahey said. Fahey hopes that easier communication between disabled students and teachers via the Internet and better online access to class material will help achieve this goal.

"All students that come to Cornell deserve the same opportunities," Fahey said.

Even though Ken Kunken may have missed out on these curricular aids, he chose to view the difficulties of his time simply as challenges needed to be overcome in order to earn his bachelor of science from the College of Engineering in 1972. Kunken went on to earn a master of arts in education from Cornell, a master of education degree in psychology from Columbia and national certification as a rehabilitation counselor.

After two years of providing vocational counseling for severely disabled individuals, Kunken went on to earn his juris doctorate from Hofstra University at the age of 32 and became an assistant district attorney in Nassau County, Long Island. Almost 30 years later, Kunken is now the deputy bureau chief of the County Court Trial Bureau where he supervises 27 other assistant district attorneys.

As Kunken looks back on his life's hardships, he credits his family, both his own parents and his current wife and three sons with helping him overcome his personal obstacles.

"Despite living the last 38 years in a wheelchair, I am living my dream," Kunken said. "It's not a matter of being blessed with good luck. You have to make it happen. ... If I leave you with a message, remember the hopes and dreams of your youth. Good things come to you when you work for them."

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