

### School Says “Thank You” to the Richard J. Kurtz Family for Gift to Community Well-Being Doctoral Program

**Richard Kurtz, B.Ed. '62, believes in the importance of education for people in all walks of life. “Education is the cornerstone of our success as a country and as a society,” said Kurtz, who is president and CEO, The Kamson Corp. “That’s why I’m proud to support the School of Education and Human Development.”**

To reflect the impact of a \$1.5 million-plus gift from the Kurtz family, the school’s community-focused outreach program was renamed the Richard J. Kurtz Family Community Well-Being Doctoral Program this spring.

“This Community Well-Being (CWB) program is so important because it reflects a modern and sophisticated approach to education,” Kurtz said. “This is a program that will benefit the teachers and students of tomorrow, as well as communities that need assistance.” The family made two gifts to the program: \$1.5 million for the Richard J. Kurtz Community Well-Being Doctoral Program Endowed Fellowship Fund, and \$44,950 for the Isaac Prilleltensky Fund for Community Well-Being.

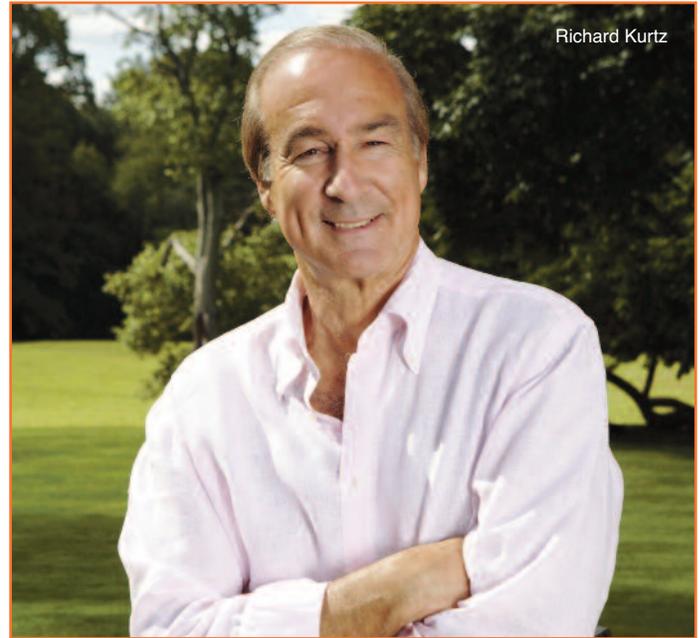
Professor and former SEHD Dean Isaac Prilleltensky hosted a thank-you luncheon at The Biltmore Hotel. Also honoring Mr. Kurtz at the event were Laura Kohn-Wood, who is now dean



(From left) Dean Laura Kohn-Wood, students Laura Dino and Leigh Rauk, Richard Kurtz, Isaac Prilleltensky, students Ignacio Barrenechea and Brittney Davis, and Marsha Talianoff

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Richard Kurtz

of the school; Dina Birman, professor and director of the doctoral program; and four CWB students.

“We are delighted to receive this transformative gift from the Kurtz family, which will help us recruit excellent doctoral students,” said Prilleltensky. “We share with the Kurtz family the belief that to improve personal well-being we have to invest in community well-being. Our students will become leaders in the field, and we have Richard Kurtz and his family to thank for it.”

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Kurtz came to Miami as a freshman, wearing a shirt, tie, and suit on the first plane trip of his life. He planned to become a teacher, and soon became active on campus, serving as president of the ZBT fraternity and getting involved in student government. “I had a phenomenal experience at UM,” he said. “Now, it’s a privilege for me to be able to give back and help others.”

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