

Life Legacy

EDWARD D. "NED" LIGHT

DURHAM: Edward D. "Ned" Light, 44, a resident of Durham, NC, died of cancer at the Hock Family Pavilion on December 16, 2011. Mr. Light was born in Charlottesville, VA, son of William Richard "Bill" Light, Jr., and Sally Anne Rives Light. He graduated from Nashoba Regional High School and earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in biomedical engineering from Duke University. He worked for 22 years at Duke, where he conducted research in real-time 3D ultrasound imaging, created "world's first inventions," and mentored countless students both in the lab and in life skills. He jointly held four patents and co-authored dozens of papers. He was a member of IEEE, USFA and The American Association of Woodturners.

He was known for igniting a passion for learning, and motivating and inspiring others to do more than they thought possible. As an undergraduate student, he took up the sport of fencing. Later as coach, he introduced many students to the joys and challenges of athletic competition, bringing humor to the endeavor while instilling intensity and integrity. As volunteer at Forest View Elementary School, he introduced students to the natural world. He expressed his artistic creativity in woodworking, gardening, cooking and photography, and through the eye of his telescope, enjoyed exploring the heavens. He never stopped learning, and his adventurous spirit was contagious. He gave much of himself to others and will be remembered for his bright smile.

Mr. Light is survived by his wife, Anne Smyrski Light; his daughter, Erin DeJarnette Light; his father William Richard "Bill" Light Jr. of Castine, ME and Pinehurst, NC; two brothers, William Richard "Rick" Light, III of Natick, MA and Robert MacHenry Light of Herndon, VA; and seven nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his mother Sally Anne Rives Light.