



Memorial Service to Honor
Michael Stephen O'Malley

December 9, 1950 - June 24, 2015



Celebrating a Life Well Lived
August 22, 2015

Genome Sciences Building
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC



Michael Stephen O'Malley

Dr. Michael Stephen O'Malley was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, friend, mentor and colleague. A native of Atlanta, Michael graduated from Davidson College with a degree in history. He later obtained an MPH and a PhD in Health and Policy Management from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Michael left Chapel Hill for just one year to work in Washington, DC, during which time he met his wife Nadine. In 1990, they moved back to North Carolina when he took a leadership position at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, where he served until his retirement in 2014.

Michael was an exceptional leader known as a great "connector." His kindness and infectious smile spread warmth throughout the entire Cancer Center, and his entertaining mass emails to communicate everything from road closings to new federal grant opportunities took on legendary status. In recognition of his remarkable administrative skills and research accomplishments, he was awarded the C. Knox Massey Award by UNC in 2007. Michael also co-directed for 23 years the Cancer Control Education Program and served as an adjunct associate professor at the Gillings School, where he counseled and mentored countless students.

His wife Nadine, daughter Bailey Gatens, and their much-loved dog Shelby were the lights of his life. He was a great cook, avid cyclist and played on the basketball team that won the 1990 AAU national championship in the men's 40+ league. For more than a decade he also played on the "Great Sax" volleyball team, where he was fondly nicknamed "Pie" and met many lifelong friends. In all of his athletic, work, and personal endeavors, Michael displayed a remarkably wry and witty sense of humor.

In addition to his wife and daughter, Michael is survived by his sister Mary Huff and her husband and three children, and a host of relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, mother, and brother.

Michael's Best Of

*A few excerpts from Michael's legendary mass email updates to
UNC Lineberger faculty and staff*

Construction crews on the south end of the south wing will be cutting down some steel piles and sawing concrete. Expect noise.

With football out of town, Manning Drive is closing down this weekend so crews can finish the dental school bridge work. Is this really the last time? Could this be their crowning glory? Or, are they just filling in and plan to see us back in six months?

Elvis has left the Lineberger Building but has left behind a recorded message: "Lord almighty, I feel the temperature rising.....H2O temps had gotten down to around 70° instead of the normal 150° level.

The Polar Vortex has a portion of the Cancer Center Building in its icy grip and isn't letting go. Please (polar) bear with us.

With few exceptions, sequels don't measure up to the original. For every Godfather Part II, there are dozens of Weekend at Bernie's II and Friday the 13th Part (insert number between two and infinity here). Thankfully, there was only one Jaws 3D. So, no surprise, Bridge II: the IRB Strikes Back will be less enjoyable than the original West Drive feature.

Monday morning Digital Imaging begins the journey down the long and winding road that leads to the Knapp Library door. As they wind down the road, expect a bustle in the Library. (Apologies for conflating The Beatles and Led Zeppelin, but I just couldn't let it be.)

Who can it be now ~ those folks wandering about our building and taking measurements? They are energy consultants assessing selected buildings. No need to run, no need to take cover, just men at work.

Worst Ending Ever? So, look over your shoulder. Off in the distance – a German sausage? Yes, the wurst is behind us.

Willie Nelson, sing the chorus for us just one more time: “They closed the road again. Just can’t believe they closed the road again. We and our friends just love West Drive being closed again.” But, if you wait until the midnight hour, when no one else is around, you and Mustang Sally can drive right on through on your way to the land of the 1,000 dances. (For more information about this obscure 1960’s R&B reference, call 634-5789. Ask for the Wicked Mr. Wilson Pickett.)

This year alone, an estimated 100 tons of debris has entered the earth’s atmosphere headed ground-ward. No reports of injuries.

Amazing but true, the original wing of our building is approaching the 30th anniversary of its opening. And, the “new” wing is now almost 16 years old (and ready to apply for a driver’s license?). Time does fly.

Contrary to Rolling Stones, time is not on our side. Many School of Medicine ID badges are fast approaching their expirations dates.

Subject: Flying the Coop

Date: August 25, 2012 12:32:19 PM EDT

The last of the tower cranes on campus is flying the coop this weekend. IRB construction is turning inward, and the remaining crane is free to fly to another big project – or, perhaps, to find its twin who abandoned the nest months ago. The IRB crane is the last of the flock that once dotted our skyline. In 2000 North Carolinians approved a \$3.1 billion bond package to transform campus infrastructure across the UNC System. In the years that followed, the NC General Assembly also voted bonds to build the NC Cancer Hospital and the IRB. The resulting construction projects have provided our campus – and other UNC campuses – with marvelous new spaces to meet the increasing demands for teaching, research, and service. It has been a remarkable investment. So, farewell and adieu to the last of the towering cranes. And, thank you, to the people of North Carolina.

Order of Service

- Musical Selection.....UNC Clef Hangers
- Welcome.....Shelley Earp
*Lineberger Professor of Cancer Research
Director, UNC Cancer Care*
- Testimonials.....Ned Sharpless
*Director, UNC Lineberger
Wellcome Distinguished Professor of Cancer Research*
- Scott Keeter
Michael's closest friend from Davidson College and UNC-Chapel Hill
Director of Survey Research, Pew Research Center, Washington, DC*
- Mary O'Malley Huff
Michael's beloved sister, Associate Professor of Biology and Assistant Dean,
College of Arts and Sciences, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY*
- Ryan Cribbins and Sid White
Michael's lifelong friends from Great Sax Volleyball*
- Barbara Rimer
Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor,
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health*
- Andy Olshan
Barbara S. Hulka Distinguished Professor and Chair,
Department of Epidemiology, Associate Director, UNC Lineberger*
- Jo Anne Earp
Professor, Department of Health Behavior,
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health*
- Shine Chang
Director of Cancer Prevention Research Training Program,
University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center*
- Lauren McCollough
Post-doctoral Trainee, UNC Lineberger Cancer Control Education Program*
- Melissa Stroud Mack
Coordinator, UNC Lineberger Cancer Control Education Program*
- Wendy Sarratt
Associate Director, UNC Lineberger*
- Jeanne Noe
Dear friend of Michael and Nadine*
- Bailey Gatens
Michael's adored step-daughter*
- Open Reflections.....Family and Friends
- Closing Remarks.....Shelley Earp

Acknowledgements

It is difficult to find words to express how thankful we are for the outpouring of love and support we received in the days and weeks following Michael's sudden passing. The visits, phone calls, emails, texts, cards, posts, flowers, food, thoughts and prayers have truly made a difference. During this difficult time, we are reminded of how blessed we are to have such a loving family and wonderful friends. Your acts of kindness and expressions of sympathy will never be forgotten.

A special thanks to Shelley and Jo Anne Earp, for everything – we have always felt you both were more like family than friends. To Jeanne and Larry Noe, for your unconditional friendship and daily support. To AHEC colleagues Ann Lefebvre, Debbie Grammer and Gordon Kramon, for doing whatever needs to be done without our knowing or asking. To Wendy Sarratt, for always knowing exactly what we need emotionally on any given day. To Jessica Platz, Kelly Mansfield and the UNC Lineberger External Affairs team, for your tireless work in helping plan this memorial service. To Michael's sister, Mary Huff, for your seven-day visit to give us both the time we needed to grieve. To my sister, Claudette Croushore, for making the trip from Richmond to Chapel Hill multiple times to help us navigate the new changes in our lives. We will be forever grateful to you all.

Finally, our heartfelt appreciation to the UNC Lineberger and UNC Gillings School of Public Health faculty and staff for your unwavering support. Michael loved you all, and we know all of you, in turn, loved him.

-Nadine O'Malley and Bailey Gatens



Memorial Gifts

In Michael's memory, please consider donating to the **Michael S. O'Malley Cancer Prevention Fund** at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. A fitting tribute to Michael, the fund will carry on his passion for advancing innovative education and research initiatives at UNC Lineberger designed to prevent cancer.

For more information about donating memorial gifts, visit www.unclineberger.org/michael or mail a check to UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, CB #7295, Chapel Hill, NC 27599. Please make checks payable to UNC Lineberger.