

Matthew Owen Howard was born on July 21, 1956, in Chicago and grew up in Yakima, Wash., where his love of sports and music began. He played football and baseball for local teams. As a student at A.C. Davis High School, he played trombone for the “Buccaneer Band” and formed a funk band with friends for a Battle of the Bands competition.

He took the first steps toward an academic career at Western Washington University, where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology. He continued his education at University of Washington, with a MSW in social work and a Ph.D. in social welfare.

Matthew taught at Washington University (St. Louis, Mo.) and University of Michigan before coming to UNC-Chapel Hill in 2007. He quickly distinguished himself as a leader at UNC, where he served as Frank A. Daniels Distinguished Professor for Human Services Policy Information and as an associate faculty research fellow for the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research. At the School of Social Work, Matthew served as associate dean for faculty development and as associate dean for doctoral education.

Throughout his academic career, Matthew compiled an impressive list of awards and accolades — Fellow of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare, Fellow of the Society for Social Work and Research, and Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, among other honors. He was ranked among the nation’s top social work researchers, with numerous editorships and hundreds of publications to his credit.

A gifted teacher and mentor, Matthew was chosen to receive UNC’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction in 2014. He earned the appreciation and gratitude of many doctoral students for his support and guidance.

Matthew died on Dec. 16, 2018. He is survived by mother Phyllis, brothers Dan and Joel, niece Dorothy, and a host of friends and colleagues who will miss him.

If you would like to make a donation to The Matthew Howard Memorial Fund for Doctoral Education, you may do so at <https://give.unc.edu/donate?p=SOSW>

Celebrating the Life of
MATTHEW OWEN HOWARD, PH.D.
1956–2018



UNC School of Social Work
February 2, 2019

REMEMBER
Frederick Buechner

When you remember me, it means that you have carried something of who I am with you, that I have left some mark of who I am on who you are. It means that you can summon me back to your mind even though countless years and miles may stand between us. It means that if we meet again, you will know me. It means that even after I die, you can still see my face and hear my voice and speak to me in your heart.

For as long as you remember me, I am never entirely lost.

-Originally published in "Whistling In The Dark"

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude..... Michelle Cobley, harpist
WelcomeDean Gary Bowen

WE MOURN

"When Death Comes" (Mary Oliver)..... Mimi Chapman
Moment of Reflection Michelle Cobley, harpist

WE REMEMBER

Remarks.....Mark Fraser
Remarks.....Dorothy Howard
"Mercy Now" (Mike Farris) Jack Richman

WE CELEBRATE

Tributes

Guests: Natasha Bowen, Jeff Jenson, Jennie Vaughn

Faculty: Debbie Barrett, Todd Jensen, Anne Jones,
Michael Lambert, Tricia McGovern, Marty Weems

Students: Stefani Baca-Atlas, Annie Francis, LB Klein,
Charity Watkins

Open opportunity

"Keep Me in Your Heart" (Warren Zevon).....Jeff Jenson
Blessing..... Trenette Goings and Gary Bowen

RECEPTION

Odum Lobby