

*In Loving Memory*

*Of*

**LEONARD HUGH DAWSON III**



**April 8, 1937**

**September 1, 2006**

**LEONARD HUGH DAWSON III**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

September 9, 2006  
One O'Clock PM  
Sheraton Hotel  
Chapel Hill, NC

**SPEAKERS**

John O'Neill  
Bill Smith  
Lynn Blanchard  
Geni Eng

### **Leonard Hugh Dawson, III**

Leonard H. Dawson, Emeritus Clinical Professor of Health Education at the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, died at age 69 on September 1, 2006, in Chapel Hill, NC.

Leonard was a proud son of the State of Kentucky. Born the fifth child and oldest son of Hugh and Margaret Dawson on April 8, 1937, his childhood years were spent with his family on their farm in South Logan County. He graduated with a BS degree in elementary education in 1960 from the University of Kentucky Lexington. In 1963, he received his MSPH degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Leonard began his professional career in public health in Colbert County, Alabama, where his experience helped form many of his concepts of community-based public health education, his lifelong work. In 1966, he returned to the UNC School of Public Health to join the Department of Health Education faculty. Just two years later Department Chair Guy Steuart appointed him Director of Masters Degree Programs. Over the next three decades, Leonard guided his colleagues to develop and promote an interdisciplinary approach to health improvement that focused on community and its development. Generations of public health professionals learned these methods, including the Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis, in his innovative training program. As a result, not only students, but citizens in hundreds of communities throughout North Carolina and the rural south have benefited. These models of community health development have been adapted by public health training and service programs throughout the world. By the time of his retirement from UNC in 1996, more than 1000 graduate students had completed Leonard Dawson's training program, learning the importance of applying their professional skill and scientific knowledge in ways that respectfully complement the strengths and cultures of the communities they serve.

From 1996 until his death, Leonard shared his expertise far beyond North Carolina as a consultant and technical advisor, providing his unique strategic and program development insights in places as varied as Nigeria; Indonesia; Malawi; Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania; Central Louisiana; and Morganton, West Virginia. He assisted organizations that include the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, the Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust and the Rapides Health Foundation. He was

a founding member of the Men's Health Retreat, held annually on golf courses throughout the nation.

Leonard had a voracious appetite for literature and the arts, including music of all kinds, and was himself an accomplished painter. He had an astute political insight and a love of laughter. He combined a focused and pragmatic teaching approach with an extraordinary sense of compassion, sensitivity and empathy for the less fortunate, and a genuine love of humankind. As a Kentucky native he was extremely fond of horse racing and enjoyed the Derby. He was also a diehard North Carolina Tar Heel fan, enjoying games with his closest and oldest friend, John O'Neill. He deeply loved his adopted state of North Carolina and its University.

In honor of his service to the state and far beyond, Leonard Dawson was awarded North Carolina's Order of the Long Leaf Pine and was a member of the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. A large collection of his papers from 1965 – 1995 is housed in the Southern Historical Collection at the Library of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

During his illness, Leonard was lovingly cared for by his youngest sister Janet. In addition to their nearly daily breakfasts at the 501 Diner, they entertained a host of family, friends and colleagues who came by to pay their respects and get one more lesson from a life master.

He is survived by his children: Tessa, and her husband, Mark Batchelor of Jacksonville, Florida; Blane of Heber City, Utah; and Carey and her fiancé, David Winterle of Cambridge, Massachusetts; his grandchildren: Morgan, Eli, and Mark; sisters Annell Sciortino, June Lyne, and Janet Kientz; and a brother Michael; as well as a number of nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his parents and sisters Patsy Wade and Betty Margaret Dawson.

The Department of Health Behavior and Health Education will honor Mr. Dawson at an event to be held in the spring on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Leonard requested that in lieu of flowers, all contributions be made to establish the Leonard H. Dawson Fund for Public Health Practice at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (CB# 7407, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7407).

## HARK THE SOUND

by William Starr Myers, class of 1897

1. Hark the sound of Tar Heel voices  
Ringing clear and True  
Singing Carolina's praises  
Shouting N.C.U.

Hail to the brightest Star of all  
Clear its radiance shine  
Carolina priceless gem,  
Receive all praises thine.

I'm a Tar Heel born I'm a Tar Heel bred  
And when I die I'm a Tar Heel dead.  
So it's RAH, RAH, Car'lina 'lina  
RAH, RAH, Car'lina 'lina  
RAH, RAH, Car'lina  
RAH! RAH! RAH!

## MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME

By Steven Collins Foster, 1893

The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home  
Tis summer, the darkies are gay  
The corn tops ripe and the meadow's are in bloom  
While the birds make music all the day  
The young folks roll on the little cabin floor  
All merry, all happy and bright  
By 'n by hard times come a-knocking at the door  
Then my old Kentucky home good night

Weep no more, my lady  
Oh, weep no more, today  
We will sing one song for the old Kentucky Home  
For the old Kentucky home far away.