



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Memorial Resolution Michael Pressley

Be it resolved that on February 2, 2007, the faculty and staff of the College of Education at the University of Maryland honor the life and professional career and acknowledge the death of Dr. Michael Pressley.

After overcoming three battles with cancer since the age of 23, Michael Pressley passed away from complications of the disease on May 22, 2006, at age 55, in East Lansing, Michigan. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Donna, his son, Tim—an elementary education student at Texas Christian University, his mother, Josephine, and brother, Alan.

Michael was born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania on April 25, 1951. As a teenager, he had the opportunity to attend a summer session in research psychology at Western Michigan University, which sparked a lifelong passion of applying psychology to education. He earned a scholarship to Northwestern University, graduating with honors in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. In 1977 he was awarded a Ph.D. in child psychology, specializing in cognitive development, from the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota.

Michael served the faculties of University of Wisconsin-Madison, California State University, and University of Western Ontario prior to joining the University of Maryland in 1989. He was a respected faculty member of the Department of Human Development. Those who knew Michael described him as one of the eminent minds in educational and psychological research, a productive, provocative colleague and a peerless mentor for students. Others stated their lives were touched by his professional ideas and efforts and by the compassion that so obviously went along with them.

Michael left the University of Maryland in 1993. He went on to serve on the faculties of University at Albany, State University of New York, University of Notre Dame and Michigan State University. His emphasis on practical strategies for academic growth, based on sound theory, has become part of classrooms around the world and his legacy will be long-lived.

The College of Education extends its deepest condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

February 2, 2007