



**Jonathan Howes**

Jonathan Howes first fell in love with Chapel Hill on a visit in high school. In the decades since, he played an integral role in shaping and growing the town and the University.

- Jonathan first lived in Chapel Hill in 1955 as a UNC freshman before transferring to Wittenberg College in Ohio. He intended to become a Lutheran minister, but ultimately chose a path that brought him back to the Old North State. He and his new wife Mary returned in 1959 so Jonathan could pursue a graduate degree in city and regional planning. They've called the town home since 1970, when he became the director of the Center for Urban and Regional Studies at UNC.
- He served on the Chapel Hill Town Council from 1975-1987 and was a two-term mayor from 1987-1991. During Jonathan's tenure, the Town built a new town hall complex and library, and created or expanded parks and greenways. From 1993-1997, he served as Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.
- The University welcomed Jonathan back in 1997 in a new position to manage Town-Gown relations. He also co-chaired the 2000 Campus Master Plan project with David Godschalk, outlining an expansion plan equivalent to the entire campus of Wake Forest University – 6 million square feet! Jonathan is now a Senior Public Service Fellow at the UNC Institute for the Environment, and recently co-chaired the Nurturing our Community theme group for the Chapel Hill 2020 visioning initiative.

One of Jonathan's fondest memories is walking along Franklin Street downtown. Living on a grad student's budget, funds were tight and walking downtown from the apartment they rented from Mrs. Obie Davis was their chief form of recreation. The experience reinforced his interest in developing the Town and campus with an eye toward sensible, smart growth to create an environment in which the city, school and region could prosper and do what they do best. Today, Chapel Hill has transitioned from a small Southern college town to a sophisticated university community.

"I remember coming to visit the campus when I was in high school and realizing then that it was one of the most beautiful places I had even seen," Jonathan recalls. Serving the community has been his privilege ever since. "Public service is in my blood and it's been an honor to serve our community. Everything I did, I did because I felt called to do. And it still goes on. I'm not done yet."