

Brett A. Walter

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January 15, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As many of you know, our dear friend, Chet Meeks passed away on January 11, 2008, after a two-year struggle with colon cancer. As was his character, Chet fought until the end, and in the final weeks, when he knew his was a losing battle, he remained the same philosophical, witty, emotional, and unadulterated person we all knew, loved, and enjoyed.

There is no doubt that Chet touched our lives. And there is no question he did not deserve for his life to end so soon. But in his final weeks, Chet found peace and comfort in his dear family, his friends, and his books—books he continued to buy even in his final days! The fire inside of him, the thing that kept him going, was his zest for reading, writing, learning, and debating (arguing!). It was with him until the end, and it lives on, in his written words, his spoken words, and our memories of his wrinkled brow, his glasses resting low on his nose, and his extended index finger pointing upward as he reached a sweeping conclusion to one of the many lectures he “generously” bestowed on each of us.

Another way that Chet will live on is the **Chet Meeks Memorial Fund**, a graduate scholarship in sociology that is being created at the University of Wyoming. My brothers and I discussed the Fund with Chet in the weeks before he died, and he enthusiastically embraced the project. Chet loved UW, the place that allowed him to blossom as a young academic. He asked that the scholarship in his memory be used for summer funding to allow sociology graduate students to dedicate their time to research. Chet told us the notion of a tangible legacy—something perpetually fueled by his affection for UW and his devotion to learning—invigorated and comforted him.

Considering how much Chet poured into his work and his relationships, we are asking you to join us in contributing to his scholarship. Our family has pledged \$10,000, and Chet himself directed that some of his personal funds be contributed to the scholarship. **If we are able to raise \$50,000, the Wyoming legislature has a program that will match anything that the Chet Meeks Memorial Fund collects.** This means that Chet’s scholarship can be something especially significant. Enclosed you will find the donation number and a pledge card for the scholarship. *To help with the size of your contribution, your pledge may be paid to the Fund over a five-year period.*

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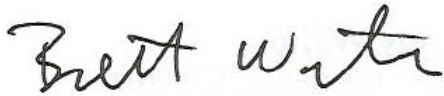
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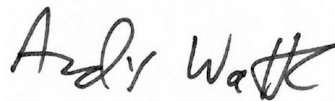
We would like to let Chet's family know as soon as possible about the progress of the Fund so we are asking that you contribute as soon as you can.

Thank you for your support and generosity. Your contribution is fully tax deductible and will help future students do the work that meant so much to Chet. We can think of no better way to honor him and allow him to live on at his beloved University of Wyoming.

Sincerely,



Brett Walter



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