



Professional and Organizational Development
Network in Higher Education

March 10, 2008

To Don's family, colleagues and friends;

As you gather together today to celebrate the rich and wonderful life of Don Wulff, the members of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD) want you to know how important Don has been to us, too, and that we share your deep sadness at his passing.

Perhaps the best evidence of our regard for Don as a scholar and practitioner is that, almost without fail, if you enter any one of our centers for teaching across the nation, you are bound to find at least one of his "must-read" books or practice-based journal articles on our shelves. Over the years we counted on Don to lead the way in so many aspects of teaching and instructional development, and he never failed to inspire us by his example, innovation and acumen.

But Don was so much more than a distinguished scholar and practitioner. If there was a motif to Don's contributions to POD over the years it was that, without fail, he put people before projects. As many of you know so well, Don had a flawless ability to relate to nearly anyone. Over and over, POD members describe Don as being able to make you feel like he really "took you in" and genuinely welcomed you. We reveled in the warmth of his funny stories, gentle wit, sweetness and concern for others. Don was just being "Don," but in doing so he exemplified the best in teaching. Parker Palmer perhaps put it best when he said, *"Good teaching can never be reduced to technique – it's a capacity for connectedness, which comes in many forms... Good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher... we teach who we are..."*

Don's capacity for connectedness seemed without limit; so too were his networks throughout the POD organization. In every role he took on for POD, from President to committee member, Don taught who he was—with identity, integrity, and love, for the student and the teacher in us all.

In sympathy,

Dr. Mathew L. Ouellett, President
On behalf of the POD Network in Higher Education