To Dr. Towner,

I used to think that I would have to travel to a far away place to experience nature. But now I know so much better. So many things I’ve seen and touched within a days drive from Seaver-wetlands and deserts and mountains, birds and lizards and flowers

Over a pitcher of Bass at The Shack, Or on The Bluff as we looked for lizards to “noose ‘em and goose ‘em” Or sitting around a campfire in the desert at 2AM, You dispensed your wisdom onto us, You treated us like equals, And we flocked to you, like disciples.

Hadley’s and The Shack and Charley Brown’s and Alpine Buttes won’t be the same without you And I feel sorry for the underclassmen that will never get to learn what an “oosik” is or what a can of chili can do for the appetite when you’re camping

I hope that you left the world you loved so much knowing how much we all adored you. I hope that you can look down on all of us that you’ve guided in our young lives and be proud of who we’ll become.

You’re now in a place where the kind of world you have fought so hard to create actually exists-balanced, peaceful, perfect And I know that when I get there, you will be there to tell me all about that world too

We love you Dr. T