



TO: Greg Bennick

DATE: June 5, 2009

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Greg,

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express to you my most heartfelt appreciation for the work that you do. The last three times you have visited my Sociology of Death and Dying classes have been experiences that have not only deepened my students' understanding of death issues, but have given them a model for how to be in the world.

You may not remember this, but my students are required to keep a journal and after your visit, they are asked to reflect on their impressions of you and what they might have learned. I'd like to share some of the things they have written and expressed to me...

I was surprised how many students actually said that watching *Flight From Death*, and then being able to meet you was "life-changing". Seriously. The profound messages about our world that you deliver through the film and in your presentation create a paradigm shift in these students they are hungry for. The film is an amazing piece of art. I think that in ninety minutes, if people are open to it, this film can really shift the way that they see themselves and the direction they want their lives to take. After your visits, my students wanted to explore these ideas more deeply and began to express their understanding that each one of us should be called to do more for the benefit of humanity. One of my students wrote (and I share with his permission): *Greg has shown me that there is a big world out there that is waiting for me to enter it. I know that I'm on this earth, but it feels like I've been only playing at being human. If I can grow up and go out into the world with half the energy, commitment and heart that Greg has done, I will be able to see my life with pride and satisfaction.*"


From another student, with her permission: *"Greg came to class over a week ago, and I can't stop thinking about what he said to us. I've never had a chance to meet someone with any kind of "celebrity" status, and honestly believed that most of the time, it's just hype. But Greg showed me that there are people who really deserve the awards, who have earned the recognition and act like beacons for the rest of us who are trying to figure out who we can become."*

At a community college, there is a large population of first generation students; they come to our classes facing sometimes rather difficult obstacles and many feel a bit battered about. To have someone like you consider them a worthy audience does an immense amount of good that cannot be measured. I've heard from my class that they appreciated how you were able to talk to them like they were equals, were able to explain complex ideas in such an engaging and understandable way - and do all that with huge dose of humor. For that, I am eternally grateful.

And I'm not done singing your praises! Universally, my classes are impressed with your amazing good nature and humor. I begin every quarter by explaining that thanatology is "the study of life with death left in" – you exemplify that very exuberance and passion that inspires all of us to live closer to our personal ideals. Who would expect that a class on death and dying could become raucous with laughter? With you, it is not only possible, but guaranteed.

If there is anything I can do for you, in repayment for what you have done for my students, please let me know. I wish you all the good fortune you deserve as you do your work to heal the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise Hull". The signature is written in black ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Louise Hull

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