



Southern  
Illinois University  
Carbondale

Department of Speech Communication  
[www.siu.edu/departments/cola/spcm](http://www.siu.edu/departments/cola/spcm)  
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November 14, 2008

Ms. Kimberly Dark  
PO Box 632865  
San Diego, CA 92163

Dear Kimberly,

Please forgive my tardiness in writing to you before now. I've been wanting to send you a note to thank you for your wonderful performance work at Southern Illinois University. It was indeed "personal, powerful, political."

I found myself so completely engaged in your work. I was deeply impressed by both your skills as a writer and as a performer. As a writer, you manage to craft intimate and intricate poetic narratives that never settle for the easy answers. You pull listeners in, lead them through fascinating turns and complications, so that they may come to understand the world more fully. I simply love how you work with time, building suspense, earning the right to your claims, seducing listeners to join with you. As a performer, you know what it takes to make a piece work on stage. You bring a compelling presence that is coupled with the familiarity of close friends. Such a stance makes the audience want to be there, to listen to what you have to say, to claim space with you. They feel they will be rewarded by living in your company and, indeed, they are. You take them on such a rich journey, one that has so many rewards.

I can't thank you enough for what you gave to our community and for spending several days with us. I know we are all the richer for the time you gave us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Pelias".

Ronald J. Pelias  
Professor