



Office of the Chancellor
Box 7001/A Holladay Hall
Raleigh, North Carolina 27695-7001
919.515.2191

March 1, 2013

Dr. Alva Harris
109 Jubilee Place
New Bern, NC 28560

Dear Alva:

What a pleasure it was to receive your letter and be welcomed into such a full and adventurous life. As a relatively recent transplant to NC State, it was a joy to share in the university's extraordinary history through your stories of mentorship from esteemed professors, excursions to Alaska and gray squirrel research. Please know that your appreciation for NC State is felt and reciprocated—it was truly an honor for the university to hold a spot on your bucket list.

The kind words of your note, blog and memoir mean a great deal to me as Chancellor of the university you so strongly praise. But your words, as they echo through the years, will mean more still to the students of NC State, infusing them with a renewed zest for life and sense of adventure.

NC State students, faculty and staff should have access to this work, one so thoughtfully written by a member of the Wolfpack family, the first to ever receive a PhD in Animal Ecology. So on behalf of the university, it will be an honor to share *Buzzard's Myth* in our libraries. I think we can all stand to gain some wisdom from your brave and candid recollection of a life filled with wonder and joy but also struggle.

As the months pass, I hope you will continue to confront Parkinson's with the same tenacious spirit that you have always displayed. Please know that your first home away from home admires your courage and offers our strongest support. NC State is proud to call itself your alma mater, and I thank you for allowing us to join you on this journey.

Sincerely,

W. Randolph Woodson
Chancellor

WRW/mch