

APPENDIX A

REMARKS OF DR. ANNE PONDER BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING MAY 12, 2005

Thank you. I have always been a very fortunate woman, lucky in fact. And one of the great gifts that you sometimes get, and that I get today, is the opportunity and responsibility to do work which I love, and to do it in a place that the University of North Carolina prepared me for. All three of my degrees are from UNC Chapel Hill and so I thank the Board of Governors, not only for electing me today, I thank President Broad for choosing me and recommending me to you, but I thank you for the education that started me out on a career that has enough accomplishments in it that you choose me to return to my home state, to my home town, to one of the most extraordinary liberal arts colleges in this country.

The way I thought I might frame the calling, the opportunity to come home, is to take you out of this room and to place you on the University of North Carolina at Asheville campus. For those of you that have been there, you will be able to find yourselves immediately and if you haven't come, you must come because if you are on the campus and if you find the library and if you stand on its front steps and you look out over the quad, *we can see Pisgah from here*. Now, Pisgah is an Old Testament name with a story behind it. But Pisgah Mountain is something that generations of people I am connected with have been able to look towards, and if they came to just the right plain, just the right point, and looked in just the right direction, the shadow of Pisgah was available to them. So whether they lived in Slyland, or Asheville, or Biltmore, or Marshall, if you got in just the right place, *we could see Pisgah from here*. And so it is, not only for the physical attribute of the orientation of Pisgah, but the promise that it offers for the University of North Carolina at Asheville. Every single element that I know and have learned about Asheville suggests that this particular and unique liberal arts campus in the system is prepared for great potential and promise. And so when we think about the literary illusion (and this won't be the last literary illusion you will ever hear from me), when we think about the literary illusion *we can see Pisgah from here*, part of what you will want me to do is to make that potential and that future, realizable. And so it is when a public liberal arts college as the University of North Carolina at Asheville, when each of us as educators, faculty, staff, admissions counselors, and others; when we choose the UNC Asheville students, we are choosing them because *we can see Pisgah from here*. We choose them because we think that if they have the most wonderful liberal arts education available in the country, they will be set for lives that they will cherish and they will be set for lives that will enhance, improve, and sustain the community, the city, the region, the state, and the larger realms of the lives and families that they live with. So when we have in the aim of higher education, both the physical and literary attributes of the campus oriented around the view from the library to Pisgah, and we have the promise of individual students who we choose and support, and then we have aligned with those two things the future of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, *we can see Pisgah from here*.