

December 5, 2008

Dear Students, Colleagues, Family & Friends,

It was great fun writing a chunk of fiction that centered on the magic of academe, an undergraduate researcher and a young professor whose research and life spun out of control. With 13 months into retirement I had thought the book was completed, but my wife's book club said, "No way, George." With that feedback, and my return to NC State in July 2002, I shelved the project, not to get it into print (with twice the pages) until December 2008. The adventures of Dr. Nick Hallas and student Andy Culpa are exciting, suspenseful, dangerous, spooky, and bonded with secrets that form an amazing life-changing friendship.

So, I thank my over 16,000 past classroom students and researchers. Know that all profits from the sale of this book will go into the George and Marina Barthalmus Endowed Scholarship; indeed, those dollars may one day come to support your own children and grandchildren!! Enjoy Nick's and Andy's ride.

The best to all and please send me your critique of the book! Editing never ends...

George