

Convocation Remarks
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Let me add my welcome to The University of Alabama in Huntsville. We're confident that you will enjoy your time here, and that what you will take away when you graduate will serve you well in your personal and professional lives.

UAH by university standards is a young university, and, in a sense, has evolved rapidly from its founding as an autonomous campus of The University of Alabama System in 1969. That evolution continues today. You are the largest incoming class in the history of UAH.

The Student Services Building behind us, including a Welcome Center and Conference Center, that opened late spring is a one-stop-shop for students to conduct campus business, seek advice, and to serve as an intake point for prospective students and guests when they visit UAH.

There are a number of construction projects in the planning stages. To accommodate the demand for on campus housing, a new residence hall is being planned to open in fall 2018 along with three new Greek houses on the horseshoe south of the Fitness Center. Ground-breaking for construction of an incubator for start-up companies, started by faculty or staff or students or coming from the surrounding community, is slated for summer 2017. And a new practice lacrosse and soccer field was recently installed in University Park, which is just east of Charger Park.

You have a strong Student Government Association. They were instrumental in Charger Union becoming a reality and were intimately involved in the design. There are a lot of faculty and staff here ready to help you succeed. I would encourage you to call on them.

I'll see you around campus and at various UAH events I'm sure. I'm glad to communicate with you as well via e-mail from time to time, but I'd suggest loftier issues than parking! I seem to get a lot of suggestions about parking!

Best of luck in your academic career.