

Convocation Remarks  
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Welcome to The University of Alabama in Huntsville. You made a good choice, and we're confident you will enjoy your time here, and that you will take away a lot that will serve you well in your personal and professional lives.

This is an accomplished university, and an exciting place, home to the discovery of high-temperature superconductivity, involved in the development of the World's largest space-based telescope to launch in 2018, top-ten ranked Atmospheric Science Department by the Chronicle on Higher education, Popular Science's "Third most awesome lab", the Propulsion Research Center, for 2011, extensive participation of students from all disciplines in music ensembles, a student group managing an investment portfolio for the Tennessee Valley Authority, one of only 25 universities, and Top Quarter of US News Best Nursing Graduate Programs.

The campus and campus life continue to evolve. We just completed the baseball/softball/soccer/ticket booth/concession stand/locker room complex, broke ground earlier today on the new Student Life Center, have under construction the Greenway that will run north and south through the center of campus, and will start construction shortly on a renovation and expansion of the Nursing Building and on a building to house a severe weather research facility.

You have a strong Student Government Association and numerous student clubs available in which you are encouraged to participate.

You are located in a Research Park that is the second largest in the US, housing about 300 companies most of which are involved in work with the Army at Redstone Arsenal or NASA. There are many opportunities to interact with these entities as well as faculty and researchers on research projects.

There are a lot of people here ready to help you succeed. You will need to work hard, but relax a little on the way as well.