

Convocation: Welcome to Students

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Good Evening.

On behalf of the Faculty, welcome to SMU.

This is a remarkable time for SMU.

Today, you join the SMU family during our first Century;
you will graduate in our second.

The first century of SMU has seen our Alumni
accomplish many remarkable achievements.

They are civic leaders, and business leaders.

They have received the Nobel Prize,
and lived in the White House.

I'm sure your achievements will be equally remarkable.

To help you acquire the skills you need to reach these goals,
SMU has a world-renowned faculty to guide you.

So, I'd like to pose 2 challenges for you to accomplish
between now and fall-break, some 6 weeks away.

Now, I can just imagine your next phone call to your parents.

"Yeah Mom, college is different than high school,
they gave us homework at Convocation."

Challenge #1: This campus offers an exceptional variety of cultural and academic activities;

from outstanding music and art presentations at Meadows,

to lecture series that bring world leaders to campus.

I challenge you to expand your horizons.

Pick one event that is outside your "comfort zone," and **go**.

You just might enjoy it more than you expect.

Challenge #2: This campus has world-class faculty who are at the forefront of their fields, creating the
knowledge that will fill the textbooks of tomorrow. Pick one of your Professors, visit them during office hours.

Learn about their field of expertise, what excites them about their work, and how their contributions have
advanced the field.

Their enthusiasm can be infectious

If you accomplish these 2 challenges, you will know why SMU is a special place that can help you attain your
personal goals. I encourage you to take advantage of the resources SMU provides, both inside AND outside
the classroom.

AND, as if outstanding Professors are not enough motivation to make you go to class, you never know when
President Bush might drop in for a guest lecture.

Welcome to the SMU family.