

Chancellor's Message for Honors Convocation Program

"We are not welcoming you into a society that will cease to be an important part of your lives upon your graduation from this institution, nor merely into an honor of past achievement. We are welcoming you into an honor of the future."

—PHI BETA KAPPA INITIATION CEREMONY

The academic year, dotted as it is with public assemblages for the purpose of acknowledging accomplishments of one kind or another, holds no more worthy ceremony than the fine traditional exercise we observe today. This seventeenth annual renewal of Honors Convocation, bringing together a significant majority of student intellectual leadership, marks a time particularly appropriate to viewing in their proper perspective the various areas of university success.

No group among our student population is more deserving of public honor than those who have excelled in the field of learning. The chief criterion by which it may be determined that a university man or woman has done his job well is the measurement of academic accomplishment. For this purpose learned societies and departmental organizations have been established. To those who have made themselves worthy of selection into these societies, all praise and honor are due. The mark of success is upon them.

But with these honors come new responsibilities. While the awards may represent public acknowledgment of academic tasks well done, they also represent the challenge of tasks still to be accomplished. The search for truth is a life-long quest. Those who continue the search beyond this day may sometime find strong influences diverting them from the goal which they have thus far clearly viewed in the free atmosphere of an independent university, unhampered by external pressures and forces. The challenge of their present honor is the strength to defy these influences.

This Convocation is dedicated to those whom we here honor, for they have started well; and to the belief that they will meet the challenge of responsibility attendant to their "honors of the future."

June 8, 1950

ALBERT C. JACOBS
Chancellor

