

MSFC NASA Academy 2005
Farwell Address
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One question that is asked frequently during end-of-summer evaluations and discussions is: What makes a successful NASA Academy? Before starting the program this summer, we all had different expectations and perceptions. We all answered the question differently.

Ten long weeks have gone by, and by now I think we're able to answer with a bit more of a consensus. I will try to summarize for us all.

A successful NASA Academy is not about the number of trips we take. It's not about how many people we're able to meet. It's not about how many propulsion talks we listen to. It's not about how good we look on paper (although we do look pretty good). It's not about how much money we have to swim in.

I think we can all agree that a successful NASA Academy is about the people involved, from the staff members who organize, to the PIs who teach, to the RAs who work so hard. It's about the people we've touched, and the people who have touched you. It's about the experiences we've had as a group, and the memories we take away. It's about those we can now call colleagues and friends.

To the staff: thank you, thank you, thank you! The program you've put together has been invaluable. To the PIs: on behalf of all the RAs, I thank you. We could not have had this program without you. To the RAs: we survived! We had some tough times, but we've overcome and even thrived.

Over the past ten weeks, we've gotten to know each other so well. Today and tomorrow we'll go back to our normal lives. I hope that we'll keep in touch through the NASA Academy Alumni Association.

I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. I believe I speak for everyone when I say that we all can call each other friends. Thank you for the fantastic experience!