From a very pleased Huntsville Campus student:

To my fellow Huntsville Campus students,

First of all, congratulations on getting into medical school! For some of you, this is what you have been working toward since sometime in your undergraduate career. For others, you had to have a career that wasn’t what you truly wanted before you realized where you wanted to go. Regardless of the circumstances that brought you here, congratulations! You finally made it! But now what? This is what you have been working toward, and you made it here without a clue as to what to expect.

Everyone’s experience will be different, but I wanted to give you a little encouragement to those of you who will join me as a Huntsville branch campus student. The first two years in Birmingham are rough. It’s a lot of information in a short amount of time and minimal patient exposure. Along the way, you may forget what inspired you to go to medical school. Always try to remind yourself of your love of people and service because it makes the course work a little more bearable. But there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and trust me, it isn’t a train. It’s spending your third, and potentially fourth, year at the Huntsville branch campus.

A lot of you may think that if you don’t stay in Birmingham, you will not get the exposure or experience that you should. While it is true that Birmingham offers exposure to a wider variety of residents and more hospital square footage, you will be very well trained after spending your third year in Huntsville. Because the class is so much smaller, you will work one-on-one with your attending on multiple rotations, and more times than not you will be first assist in any surgery you take part in. The two residency programs in Huntsville are full of very knowledgeable residents who love to teach. If that isn’t enough to change your mind or encourage you to fight your way through these next two years, read on.

The student services office in Huntsville keeps you well informed and missing deadlines is not an option. You will always be the first to know anything of importance. You will see your fellow classmates (lunch included!) at a noon Dean’s Conference every Monday – that’s something very unique to the Huntsville Campus. What student doesn’t love free lunch and a little time to socialize?

As you can see, life in Huntsville is fantastic. The town is great, the traffic is so much better, and the facilities are top notch. So don’t lose heart. It will get better! Best of luck with your upcoming basic sciences, organ systems and Step 1. Huntsville will be waiting once you cross those hurdles!