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## The Huntsman Post, May 2014

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May 2014 Issue

## 1,101 Graduates



The Huntsman School of Business graduated 817 students at a commencement ceremony on May 5, with 141 of those degrees granted through the Huntsman undergraduate program in China, and 284 students earning graduate degrees this year.

The commencement ceremony began with this year's valedictorian, Brooke Siler, who graduated with bachelor's degrees...

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## Huntsman Students Collect Entrepreneurship Prizes



The final stage in the Utah Entrepreneur Series, the Utah Entrepreneur Challenge, is one of the largest business plan competitions in the nation. This April five out of nine challenge prizes were awarded to two Huntsman students' businesses.

NanoKEYS, which provides the world's smallest set of keys, allowing the ability to digitally scan keys to...

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## Faculty Entrepreneurial Spirit

Entrepreneurial spirit is often exemplified through students and alumni, but Huntsman faculty are not to be overlooked. Recently two Huntsman distance education professors saw a problem to be solved that had the potential to impact not only their students' lives, but also the communities around them.

## In Other News

Huntsman Alumnus Receives NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

Alumni and Students Launch Campaign

Teacher Recognized for 19-Year Winning Streak with Student Club

Watch the Progress of Huntsman Hall Live on Our Webcams

▶ ELS speaker, Ken Woolley, encourages setting goals and sharing wealth

▶ Alan Martin, founder of Campus Book Rentals, speaks on innovation





When the USU Brigham City campus founded its o...

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# News Warehouse

## 1,101 Graduates

By Klydi Heywood

The Huntsman School of Business graduated 1,101 students with 676 at the undergraduate commencement ceremony in Logan on May 5, and 284 earning graduate degrees. The Huntsman Program in China graduated 141 of the undergraduate students.

The commencement ceremony began with this year's valedictorian, Brooke Siler, who graduated with bachelor's degrees in Economics and Biochemistry with a 4.0 GPA. She served as the president of the Society for the Advancement of Ethical Leadership as well as the Chemistry Club, was a Huntsman Scholar, participated in our Koch Scholar Program, went to Asia through the Go Global study abroad program, and also received the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship while conducting research in the biochemistry department. This summer she will begin work with the global investment research group at Goldman Sachs.



2014 Huntsman School valedictorian, Brooke Siler

"Success, in a nutshell, is a matter of 'winning yourself,'" Dr. Tayseer said. "Make sure to keep 'winning yourself' all the time; for me, winning myself includes caring for others."

As Dean Douglas D. Anderson concluded the ceremony he encouraged students to "remember that your passion for excellence must always be in balance with your compassion for your fellow human beings."

"While economic logic connects input to output, and risk to reward, the moral logic is often inverse - it is better to give than to receive," Dean Anderson continued. "To win yourself, as Dr. Tayseer has suggested, lose yourself in something greater than yourself."

Visit the Huntsman Smug Mug account for photos.

Visit the Huntsman YouTube page for the ceremony.



Marketing graduate, Laura Luke, receives her diploma from Dean Douglas D. Anderson

Speaking from experience, Brooke advised students to use our diverse backgrounds to bring a fresh experience to any field they choose.

"Today I ask you to be aware of the inner walls that you put around your mind," Brooke said. "I also ask you to search your soul, find your passion, and chase it, regardless of whether or not that passion has anything to do with your major, your past, or your current interests."

After Brooke, the graduates and audience had the opportunity to hear from this year's commencement speaker, Dr. Tayseer Al-Smadi, who earlier in the morning received an honorary doctorate degree from USU. Dr. Tayseer is currently a senator of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, where he serves as chair of the Senate Public Services Committee. Additionally, in February 2014, he was elected chairman of the Jordan Press and Publishing Corporation. Dr. Tayseer received a Ph.D. in Economics from the Huntsman School in 1998.

"My first thought which I want to share with you today is to live your humanity in the full sense with yourself, at home, at work, in the community at large, and wherever you go," Dr. Tayseer said. "Don't take pride in your differences of race, or social rank, or gender, or nationality; remember that 'strength lies in differences, not in similarities', as the late Stephen Covey rightly said."



2014 Huntsman Commencement speaker, Dr. Tayseer Al-Smadi

# News Warehouse

## Huntsman Students Collect Entrepreneurship Prizes

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The final stage in the **Utah Entrepreneur Series**, the **Utah Entrepreneur Challenge**, is one of the largest business plan competitions in the nation. This April five out of nine challenge prizes were awarded to two Huntsman students' businesses.

NanoKEYS, which provides the world's smallest set of keys, allowing the ability to digitally scan keys to be fitted in a small, sleek device about the size of a ChapStick, won Best Tabling Award (\$500), People's Choice Award (\$1,000), Being in Top 10 Award (\$1,000) and Best Presentation (\$5,000). Another Huntsman student business, Aero Gym Fitness System, a patented exercise equipment that offers more than 300 exercises in a small bag, won the Best Boot Strap Award (\$1,500).

"The UEC gave us the opportunity to network with amazing business professionals and challenged us to bring our business concepts to the next level," said Bryce Packer, founder of nanoKEYS. "We are grateful that we were so favored in the competition and to Huntsman School preparing us to be successful. I think Aggies winning the majority of prizes speaks loudly for the quality of the Huntsman School's business program."

This year there were 126 plans submitted from 11 Utah universities and colleges. Thirty teams moved on after the first round of judging and the top ten teams were selected to move on to the final presentations.

"Our students have worked hard and put in a lot of time with mentors from our Founders Board to get where they are," said Mike Glauser, executive director of entrepreneurial programs. "This is a great accomplishment, and we continue to move forward with momentum because of their success."

One of those mentors for the USU program, Vernon Rice, was a judge in the USU Opportunity Quest competition which led to the selection of which businesses would compete in the UEC.

"I found the USU contestants to be well prepared, enthusiastic, and committed to their innovations. I wasn't surprised they were so successful in the UEC Competition and won the majority of the awards," Mr. Rice said. It was personally very satisfying to be involved with these young entrepreneurs and gives me great optimism for the future of business in our state to see students make such great effort and investment for success. I wish them the very best."



Bryce Packer, founder of nanoKEYS, with student directors (right) and UEC judge (left)



# News Warehouse

## Faculty Entrepreneurial Spirit

By Klydi Heywood

Entrepreneurial spirit is often exemplified through students and alumni, but Huntsman faculty are not to be overlooked. Recently two Huntsman distance education professors saw a problem to be solved that had the potential to impact not only their students' lives, but also the communities around them.

When the USU Brigham City campus founded its own Entrepreneurship Club chapter last year, it quickly found that it took more time than originally planned. Many of the students hold full-time jobs and are the primary financial support for their families. Dr. Cynthia Gibson, lecturer in business management and the Box Elder County Economic Development Liaison, saw that the solution lay in a paid internship position for the club leadership.

"First, Dean Tom Lee needed to approve the idea, and second, we needed to find the funding for it," Dr. Gibson said. "Dean Lee immediately saw the vision, and it was such a blessing when the funding announcement came this spring."

The club chapter has three divisions: projects, economic development and service. The paid intern's responsibilities will include organizing consulting projects with local small businesses, working with the local Rotaract Club to execute service projects, and leading a marketing plan for a portion of the Box Elder County tourism department.



Professor Rhett Hunt

"This club will truly benefit the community from many angles," Dr. Gibson said.

Accounting professor Rhett Hunt also saw a challenge with his students in conjunction with local CPA firms in Roosevelt, Utah. Many of the firms were apprehensive about hiring accounting students full-time without them having prior field experience.

Professor Hunt's recently awarded RCDE grant will reimburse an accounting firm up to 20 hours a week during tax season for one student's work. Then at the end of the season, it is up to the firm to decide if they want to hire the student.

"The demand is on both sides," Professor Hunt said. "We hope this will help local firms invest in USU students and what we're doing out here. This also gives students hope that they can stay in the community they love and use their education."

"We are impressed and deeply grateful for the entrepreneurial spirit shown by both Cynthia and Rhett and for their initiative in always focusing on our students," Dean Douglas D. Anderson said.



Dr. Cynthia Gibson