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Huntsman Students, Faculty and Staff Win Prestigious Awards

The Robins Awards are among the most cherished and sought-after awards at Utah State, and this year it was a Huntsman sweep, with the three top Robins Awards going to Huntsman students. That feat was followed by an auspicious royal crowning and 13 significant university awards for Huntsman faculty, staff, and students. Finally, three awards came from other institutions.

Three Top Robins Awards Winners

Elisabeth (Liz) Arellano, a marketing major, won the top honor of the night, the Bill E. Robins Memorial Award. It stands apart among the Robins Awards, as it is based on total college career achievements, equivalent to a college “lifetime” achievement award. This award is presented to the student who represents the best youth has to offer, who excels academically and displays outstanding leadership ability. As required, Ms. Arellano showed dedication to Utah State University and possesses traits that set her apart as a rare individual.

Logan Smith, an economics and political science major, won the Robins Award for USU Man of the Year. This was followed by Luci Griffiths, economics and political science, winning the Robins Award for USU Woman of the Year. These recognitions are awarded to the Utah State students who, as Logan and Luci did, made broad significant achievements and contributions to the University during the previous year and exemplified traits that set them above other classmates

Crowned Days of '47 Queen, Top Monarch in Utah

Hannah Marie Blackburn, possessing both brains and beauty, was chosen from among 30 contestants for one of Utah's favorite, historic honors--the Days of '47 Queen. Hannah won after answering questions and performing. She and her attendants now will reign over more than a dozen community and state events this year.

Faculty and Staff Honored By the University

Diana Thomas, assistant professor of economics and finance, was named Researcher of the Year for her work exploring the role political entrepreneurs play in changing the formal and informal rules that govern economic exchange and society more generally.

Ben Blau, assistant professor of economics and finance, received the coveted Teacher of the Year award.

Christopher Fawson, professor of economics, was recognized by the university as its International Professor of the Year, having served as Director of International Programs and program leader for a variety of faculty-led international learning experiences.

Jack Peterson, professor of management, was named Undergraduate Faculty Advisor.

Tyler Brough, assistant professor of finance, won the honor Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year.

Paige Geslin, management department advisor, was recognized as the top New Professional Advisor of the Year.

Jacob Raymer, director of education: The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence, was named PEA Employee of the Year.

Mary Price, assistant director of education: The Shingo Prize for Operational Excellence, was named CEA Employee of the Year.

Student Scholars and Leaders Recognized



Jill Aoki, accounting, was named Scholar of the Year and also was Valedictorian for the Huntsman School of Business. A Huntsman Scholar, she earned a 4.0 GPA with her triple major in accounting, finance, and economics, with a minor in international business.

Blake Nemelka, marketing, won twice, first with the University Citizenship Award, given to a senior for outstanding service to USU, academic achievements, involvement in extracurricular activities, and significant contributions. Then he was honored with the Legacy of Utah State Award.

Kyle Call was named Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year.

Sterling Morris, MIS and social media guru, was awarded Graduate Assistant of the Year.

Joshua Blume snagged the honor for Undergraduate Researcher of the Year.

Other Awards From Around the Globe

Timothy Bikman, business administration, won the Council for Supply Chain Management Professionals Award.

Glenn McEvoy, professor of management, was given the Western Academy of Management (WAM) "State of Mind" Award.

Kjersten Adams won first place for Undergraduate Research in the competition held by the Association of Private Enterprise Education. Participants displayed and presented their research during a special reception at the 2012 Conference. Kjersten was awarded first place for her research presentation titled "The Viability of Property Rights Institutions in Favelas: An Application of Elinor Ostrom's CPS Institutional Framework."