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Huntsman Teams in National Championship

Three Huntsman School of Business student teams have qualified for the 2015 AIS Student Chapter National Competition in Alabama this spring. Competing against students from nearly 30 universities, Huntsman students have a track record of winning having taken home first and second prizes last year. In addition, USU is the only university to send three teams to the finals this year.

"This is the strongest and highest number of teams that the Huntsman School has ever sent," said David Olsen, head of the Management Information Systems department.

Huntsman teams will participate in three categories: security, IT video and analytics.

Jason Rock, MIS, '16, and Patrick Redding, MIS, '16, will compete in the security category. Their project consists of determining password security problems associated with a small company and then solving these problems in a way that is effective and cost-efficient.

"As an MIS student, data is everything! I feel it is so important that we manage our digital information carefully and keep it free from predators," Jason said. "This project not only was fun to create, but also taught me techniques I can use in my personal life."

Katelyn Miller, MIS, '16, and Katrina Nieveen, MAcc, '16, make up the Huntsman IT video team. When they heard that this year's video topic was why women should study information systems, both jumped at the opportunity to participate. Targeting undergraduate females, the team uses persuasive facts and influential topics to relay their message.

"I am very passionate about information systems and feel that the IT/IS field offers amazing opportunities that many women are unaware of," Katelyn said.

The analytics team is made up of Mani Kumar, MIS, '15, and last year's first-place winner in the IT video category, Chad Williams, MMIS, '15. QVC shared their data sets with contestants and would like students to use the data to better understand and anticipate customer's buying behaviors.

"The Huntsman School of Business has taught me to challenge myself in ways I had never imagined," Jason said. "I'm happy the school allowed me to put these skills into practice by competing in this competition. Had we not qualified, I still feel it would have been a highly beneficial experience."

Competition results will be posted mid-April.