

dean's message

a message from Dean Douglas D. Anderson



When news came last fall that my friend and USU classmate Lars Hansen had been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics, I thought of the famous quote by President Roosevelt to “dare mighty things.” It is something we exhort our students to do, and it is surely what Lars has done throughout his life.

Lars graduated from Logan High School in 1970 and began his studies in Math and Political Science at USU that fall. He and I crossed paths a couple of years later in Ken Lyon’s microeconomics course as Lars began to focus his academic interests around econometrics

prior to going to the University of Minnesota for a Ph.D.

What I could see in Lars then – a genuine curiosity about the way the world works, a propensity for focused, hard work in service of a need greater than self, and an ability to pull together disparate bits of information into an integrated whole— are the very qualities we seek to promote in our students as attributes for success, regardless of career choice.

“Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checkered by failure, than to rank with those timid spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

As you read this issue of the *Huntsman Alumni Magazine*, I hope you will sense the depth of our commitment to create a culture of excellence. The examples of those who have gone before, from

Lars to Brad Johnson to Bill Murray to Mark James, show us the way forward and are reflected in our top-ranked accounting program, our outstanding finance program, and our up-and-coming MIS major, among others.

I also hope that another of our deeply held values will be abundantly clear: namely, that student success is at the center of all we do. You can be proud of the young people who are Aggies today. As Larry Walther, our department head of accounting, says, “as far as raw material goes, our students are as good as you can get.”

That is absolutely correct. Our job is to create and provide opportunities for our students so they are prepared, in Jon Huntsman’s words, “to compete with the best and brightest in the world.”

Our distinguished alumni inspire us to follow President Roosevelt’s admonition to “dare mighty things.” Our current generation of students will not let us down.