USU Accounting alum, Lancelot Giles ‘09, recently received the Esther R. Sawyer Research award at The Institute of Internal Auditors’ 75th annual conference in New York. The Sawyer Award is an annual worldwide competition open to undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in internal auditing at an Internal Auditing Education Partnership university. He received the award for his submission, “Achieving and Maintaining Professional Competency as an Internal Auditor in a High-Change Environment.”

According to Giles, the most critical competencies for success in internal auditing are intrinsic. In his view, courageous integrity, high emotional intelligence and excellent critical thinking provide a competitive advantage to people who pursue the profession.

“I personally believe that people need a foundation of moral character on which to build before they can honestly make a lot of decisions with confidence,” he said. “That holds true whether it’s an ethical decision, or whether it’s one based on other priorities.”

Giles is currently seeking degrees in both the MS in Accounting and MS in Information Technology and Management at UT Dallas. Congratulations Lance!