“You don’t take courses; you take professors.” This statement was some of the best advice I received during my undergraduate education. Facing graduation in a few weeks, I can see that I was blessed with a slew of amazing professors and mentors.

My professors cared. Having professors who care is the major difference between my education and the education received by students attending other business schools. Not once did I have a course in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business where I felt like a number. Even in some of my largest classes such as Managing Organizations and People, Corporate Finance, and Managerial Accounting, I felt as though all of my professors knew me and cared about my success.

I was challenged; challenged to think, to grow, and to push myself. Never was it enough to come to a solution. I learned quickly that the process of achieving a result is often far more important than the result itself. In my strategy class taught by Professor Chris Reutzel, he never graded us based on what our final recommendation was, but instead graded by the factors that resulted in us making a particular recommendation. I remember one time where my recommendation was far different from his, so I asked him to review my work. Dr. Reutzel read my paper and commented that the arguments were sound.

“But I didn’t come up with anything close to what you had,” I remarked.

He commented, “Yes, but the process you used to reach your conclusion is sound, and that is what is important. The fact that you think differently from me is a good thing and is the reason I would want you on my team.”

I do not possess all the skills I will need in my career. No one has all the skills they need coming out of their undergraduate degree. Instead, the Huntsman School gave me something better; I learned to how to solve problems and more importantly, how to find and develop the specific skills to solve the determined problems. To a hammer every problem looks like a nail. Instead of giving me a hammer, my undergraduate education taught me how to determine what tool I need, and then how to go get it.

Now as I stand on the precipice of beginning my career with the legion of other hungry Huntsman alumni looking to make my mark on the world, I say thank you.