USU Honors Two Huntsman Grads

Two graduates of the Huntsman School, Blake Kirby, Accounting, ’92, and David Miller, Finance, ’87, were honored by Utah State University with Distinguished Alumnus Awards at the annual Founders Day celebration.

A Cache Valley native, Blake Kirby founded Inovar, Inc., in 1998. Inovar provides manufacturing services to a variety of industries. He served as CEO from 2000 to 2012, and is currently the majority shareholder and chairman of the board. In 2004, he was a finalist for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, which honors the nation’s most innovative entrepreneurs. Kirby credits Phil Swensen, his former finance professor, as an influential teacher and mentor who provided him with a solid foundation in creating successful business enterprises.

Though born and raised in southern California, David Miller loved his time at USU, excelling in his finance courses and exploring Logan Canyon at every opportunity. Miller credits Professor Paul Randle as being an “educational beacon” during his time at USU. Upon graduation, Miller went back to California, where he founded and grew L.A. Chemical into the preeminent chemical distributor in the western U.S. Since selling L.A. Chemical to Bain Capital in 2006, Miller has focused on real estate development, and recently worked with USU to develop the Blue Square property across from Romney Stadium.

Kirby and Miller are both past recipients of the Huntsman School of Business Professional Achievement Award.