The College of Business has four departments: Accounting and Business Law; Finance, Insurance and Real Estate; Management; and Marketing and International Business. Department chairs are elected by their faculty and appointed by the Dean for a three-year term. Accounting and Business Law currently has a total of 13 accounting faculty and 3 Business Law faculty; F.I.R.E. has 8 faculty members; Management faculty currently totals 15; and Marketing and International Business has 11 faculty members. The Departmental Chairs, along with the Dean and Assistant to the Dean, make up the Chairs Council and help to guide the college.

ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS LAW

We have completed one year on the semester system. The University’s decision to move to semesters created changes in the enrollment patterns. Approximately 25 to 30 percent on average of our normal majors, accelerated their coursework so they could graduate before the semester system went into operation. This action left us with a number of smaller classes during this past year. It is our hope that this will self-correct for the 1999-2000 academic year.

The Accounting Club had another successful year. The student members volunteered for tutoring other students taking the principles courses and they also worked Hard for the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program preparing tax returns. More details on this are provided in the section titled “Student Activities”. The club members put together another wonderful banquet and awards program in April. The golf outing was cancelled due to bad weather but a last minute switch to a bowling tournament led to a good time for all!

FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE

The Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate Department is pleased to announce that Brian Hanson and Heather Miller were selected as co-recipients for the 1999 "Outstanding Achievement Award" in Finance for graduating seniors. The Department is pleased to be part of the College of Business E-Mentoring program that allows Finance majors to engage in a mentoring program with financial practitioners at BMI. Six of our majors were selected to participate in this program. The Department, in conjunction with Alumni Affairs, has established mentoring programs for our students to team up with financial practitioners in other organizations in Minnesota.

The Certified Financial Planner Certificate Program has been approved by the CFP Board of Standards enabling it to be offered in the Twin Cities to financial planners preparing to sit for certification in financial planning. This is in addition to our CFP degree program. We are very grateful to the efforts of Dr. Cha E Lee for his contributions to the financial planning area.

Dr. Okidhen and Severn are returning from their sabbatical leaves in the fall semester and Dr. Sast will be on the second year of an academic leave. The Department is discussing the introduction of a minor in financial planning which we hope to submit, and have approved, during the fall semester.

We hope to see as many of our alumni as possible at Homecoming this fall. The faculty will be joining the College of Business table in the Homecoming Tent prior to the game, instead of having our traditional pre-game party at Jake's Stadium Pizza.

MANAGEMENT

The big news in the Management Department is that our recruiting efforts have been successful. The Management Information Systems area is an extremely difficult one for attracting talented new faculty members because the demand far outstrips supply. We were very fortunate to hire Scott Chei and William Brown as new MIS faculty members. Scott is pursuing his doctorate at the University of Nebraska. Bill has an MBA from the University of Minnesota and a Master’s Degree in Information Technology from the University of St. Thomas. He also has extensive industrial experience. Our MIS major is now in a position to grow and prosper in an incredibly exciting labor market.

MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

M. Anuan Hashmi became department chair on July 1, 1999. Kevin Elliott stepped down after six successful years as department chair to spend more time in the classroom. The annual Marketing and International Business Careers Days held in March was a huge hit! Thirteen alumni returned to campus to share their insights on career opportunities with approximately 150 students. This event helps give students an idea of what types of careers await them upon graduation. If any alumni would like to participate in next year’s event, please contact Anuan Hashmi at (507) 349-2867 or E-mail him at anuan.hashmi@mkanto.mnsu.edu.

The Department of Marketing and International Business is also in the process of organizing an Advisory Council. The group will meet once a year in the fall and provide input to the faculty on curriculum, program development, and assessment issues. Any alumni who would like to share his or her time and expertise by serving on our Advisory Council is invited to contact Anuan.

Executive Lecture Series

The College of Business is continuing to have great success with its Executive Lecture Series, which began in 1985. The series is designed to bring top-level executives from both the public and private sectors into a public forum where it is possible for students to interact personally with them. The speakers typically relate their professional views and experiences on a wide variety of current business concerns. This past year, our Executive Lecture Series were as follows:

Eric Opal, 1985. MBA. 1987. delivered the first College of Business Executive Lecture for Fall semester in October. Eric joined Minnesota Financial Services in 1982 as a Group Underwriter representing Financial Services, Inc. and Minnesota Mutual. He earned the Certified Fund Specialist (CFS) degree as conferred by the Institute of Certified Fund Specialists and Registered Financial Consultant (RFC) designations as awarded by the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants (IAP). Eric joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors for MSU in May 1997 and is now President-Elect of the Association. Following his graduation from MSU, Eric taught finance in the College of Business.

Dan Berdaas was the Executive Lecturer in December. Dan joined Bemo, Inc., a family-owned business in Circle Pines, MN after receiving a B.S. in Economics from MSU. Bemo developed from a small business to one that currently has approximately 800 employees, does $150 million in sales annually, and is involved in global markets. Dan started working in shipping and receiving at Bemo and then worked in purchasing, estimating, sales, and quality control in the firm’s sheet metal business for 15 years prior to becoming General Manager and subsequently President of Bemo. Dan is also involved in a number of volunteer activities at MSU, including serving on the Executive Committee of the College of Business Advisory Council.

In February, Bernie Bunce, Senior Director of Field Marketing at American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. delivered the Executive Lecture. Mr. Bunce has been with American Express for 30 years, 17 of which have been in the Financial Planning Department. A 1968 graduate of Minnesota State University, Bernie holds the Certified Financial Planner (CFP), Chartered Financial Consultant (CFC) and Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) designations.

John C. Hey delivered the Morgan Thomas Executive Lecture on April 20, 1999. Mr. Hey has had a distinguished career in the world of business. He began his career with Campbell Soup Company and subsequently moved to a business to one that currently has approximately 800 employees, does $150 million in sales annually, and is involved in global markets. Dan started working in shipping and receiving at Bemo and then worked in purchasing, estimating, sales, and quality control in the firm’s sheet metal business for 15 years prior to becoming General Manager and subsequently President of Bemo. Dan is also involved in a number of volunteer activities at MSU, including serving on the Executive Committee of the College of Business Advisory Council.

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