Students are encouraged early on to join and actively participate in one of the seven student organizations in the College of Business. Current COB student organizations include: The Accounting Club, The American Marketing Association Club, The Finance Club, The Financial Planning Club, The Human Resource Management (HRM) Club, The International Business Organization (IBO) Club, and The Management Information Systems (MIS) Club. The Council of Student Business Organizations (COSBO) is comprised of the presidents of each of the COB student organizations as well as the college representative to the student senate. The council works directly with the Dean’s Office in the coordination of activities of the various organizations and sponsors activities of their own. The council is instrumental as the link in communication between the Dean’s Office, other organizations, and the student body. The organizations are very active in creating learning environments that extend beyond the classroom and in organizing social activities for all majors. Some of the many activities COB students have participated in over the past year are described below.

THE ACCOUNTING CLUB

Students belonging to the Accounting Club participate in many activities during the year. As part of the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, approximately 60 Accounting students offer their services to help prepare taxes. Professor Ken Fosler provides students who take his class on individual income tax an opportunity to receive hands-on tax preparation experience by volunteering at least six hours to assist taxpayers who ordinarily could not afford professional assistance. Each student must pass a test created by the Internal Revenue Service before they begin tax preparation.

Another Accounting club activity is the Pizza Hut Fundraiser where students work at Pizza Hut for a night and donate their earnings to the Accounting Club. Accounting Club students are scheduled on a weekly basis to other students taking accounting classes. One Saturday morning every fall, members of the Accounting Club, along with professionals from the CPA firm of Wolf Ettre & Co., participate in the CPA’s Fall Career Fair. Teams of students and business professionals rake lawns and interact with each other while helping less fortunate members of the community.

This year the Accounting club attended the Accounting and Auditing Student Conference in Minnesota. This conference consists of sessions designed to inform students about opportunities currently available in the accounting and finance fields. Many prominent companies and firms are represented and the information provided is very useful for students preparing for the job market. This conference is designed to promote maximum interaction between students and company representatives.

THE FINANCIAL PLANNING CLUB

The Financial Planning Club, The Student Chapter of the International Association for Financial Planning (IAFP), was established in 1997. One of the highlights of the Club’s activities this past year was to receive $3,000 in travel grants. This money was raised by the Club through a golf outing in August. Because of this grant, three MSU students were able to attend the national IAFP meeting held in Salt Lake City in October.

One of the officers of the Financial Planning Club, Carrie Phelps, was chosen as one of the recipient by the National Association of Financial Planners enabling her to attend the national meeting in Chicago last September. This scholarship was one of only two given in the United States.

THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The International Business student Organization (IBO) also has been active this past year. In October, students in the IBO took a day trip to Minneapolis where they visited the Minnesota Trade Office. A number of administrators with international business ties spoke to the group.

The IBO attended the Minnesota World Trade Association Conference in May at the Minneapolis Convention Center. A Conference highlight was Governor Ventura’s luncheon talk.

The IBO also has shown its MSU spirit this year by taking part in activities such as Homecoming and Fall Days. During Homecoming, the IBO participated in the Jailvangopeaping contest and received second place in the canned food sculpture contest. The group also created a snow sculpture for Frost Days.

DELTA SIGMA PI

Delta Sigma Pi’s Fall Grand Chapter Congress will be held on August 18-22 in Houston. Members from MSU’s Epsilon Iota Chapter will attend this year’s “Launch Your Future” Congress, and be sponsoring by the College of Business. The members are very excited about the opportunity to attend the Grand Chapter Congress and they wish to thank the College of Business for its recognition event at IBM in mid-April. The pilot program was deemed a great success by both students and mentors. The program will be continuing in the fall and will likely last for an entire semester.

Phonathon

We have made an effort to promote the “personal touch” when recruiting students to the College of Business. Thus, during the month of March, nearly 500 letters from the Dean or Department Chairs were mailed to students who expressed an interest in applying to the College. These letters were followed up with a personal phone call from a COB student during two evening phonathon sessions in April. This was a great opportunity for prospective students to ask questions that only current COB students could answer. It also gave our students an opportunity to act as ambassadors for the College.

E-Mentoring Program

The College of Business participated in the pilot E-Mentoring Program during Spring semester. This pilot program was a collaborative effort between IBM, Alumni Relations, the College of Business, and the Department of Computer Science. A total of 22 students participated, 14 from the College of Business, 4 Financial Planning Students and 2 MIS students and 8 from Computer Science. Each student was matched with an alum from IBM, Rochester. The main objectives of E-mentoring are: to help MSU students gain an inside look at their area of career interest, build personal and professional contacts, and to develop a supportive mentoring relationship with an MSU alum. The program also aims to provide an opportunity for alumni to be involved with student success and to stay connected to the University. The program lasted for 8 weeks and students and mentors corresponded weekly via e-mail. The Office of Alumni Relations provided weekly discussion topics that encouraged students to gain and use information from their mentor. Students and mentors met face-to-face at IBM at the beginning of the program in February and at the evaluation and recognition event at IBM in mid-April. The pilot program was deemed a great success by both students and mentors. The program will be continuing in the fall and will likely last for an entire semester.

Etiquette Dinner

On February 23rd, the College of Business, in conjunction with the Career Development Center and the Office of Alumni Relations, presented an etiquette dinner and seminar entitled, “Creating Your Professional Image.” Participants learned proper business meal etiquette and how to dress to present a professional image on a limited budget. The dinner was a four-course meal and students were encouraged to ask questions throughout the evening. According to Barbara Foster, an alumni who is now a human resources representative for Employers Association, Inc., etiquette is something many potential employees need to address. “I do a tremendous amount of hiring/staffing for companies and that’s one of the skills they’re looking for. It’s worth the effort,” she says. She further emphasized, “You have such a short time to make a first impression while it takes a long time to reverse a first impression.”

The dates for the 1999-2000 Etiquette Dinners are: Tuesday, October 19, 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 22, 5:00 p.m., and Monday, February 28, 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please call Dr. Corinne Dickey at the College of Business Dean’s Office, (507) 389-3424.