WILLIAM T. (BILLY) JAMES

Billy James had a double major in Finance and Management, with a minor in Economics, and graduated Summa Cum Laude in May. When Billy entered Minnesota State in the fall of 1995, he was one of the first 12 Presidential Scholars. Nearly 70 MSU students to date have been awarded Presidential Scholarships, which provide $10,000 per student over four years. In addition to these honors, Billy is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society, made the COB Dean’s List each year, made the National Dean’s List, was President of Omicron Delta Epsilon (the Economics Honor Society), was a USAA All-American Collegiate Scholar, and appeared in Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Billy also played saxophone in the MSU Symphonic Band and in the Lake Crystal Community Band.

Billy James loves working with high school students. As a young entrepreneur, he combined his interest in high school students with both his academic and extracurricular interests while at MSU. Thus, he is coach of the Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial High School Academic Decathlon team. The team won the 1999 class “A” state championship. The Academic Decathlon is a unique extracurricular activity where students are divided into teams that take seven written exams consisting of questions in: language, literature, economics, math, art, music, and social science; and there is also a super quiz! Additional items are added for the state competition.

This Spring Billy won first place at the College of Business Entrepreneurial Fair for a business plan that focused on the Academic Decathlon. The business Billy created for the Entrepreneurial Fair, Acabill, had as its purpose the creation of innovative and high quality information packets, flash cards, and practice exams for students participating in the Decathlon.

Billy plans to return to school this fall to earn a teaching license in business education to teach at the high school level.

AMY RAHN

Amy Rahn will be a senior this fall, majoring in Accounting and Computer Information Systems. Amy entered Minnesota State in the fall of 1996 and was also a recipient of a Presidential Scholarship. She speaks very highly of this scholarship program and says that because it pays for tuition, it has enabled her to focus on her studies and has allowed her to participate in various student activities. Amy has been on the Dean’s List every year since she entered MSU. This Spring she was also awarded a $1,000 KPMG scholarship at the Annual Accounting Club Banquet.

Amy says that Bruce Smith, a faculty member in Accounting and Business Law, was instrumental in her coming to MSU and the College of Business. When she visited campus in early 1996, Professor Smith gave her a campus tour and shared his excitement with her about the importance of AACSB accreditation, which the College was undergoing at that time. She had visited other schools but Professor Smith’s enthusiasm made the difference for her decision to attend MSU. He is her advisor and she says he is always there for her and offers encouragement and advice when she needs it. Amy says that her experience at MSU has been “a really good experience” because people (faculty and staff) are always willing to help. She said further that it is a good feeling to be identified as an individual in a “sea of students.”

This summer Amy has a paid internship at Andersen Consulting in Minneapolis. When she graduates next year, Amy hopes to get a position in the Midwest which will also involve some travel. Her summer internship is providing her with valuable training and experience she can use toward meeting that goal.