Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year for the College of Business and an exciting first year for me as Dean! Our overall high quality was recognized in 1997 when we were accredited by AACSB—the International Association for Management Education. We are one of only three collegiate schools of business in Minnesota that has achieved this status! Across the nation only some 25% of all business schools are so recognized. The College has used this international validation of its quality to actively enhance ties with external partners and with external stakeholders. We have used the planning process required for accreditation to develop exciting new academic initiatives. The planning process has also enabled us to make the case for a number of important new hires. We believe that the College is now well positioned to forge ahead towards its next level of excellence.

Critical to our continued leadership in business education is our commitment to excellence. That the College is now well positioned to forge ahead towards its next level of quality to actively enhance ties with external partners and with external stakeholders. We have used the planning process required for accreditation to develop exciting new academic initiatives. The planning process has also enabled us to make the case for a number of important new hires. We believe that the College is now well positioned to forge ahead towards its next level of excellence.

Our external stakeholders include our alumni as well as the businesses and professions that employ our graduates. The external partners we are developing links with include business schools in other countries … another article in this Newsletter focuses on that initiative.

It is always gratifying when the interests of our stakeholders dovetail with those of the College. An excellent example of this is the generosity recently demonstrated by one of our alumni, Richard (Dick) Schmitz. In spring, 1999, Dick donated $131,500 to the College to fund the Richard R. and Mary L. Schmitz Endowment for Opportunities in Food Retailing. Dick has a strong interest in encouraging students to consider careers in the retail food industry. As a result he created an endowment that will permit the College to do the following: offer scholarships targeted to students with an interest in the industry; establish a preceptor program for students with industry executives; and bring industry experts to campus for an annual lecture event. Thank you, Dick!

The College’s ongoing commitment to cooperation with its external stakeholders is also demonstrated in a number of different ways. Thus, the College continues to have a strong commitment to its internship program. This past year we had some 200 students doing internships in as many different organizations. In addition, in close cooperation with Taylor Corporation we developed an innovative two-semester internship that exposes students to manufacturing at the shop floor level and then moves them into a mentorship relationship with senior Taylor executives. Another example of the College’s commitment to its external stakeholders is its support of the Certified Financial Planners Certificate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3…

New Initiatives

TWO NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS!

The College of Business is pleased to announce that in the 1999-2000 academic year the College will be a partner in two new and exciting international student exchange programs. These programs will be with Institut de Formation Internationale (IFI), which is part of the ESC-Rouen group in Rouen, France; and with the Finnish College of Business SME Business Administration in Kauhava, Finland. As a result of each program, students from Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU) will be able to study for credit in Rouen and/or Kauhava while paying Minnesota State University tuition. Similarly, French and Finnish students will be entitled to study at MSU while paying tuition to their home institutions. The first two students from France will arrive at MSU in August.

IFI is a four-year “Gran Ecole” that represents the highest level of accreditation that can be earned by a French collegiate school of business. Its 400 students are fluently bilingual in English and in French and study additional languages as part of their program. All IFI students are required to spend their second year of study abroad and they also are required to do a six-month internship outside of France. MSU students studying at IFI during the spring semester will have the opportunity to take business subject courses in English and will also be required to take a course in French culture. Students visiting IFI may choose to stay in university dormitories or board with a local family. In addition, IFI provides visiting students with the opportunity and the means to tour some of the historic areas in the Normandy region. For example, in spring 1999 students visiting IFI from abroad toured the Peace Memorial in Caen as well as Omaha Beach, Dieppe and other sites related to the 1944 D-Day landings. Rouen is approximately 1.5 hours from Paris via car, train, or bus.

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The Finnish College of Business SME Business Administration is a four-year collegiate business school that also has approximately 400 students. Students at this institution are fluently bilingual in English and in Finnish. The College focuses on small and medium-size enterprises, explaining the SME
The College of Business has four departments: Accounting and Business Law; Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (F.I.R.E.); 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 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 canceled 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 also 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. Chan Lee for his contributions to the financial-planning area.

Dr. Okishio and Severns 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 extremely difficult for attracting talented new faculty members because the demand far outstrips supply. We were very fortunate to hire Scott Chai 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. Anam 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 alumnus would like to participate in next year’s event, please contact Anam Hashmi at (507) 384-2967 or E-mail him at anam.hashmi@mankato.msus.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 give input to the faculty on curriculum, program development, and assessment issues. Any alumnus who would like to share his or her time and expertise by serving on our Advisory Council is invited to contact Anaam.

**Executive Lecture Series**

The College of Business is continuing to have great success with its Advisory Council 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 Lecturers were as follows:

Eric Ojag. 1985. MBA 1987. delivered the first College of Business Executive Lecture for Fall semester in October. Eric joined Minnesota Financial Services in 1988 as a Senior Financial Planning Consultant. He earned the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) degree as conferred by the Institute of Certified Financial Planners and Registered Financial Consultant (RFC) designations as awarded by the International Association of Registered Financial Consultants (IAPP). 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 enjoys a number of volunteer activities at MSU, including serving on the Executive Committee of the College of Business Advisory Council.

In February, Bernie Bucee, Senior Director of Field Marketing at American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. delivered the Executive Lecture. Mr. Bucee 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 Company and subsequently worked for D.C. Hey Company, where he rose to the position of Vice President. Mr. Hey is currently President of IKON Office Solutions, Minnesota Marketplace. Mr. Hey is active in numerous non-profit and business advisory councils. For example, he is past Chair of the Young President’s organization, Twin Cities Chapter; past president of the National Family Business Council; and past Board Chair of YMCA Camp Warren. Mr. Hey serves on the Advisory Council of his alma mater, the Minnesota State University College of Business.

**Fall 1999-Spring 2000 Executive Lectures:**

(Ostrander Auditorium)

**September 28, 11:00 a.m.**

Sharon Bredestad, President and CEO

Staas Plus, Inc.

**October 14, 11:00 a.m.**

Jeffrey W. Hamiel, Executive Director

Metropolitan Airports Commission

**November 9, 11:00 a.m.**

Dennis Miller, President

Midwest Wireless Communications, LLC

**January 25, 11:00 a.m.**

Kim Schwickert, President

Schwickert Company

**February 15, 11:00 a.m.**

Daniel McGrath, Chief Operating Officer

MICO Incorporated

**Spring 2000 Executive Lectures:**

(Ostrander Auditorium)

**February 22, 11:00 a.m.**

Kim Schwickert, President

Schwickert Company

**March 15, 11:00 a.m.**

Mary Ojag, Chairman

MBA 研究生院
Dear Friends,

Program. This program is directed by Finance professor Chan Lee and is run in conjunction with MSU’s Extended Campus. The program represents the only university-based Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards program in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. In response to market demand, this program is offered in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

An important link to our external stakeholders is the presence of a strong and active Business Advisory Council. Under the visionary leadership of Council Chair Greg Lea, the Council will be undertaking a number of new initiatives. For example, the Executive Committee of the Council plans to propose that the Council support awards for outstanding alumni, outstanding student leaders, and for outstanding faculty members. The Executive Committee will also be recommending that the Council play a more active role in College fund raising activities. On a more personal note, as a new Dean, I have made it a high-priority to visit one-on-one with as many Advisory Council members as possible. This has been a tremendously enriching experience for me and I am very grateful for the support given to me by members of the Council. A complete list of the members of the Advisory Council is provided elsewhere in this issue.

A key College academic initiative that has caught the imagination and support of the Advisory Council, faculty and students is the Information Technology Initiative. This project is a specific response to that part of our Mission Statement requiring the College to “provide...programs in a technologically advanced, active learning environment.” The College plan will immediately improve the on-the-job effectiveness of our graduates. We propose to: 1) equip faculty with laptop computers for Fall semester 1999; 2) begin conversion of current classrooms into laptop-ready classrooms during the 1999-2000 academic year; 3) establish programs during the 1999-2000 academic year to train faculty and to support the use of laptops in their courses; and 4) require College of Business students to lease laptop computers and to commence use of laptops in the classroom beginning in Fall 2000. Infrastructure support needs — such as enhanced classrooms — will be met via external fund raising to the maximum extent possible. This initiative is discussed in more detail on this page.

The ability of the College to provide the finest education possible is, of course, dependent on having first-class faculty and staff. I am pleased to report that in 1998-1999 the College was able to hire four such individuals: Scott Choi, Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems; William Brown, Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems; Dr. Corinne Dickey, Assistant to the Dean; and Tonia Stoffregen, Director of Development. Professor Choi joins us from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he is completing his doctoral degree. Bill Brown has an MBA as well as a Master’s degree in Software Design and Development and comes to us with a wealth of industrial experience. Both Professors Choi and Brown will play an important role in further enhancing our very popular Management Information Systems program. Dr. Dickey has worked in higher education for over 23 years including 12 years at the Carlson School of Management. Dr. Dickey brings with her specific experience in enrollment management issues and in new program development. Ms. Stoffregen has had experience as a development officer at Valparaiso University in Indiana and at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Ms. Stoffregen brings with her experience in proposal development and in stewardship. We are fortunate indeed to have hired such well-qualified colleagues!

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will read about additional College achievements and initiatives. We are proud of everything that the College is doing and invite you to become even more involved in College activities. Please contact me directly if you would like to know more about our “march to the next level of excellence!”

Norm Solomon
Dean, College of Business

Information Technology Initiative

As indicated in the Dean’s Message, the College of Business designed the Information Technology Initiative to fulfill its mission “…to educate undergraduate students to be successful and responsible business leaders dedicated to pursuing excellence...in a technologically-advanced, active learning environment.” The Initiative will equip College of Business faculty and students with laptop computers and will provide students with current industry applications of information technology.

The impetus for this initiative came as a result of the College’s Comprehensive Assessment program. Both the College’s business partners and alumni concluded that student technology skills required enhancement. The College’s immediate response was to encourage faculty to incorporate more technology into their classes. While this appeared to be a reasonable alternative, the number of labs and/or laptops and portable projectors was not sufficient to meet student technology needs.

The Information Technology Initiative is designed to provide students with 24-hour access to worldwide information services from any location. Industry applications of information technology will be incorporated into the curriculum, thus making students more marketable to prospective employers.

As with any project, a major concern is the cost of implementation. The preliminary estimate for the period from Fall 1999 through Spring 2003 is over $1 million. This estimate includes conversion of 15 classrooms, purchasing a server, leasing faculty laptops, and hiring technical assistants. This estimate also includes dollars allocated for laptop scholarships to help students defray the cost of their leases. Included in the lease agreement will be provision for a state-of-the-art laptop (equivalent to that of the faculty), internet service, warranty and replacement service, and technical assistance via College of Business laptop administrators.

The College of Business views the Initiative as a necessary step. Technology has changed the way companies do business and it is our responsibility to make students aware of the changing environment. The Initiative will equip College of Business faculty and students with laptop computers and will provide students with current industry applications of information technology. The College will be working closely with University Advancement to secure external funding for this initiative.

... New Initiatives, continued

acronym. MSU students visiting the Finnish College of Business SME Business Administration will have the opportunity to participate in the College’s Gateway academic program. The Gateway program, equivalent to one semester of study at MSU has as its emphasis doing business in the Baltic States and in Russia. Students enrolled in this program are a 5-7 day study tour to Estonia and a 5-7 day study tour to Russia. The language of instruction is English. Students visiting the Finnish College of Business SME Business Administration have the opportunity of staying in the school’s modern dormitory or securing an apartment on their own. Kauhava is located approximately 1.5 hours by car from the historic city of Vaasa and 4.5 hours by rail from Helsinki.

PART 3
Harry Thiewes (Finance) and Sanjay Ramchander (Finance) received $4,000 in funding for a Faculty Research Grant entitled, “Evolution in Dynamic Linkages Across National Interest Rates: Evidence from the Emerging Economies of Asia.” The primary purpose of this research will be to examine the extent of the inter-market interest rate linkages in the developing Asian economies of India, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, and Thailand, and to analyze the influence of Japan and the U.S. in this region. Interest rate condition is an important indicator of a country’s economic and financial market performance, and monetary policy stance. The results of this study will carry important implications for business policy making and global money management. Data obtained from the Center for Research on Stock Prices (CRSP) will be used.

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Faculty Achievements

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Our Faculty
Faculty Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings 1998-1999

College of Business faculty have been actively publishing journal articles and articles in conference proceedings, as well as presenting papers at faculty workshops and professional conferences.

The College of Business takes great pride in the fact that our faculty members publish in some of the world's finest scholarly journals. This achievement ensures that our faculty are at the cutting edge of their fields. As a result, our students receive a relevant and rigorous education. The following is a select listing of faculty journal articles and conference proceedings articles for 1998-99.

ACCOUNTING FACULTY

JOURNAL ARTICLES

J. Kalinowski

G. Elenein


CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ARTICLES

J. Kalinowski


CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ARTICLES

J. Kalinowski


The College of Business is grateful to alumni and friends who, through their contributions, have demonstrated a commitment to enriching the business education experience. Contributions that earmarked the College, or one of its programs, or one of its scholarship funds during the fiscal year 1998-99 are listed below.

College of Business
List of Donors

JULY 1, 1998 – JUNE 30, 1999

$500 - $999

- Mark and Patricia Dombrowski
- Steven Ahlness

$100 - $499

- Steven Ahlness
- Mark and Patricia Dombrowski

$499 and under

- Thomas and Shari Blyth
- Jean and Steve Blyth
- Paul and Brooke Blyth

$5,000 - $49,999

- James and JoAnn Muehlbauer
- David and Judy Farmers
- Robert and Mary Farrow

$50,000 - $499,999

- James and JoAnn Muehlbauer
- David and Judy Farmers
- Robert and Mary Farrow

$500,000 and above

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- Mark and Patricia Dombrowski
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- Jean and Steve Blyth
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- David and Judy Farmers
- Robert and Mary Farrow

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“My experience at Mankato was wonderful, & perfect for the world outside of college. As a Management major with an emphasis in Management Information Systems, I took a variety of courses which helped me become a better problem-solver & taught me how to effectively deal with people. I now use people well for the world out.

—Michelle McNamara ’99

Programmer/Analyst

Pronto Progress, Minneapolis
The College of Business held its annual Advisory Council meeting on December 8, 1999. The Council consists of business executives from throughout the United States who provide guidance and vision to the College of Business. The following year, meetings are held between the Advisory Council Executive Committee and the Dean to discuss current business and academic issues. This year’s Advisory Council Meeting will be on October 5, 1999.

The following is a listing of the current Advisory Council members. The members of the Executive Committee are denoted with an asterisk. The Chair of the Advisory Council is Greg Lea.

**Advisory Council**

**JAY ABLE, CPA**
Partner
Abbe, Abele, Eick & Meyers, LLP
Minneapolis, MN

**DAVID ANDREASEN**
Chairman & CEO
North Mankato, MN

**TAYLOR CORPORATION**
Executive Vice President
Al Fallenstein*
Minnetonka, MN

**BAUNE DOSSEN & CO.**
Partner
James Dosen
St. Peter, MN

**SCHOLARSHIP MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
National Director of Marketing
Louise Dickmeyer
Bloomington, MN

**SHANDWICK USA**
Vice President of Marketing
Jeanne Votca Carpenter
Minneapolis, MN

**MERCURY WASTE SOLUTIONS, INC.**
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John Buck
Mankato, MN

**ALL-AMERICAN FOODS**
Keith Brekke
Minneapolis, MN

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Anchor Bank
Waseca, MN

**ANCHOR BANK**
Richard Bliss
Circle Pines, MN

**POTLATCH MUSKIE, INC**
President
Jerry Bambery
Minneapolis, MN

**NATIONAL CITY BANCORPORATION**
Chairman & CEO
David Andreas*
Minneapolis, MN

**ABDO, ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP**
Partner
Jay Abdo, CPA

**Community Homecoming**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999**

- **8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**
  - Intercultural Center CSU
  - Cultural Diversity Office

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1999**

- **8:00 - 10:00 a.m.**
  - Cultural Diversity Office
  - Parish Breakfast
  - Intercultural Center CSU

- **10:00 a.m.**
  - Community Homecoming Parade
  - Campus

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1999**

- **10:00 - Noon**
  - Admissions Office Campus Tour Program

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1999**

- **9:00 a.m.**
  - Religious Services

**UPCOMING COLLEGE EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 1999**

- **11:00 a.m.**
  - Executive Lecture

**OCTOBER 5, 1999**

- **9:00 a.m.**
  - Executive Lecture

**OCTOBER 12, 1999**

- **9:00 a.m.**
  - Executive Lecture

**OCTOBER 19, 1999**

- **9:00 a.m.**
  - Executive Lecture
The College of Business awarded 46 scholarships totaling nearly $24,000 for the 1999-2000 academic year, as listed below. The College of Business will hold a reception for these students, their families and donors on Thursday, September 16, 1999, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in 101 Centennial Student Union.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SCHOLARSHIP DONOR</th>
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More than 20% of Minnesota State University’s Presidential Scholars are students in the College of Business.

Presidential Scholarships

The following is a partial list of supporters of the University-wide Presidential Scholarship Program. College of Business students were the recipients of scholarships supported by these donors.

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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 income 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 students held sessions 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, Eiter & Co., participate in the CPA’s Fall Career Day. Teams of students and business professionals take turns and interact with each other while helping less fortunate members of the community.

This past year the Accounting club attended the Accounting and Auditing Student Conference in Minneapolis. 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 helpful for students preparing for the job market. This conference is designed to promote maximum interaction between students and company representatives.

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 Frost Days. During Homecoming, the IBO participated in the jalapeno eating 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 54th Grand Chapter Congress will be held on August 18-22 in Houston. Members from MSU’s Epsilon Eta Chapter will attend this year’s “Launch Your Future” Congress, and are being sponsored 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 generous sponsorship and support in developing leaders.

In Houston, Fraternity members will: attend meetings to vote on proposals to benefit the Fraternity, attend leadership meetings and seminars, and network with business professionals. Gordon Bethune, CEO of Continental Airlines-Houston will be an honorary initiate at Grand Chapter Congress and will become a member of Delta Sigma Pi.

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 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 22 students to receive a grant from Campus Early Career Club. This was raised by the IAFP-Mn Chapter through a golf outing in August. Because of this grant, three MSU students were able to attend the nation’s IAFP meeting held in Salt Lake City in October.

THE ACCOUNTING CLUB

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 6 Finance students and 8 from Computer Science.

Each student was matched with an alumnus 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 alumnus. 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.

E-MENTORING PROGRAM

On February 22d, 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, 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 missing from candidates,” she said. The second part of the event featured proper dress etiquette for the business interview.

Our etiquette expert and seminar leader was Kristine Connors, an MSU graduate. Kris has an extensive background in the retail clothing business. “I emphasize buying the best quality outfits…they last longer, fit better and look better longer. 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, 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please call Dr. Corinne Dickey at the College of Business Dean’s Office, (507) 389-5424.
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. He 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.

Tel: 507-389-5420
www.business.mankato.msus.edu