It’s been an exciting year in our department. We’re working on curriculum for the College of Business Information Technology Initiative, scheduled to begin fall semester 2000. Courses using a laptop computer will be voluntary for the 2000-2001 academic year, and required beginning with the fall, 2000-2001 academic year.

Professor Robert Zelin and Norm Solomon, Dean of the College of Business, have been working on lands and making infrastructure changes necessary for the laptop environment. Laptop classrooms will use state-of-the-art wireless technology. As part of this initiative faculty are working on curriculum and upgrading integrated technology. Professor Mary Rolfes will be our leader training the first laptop courses during fall semester 2000. Professor Penny Herickhoff will teach the first Business Law laptop sections in the spring of 2001.

We have also had changes in the department’s faculty. Professor Don Daggett retired and Professor Ken Fowler has returned to Public Accounting. The department will miss them both and wishes them the best in their new endeavors. We are pleased to announce that Dan Levin has been hired as a new tenure track faculty member for Business Law. He is warmly welcomed.

The Finance, Insurance and Real Estate Department is pleased to announce that Travis Gill was selected as recipient of the 2000 Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Finance. Travis also served as the President of the Finance Club for the 1999-2000 academic year.

The Certified Financial Planner Certificate Program has experienced strong growth in the Twin Cities area. This program is offered through Minnesota State University, Mankato to financial planners who are preparing to sit for certification in financial planning. We are very grateful to Dr. Chan Lee for his contributions. In addition to this program, a minor in Financial Planning was approved and will be offered beginning in the fall of 2000.

The Department will experience personnel changes during the coming academic year. Dr. Sanjay Ranchandar has accepted a position at Marshall University in West Virginia. He will be deeply missed by the College. Also, Dr. Steve Wilcox will take a full year’s sabbatical and Dr. Chan Lee and Richard Swanson will take half-year sabbaticals. Through the Department will operate at reduced strength, all three faculty members have interesting academic pursuits planned and we look forward to our faculty being at full strength in the fall of 2001.

A number of important changes took place in the Management Department during the last academic year. Given current dynamics, it’s no surprise that most of them were within the management information systems concentration.

Dr. Sung Kim will join the MIS faculty this fall. Dr. Kim received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska and has been teaching at Kansas State University for the past few years. We are delighted to have such a highly qualified scholar become a member of our faculty. MIS majors will benefit from two additional positive changes this year. The first is that three new courses are available for MIS students. They are: E-Commerce, Wireless Networks and Project Management. These courses have received all required approvals thanks to the dedicated work of Rakesh Kawatra. Secondly, Bill Brown will stay with us as a tenure track faculty member despite vigorous attempts by other schools to lure him away.

John Kalski submitted his resignation and will no longer be a member of the MIS faculty. He has decided to pursue an entrepreneurial challenge and we wish him the best of luck. His wisdom, integrity and energy were driving forces in the formation of the MIS concentration, and his contributions to MSU will be felt for a long time to come.

The management faculty extends sincere congratulations to Tim Scott for being named a distinguished faculty member, and to Marilyn Fox for her promotion to full professor. Both of these individuals richly deserve this recognition.

During the past year the Department of Marketing and International Business established a department Advisory Council. The group will meet once a year in the fall to provide input to the faculty on curriculum, program development and assessment issues. Any alumnus who would like to share his or her time and expertise on this Advisory Council is invited to contact Anaam Hashmi at 507-389-2967 or e-mail him at a.hashmi@mankato.msus.edu.

In recent years Marketing and International Business has sought to provide learning opportunities for business people on the job. An outcome of this effort is the Export Administration Certificate Program that is currently offered in the Minneapolis/St Paul area. During the 1999-2000 academic year about two dozen middle managers participated in the Certificate Program.

The Department will sponsor its annual Marketing and International Business Careers Day in March, 2001. This event is an important way for students to understand what careers await them upon graduation. If any alumni would like to participate in next year’s event, please contact Anaam Hashmi.