Departmental Updates

ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS LAW

Demand for accounting graduates remains high and looks like it will go far into the future, though we have seen a decline in the number of students choosing Accounting as a major the past two to three years. Now that there has been an economic adjustment in the market, we expect students will again recognize the value of majoring in Accounting. Our graduates are recruited by the ‘big five’, regional and local public accounting firms, private industry and governmental agencies, and have had great success in finding meaningful employment.

The past two years have brought forth very generous alumni who have contributed money for major capital expenditures and scholarships for students in their junior and senior years. Typically, we would like to see enough scholarship monies to help the majority of Accounting majors. The University, College of Business and Accounting Department applaud your generosity. With the Governor’s tight budget and substantial tuition increases, the students appreciate the financial support.

The Accounting Club had another active year. The student members volunteered to tutor other students who were having trouble understanding accounting. They also, under the supervision of Professor Bruce Smith, participated in the IRS’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The students sponsored a golf outing in the fall and again in the spring in conjunction with the annual Awards Banquet.

FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE

The Finance, Insurance and Real Estate Department is pleased to announce that Ms. Stephanie Prca and Mr. Christopher Reisdorf were selected as co-recipients of the 2001 Outstanding Graduating Senior Award in Finance. Christopher served as President and Stephanie served as Secretary of the Finance Club for the 2000-01 academic year.

The MSU Finance Team was selected for the second consecutive year as one of six teams to compete in the final phase of the Second Annual American Express Planning Case Analysis Competition, held in Minneapolis, April 2001. We are very proud of the team members: Mr. Craig Empey, Ms. Lori Fick, and Mr. Rob Reimer. Also, the CFP Board’s Board of Examiners has renewed the Financial Planning program’s certification at Minnesota State University, Mankato for the next three years.

The Department has also undergone curriculum changes. Due to low enrollment, the real estate track has been suspended. We will, however, continue to offer the real estate courses required in the finance major. The Department will offer an Estate Planning course for the first time during the 2002 spring semester.

We also have changes in the Department’s faculty. Dr. Henry Okleshen begins his phased retirement and will be teaching only in the fall semester for the next three years. He will, however, maintain his involvement with Departmental affairs throughout this period. We are extremely grateful for his ongoing dedication to the program. Dr. Michael Young will join the Department as a new faculty member beginning in the 2001 fall semester. Dr. Young received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia and has taught at Mississippi State University and the University of Tennessee, Martin for the past few years. His teaching experience includes undergraduate, MBA and doctoral courses in finance at three institutions. The Department is proud to have him as a member of our staff.

MANAGEMENT

The Management Department is eagerly anticipating our first major step in course conversion under the notebook technology initiative. This year essentially all sections of introductory Management Information Systems will be taught to students utilizing notebook computers.

Professor Marilyn L. Fox, of the Management Department, was selected to serve as the interim Dean of the College of Business. Although we are happy for her and the College, her presence in the classroom will certainly be missed.

We are extremely pleased to note that Brenda Flannery has been promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure at Minnesota State University. Her energy and enthusiasm will be needed as we move into the next stage of transition to a notebook computer-oriented education model.

MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

The Department of Marketing and International Business has established a department Advisory Council. The group meets once a year in the fall to 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 on this Advisory Council is invited to contact Anaa Hashmi at 507-389-2967 or e-mail him at m.hashmi@mankato.msu.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, which served about two dozen middle managers during the 2000-2001 academic year.

The Department will sponsor its annual Marketing and International Business Careers Day in March, 2002. 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 Anaa Hashmi.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to educate undergraduate students to be successful and responsible business leaders dedicated to pursuing excellence. Our high quality business programs primarily focus on meeting the education needs of Minnesota students, with a secondary focus on meeting the needs of students from the region. We partner with business to provide our programs in a technologically advanced, active learning environment.

Our faculty, students and external partners work together in an environment of mutual respect and continuous professional development. The college encourages diversity of thought, exploration of technology, intellectual discovery, and contributions to the improvement of our global society. We pursue excellence in teaching, and engage in high quality research and service to support our teaching. Although we value basic research, our intellectual contributions focus principally on applied research and instructional development which enhance the learning process and improve business practice. Our service facilitates management of the college and university, supports extracurricular activities, contributes to our business disciplines through the scholarly review and editorial process, and builds business partnerships to enrich student learning.