Dear Friends

Greetings! I hope you enjoy this issue of Network. It is a great honor and privilege to join MSU and the College of Business. My family and I arrived from Louisville, Kentucky on July 1, 2002 as I assumed the role of Dean of the COB. My wife, Mary, and I have four children; two are home with us and two are in college. We both have family ties to Minnesota, so it is wonderful to be back.

I look forward to working with our constituents as we innovate and grow in the context of technology-enhanced academic excellence in a student-centered environment. My sincerest thanks to those who have devoted their energies toward building and shaping the success of the college. We are poised for further innovation and excellence. I would particularly like to thank Dr. Marilyn Fox who did a wonderful job as Interim Dean last year.

Please let me provide you with some updates about the college.

• The COB is accredited by the AACSB. This accreditation means that the COB is an elite business school both in the state and the nation.
• Our Laptop Initiative is now in its third year of implementation. Approximately 1,200 students will be using laptops in business classes during the 2002-2003 academic year.
• We are one of the “most wired” campuses according to Yahoo Internet. More accurately, the COB is probably the most “wireless” since our computing environment in the classrooms and on campus is primarily wireless.
• Approximately 95% of our classes are taught by professors holding a Ph.D. in a core business discipline.
• COB Students have the opportunity to study in France or Finland with sister schools.
• Approximately 240 business students made the Dean’s List during Spring Semester 2002. We are extremely proud of these dedicated students.
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Finally, we welcome three new faculty members who came on board this fall: John Kaliski (Management), Paul Brennan (Accounting and Business Law), and Kon Hinochis (Management).

Sincerely,
Scott D. Johnson
Dean, College of Business

Charting a Course

After 35 Years of Advising Students, Herke Chooses a New Path

If you graduated from the Minnesota State University’s College of Business within the last twenty-five years, there is a good chance you worked with Larry Herke, student relations coordinator/coordinator of admissions with the college. After thirty-five years of service to MSU, Larry retired on December 18, 2002.

When Larry started working with the College of Business in 1977, he advised all College of Business students who needed assistance, helping each coordinate a path to graduation. Through the years, the college grew tremendously and reached a peak of more than 4,000 majors.

“During the peak years of business majors, when they asked the College of Business to stand at graduation, it seemed that nearly one-half of the graduates stood up,” Larry remembers. “With 4,000 majors, I couldn’t advise them all, so we began hiring graduate assistants in the Advising Center.”

Advising students has been a rewarding profession for Larry, because he has been able to see the difference that a clear collegiate path has made for students. In his first meeting with a first-year student, Larry would help the student select the classes he or she should take each semester in order to first, be admitted to the College of Business, and second, to graduate.

It was during the times when he worked with a student who was unable to reach one of these benchmarks that Larry found most challenging. However, as a number of successful graduates can attest, Larry was always ready with an alternate plan.

“Many sophomore or early junior students would come to me saying ‘I don’t have a high enough GPA to get into the College of Business, but my parents expect me to graduate in two years.’ So I might suggest a different but related major with a minor in business. Then the students would still be able to work in the field in which they were interested.”

Larry’s direction is just what many challenged students needed over the years. He remembers a young man...