Traveling Classroom

Students experience New York and Europe

For many Minnesota State University, Mankato College of Business students, travel to a large city or even another country is an important part of their education. Experiencing a new environment reminds students of the possibilities in the world of business.

Dr. Bruce Smith, a professor in the Accounting & Business Law department, plans an annual trip to New York City that is open to all COB students. This year, Smith has planned two trips because a high number of students are interested in participating. "Way back in January 2002, I had over fifty people who wanted to go," Smith said. Thirty-six students will travel from December 15-22, 2002, while 28 will travel from January 5-12, 2003.

On the New York trip, students take part in several business related activities including visits to the New York Stock Exchange, the Federal Exchange Bank, and presentations from business leaders. On the tourist side, the group visits Central Park and Little Italy and are encouraged to take in a Broadway show. "They find Greenwich Village on their own," says Smith.

According to Smith, students gain a lot of insight when they are exposed to a city the size of New York. "It shows them that working in New York is a possibility," he said.

Spring break (March 8-16, 2003) brings another travel opportunity for COB students. Dr. Basil Janavaras will be taking a group to his home country of Greece. Students will earn college credits as they explore the business and culture of Athens and the islands of Aegina, Hydra, and Poros.

In addition to seeing historical landmarks, students will enjoy lectures on topics such as "doing business in Greece" and the 2004 Olympics. There will also be visits to both Greek companies and subsidiaries of foreign-based companies.

Some students choose to extend their travels by studying abroad for a semester or two. Each year MSU College of Business students have the opportunity to experience a new culture and earn MSU credits in a different country through an International Business Exchange. Currently, MSU has business exchange programs with Helsinki Business Polytechnic in Helsinki, Finland and Institut de Formation International (IFI) in Rouen, France.

The following students spent at least one semester of the 2001-2002 school year at Helsinki: Adam Kittelson, Aaron Poloskin, Caleb Thimm, Travis Haasch, and Jamie Zehnder. During the Spring 2002 semester, Mike Berg, Marie Bravo, Dan Royce, Jacki Youngdahl, and Jamie Zehnder studied at IFI, while Nicole Peterson and Danielle Poloquin, Caleb Thunem, Travis Haasch, and Adam Segar.

In the Spring 2003 semester, students will have the opportunity to study at the Greek campus of University of Western Greece and the 2004 Olympics. There will also be visits to both Greek companies and subsidiaries of foreign-based companies.

Some students choose to extend their travels by studying abroad for a semester or two. Each year MSU College of Business students have the opportunity to experience a new culture and earn MSU credits in a different country through an International Business Exchange. Currently, MSU has business exchange programs with Helsinki Business Polytechnic in Helsinki, Finland and Institut de Formation International (IFI) in Rouen, France.

The following students spent at least one semester of the 2001-2002 school year at Helsinki: Adam Kittelson, Aaron Poloskin, Caleb Thimm, Travis Haasch, and Adam Segar. During the Spring 2002 semester, Mike Berg, Marie Bravo, Dan Royce, Jacki Youngdahl, and Jamie Zehnder studied at IFI, while Nicole Peterson and Danielle Poloquin, Caleb Thunem, Travis Haasch, and Adam Segar.

In the Spring 2003 semester, students will have the opportunity to study at the Greek campus of University of Western Greece and the 2004 Olympics. There will also be visits to both Greek companies and subsidiaries of foreign-based companies.

Helping Students Do What They Didn’t Think Possible

... On Course continued from page 1

who had no support from his family regarding his educational endeavors. The student often felt overwhelmed by the process, but Larry was able to show him a path to graduation by meeting with the student each week. "He earned his four-year degree and every time I see him, he tells me he can't believe what he's accomplished," said Larry. "You just feel so good knowing you were part of the team that helped students achieve goals they never thought were possible."

In addition to advising, Larry taught seven courses during his years at MSU. "I also worked with a number of community colleges, where many of our transfer students start their education. We'd go to the community college to discuss their program and then work out the details of transferring credit. I enjoyed the variety advising offered," he added.

The College of Business has seen many changes since Larry first stepped onto the MSU campus. During the earlier years there were ten major areas of study in the College of Business. Five of those majors were moved to other colleges. For example, the computer science program was moved to the College of Science, Engineering and Technology.

"We've also gone from a discussion/lecture teaching format to one utilizing interactive wireless notebook communication. Our classrooms are now fitted with notebook computers and Smartboards," said Larry.

However, some things haven't changed. Larry says it is still a relaxing six-minute walk across the entire campus, and instructors and students are still able to enjoy a low-key related relationship—one that doesn't always exist on a campus our size.

"MSU has a great diversity of both programs and students. Nearly everyone I have worked with has been a great support through the years, especially the past few years as my hours have been reduced during my phased retirement program. The staff in the College of Business, particularly Terri Everson (our office manager), and our advising team staff have been phenomenal," said Larry.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ANY LUSHMAN, MICHELLE MICHAEL & MELISSA HAMENKAST
IN FRONT OF THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE