Departmental Updates

ACCOUNTING & BUSINESS LAW

We have seen an increase in the number of on-campus recruiters this year as compared to last year. Is it possible that the accounting scandals of the recent past may have actually stimulated the need for more accountants? It is my hope that the audit will again gain the respect it so deserves, as compared to the commodity it has been treated as in the past.

The number of Accounting majors has held steady over the last 3 to 4 year period, with a slight increase in this year’s freshman class. As with all classes before them there is usually a significant number who change majors, so the only dependable measure for the Department is the number of students who actually enroll in senior level courses and then earn the degree.

The department has a new faculty member, Dr. Paul Brennan has joined us and will teach tax and Principles of Accounting. Dr. Brennan previously taught at Austin Peay University in Clarksville, TN. He had extensive tax experience with Sachnow & Weaver, Ltd, Chicago, IL.

Twenty-five students were awarded scholarships for the 2002-2003 academic year. Faculty and students thank all who contributed to make these awards possible and also to the department. Funds are spent on continuing education for faculty and also to help students participate in activities that enhance their skills.

MANAGEMENT

For the first time in over thirty years, the Management Department starts a new year without Professor Ronald Klocke. He retired last December after many years of highly valued service to MSU. His absence is deeply felt. He is currently working in Europe and we wish him well.

The Department of Management is at the midpoint in its transition to a notebook computer-based teaching format. This year, the Principles of Management class, as well as the Production and Operations Management and Introduction to Management Sciences classes will be included in the network technology initiative model of instruction.

We are very pleased to announce that Professor Kim Hinrichs has joined us from New Mexico State University. In addition, Professor John Kulicki and Professor Marilyn Fox rejoined our department. Professor Hinrichs will certainly benefit greatly from the addition of these talented individuals.

Professor Brenda Flannery expanded her annual Entrepreneur’s Fair to include the business ideas of people from the local area, as well as student concepts. The fair was a joint venture with the Riverbend Center for Enterprise Facilitation and was held on December 5, 2002.

FINANCE

Dr. Henry Thiewes took a sabbatical this year in order to further his research agenda and complete articles for publication. In his absence, Dr. Henry Okleshen is acting Chairman. Dr. Thiewes is expected to return as Chairman next year.

The “hot” area in the Finance curriculum continues to be the Certified Financial Planning™ program. Once again, our students were selected to participate in the final phase of the American Express Planning Case Analysis Competition. The program is considering the possibility of expanding geographically to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Dr. Chan Lee, Program Director, is in discussion stages with the University’s International Student Office and the Admissions Office to investigate the feasibility of bringing international students into the CFP™ program.

Congratulations to co-recipients of the Outstanding Student in Finance award, presented by the Department. Lori Fick and Ryan McKervin will each receive a modest financial honorarium and have their names placed on a plaque on permanent display in the COB. Both Lori and Ryan maintained high GPA’s in Finance and provided leadership in the Finance Club.

The Department continues to experience enrollment growth and is expecting to hire a new faculty member for the fall semester, 2003. Along with the enrollment increase has come an increase in the quality of our students. For the annual graduation date through June 30, 2002, finance majors graduating with less than a 2.5 grade-point average made up less than one percent of those graduating in the College of Business.

MARKETING & INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Jerry Stiles began phased retirement in fall 2002. For the next three years, Jerry will take fall semesters off and teach spring semesters only. Jerry has been at MSU Mankato for 30 years and was named Distinguished Professor in the College of Business in Fall 2001. Anaam Hashmi completed his three-year term as Department Chair on July 1, 2002 and is now on sabbatical leave for the 2002-2003 academic year. I began my term as Department Chair for the second time around on July 1, 2002, having served as Chair from 1993-1999.

Basil Janavaras is putting together a tour to Greece for students during spring break 2003. The tour will include classes in Athens and sightseeing in Athens and Corinth. John Kazuma took two students to the National Collegiate Sales Competition in Spring 2002 held at Baylor University. Only 25 universities and 50 students across the country are invited to this competition.

The Department continues to implement the laptop initiative in the course curriculum. Beginning fall 2003, all courses taught in the Department will be laptop. The laptop environment is intended to prepare our students for the business world they will soon be entering.

We are always looking for individuals to serve on our Department Advisory Council. The group meets once a year in the fall to provide input to faculty on curriculum and assessment issues. Please feel free to contact us at kevin.elliott@mnsu.edu or 507/389-5404 if you are interested in finding out more about serving the Department in this important role.