When it comes to numbers, Ken Bulie has the law on his side. In fact with 25 years of business experience, a law degree, a background in farming, and his CPA with an aptitude for numbers, Bulie, who teaches in the Business Department, has a wealth of knowledge on a plethora of subjects. And, this expertise is what Bulie brings to the classroom to the benefit of his students.

He graduated with his bachelor’s degree in business education and planned to teach high school. A foray into the business world took him away from high school students, but prepared him well for college students in a future he had not yet imagined.

“I stopped at the University of

...
North Dakota one day to see what it would take to prepare to sit for the CPA exam,” Bulie says. “And, I left with my schedule filled with classes. After I earned my CPA, I headed to law school.”

He started teaching at the Grand Forks Air Force Base at Park University as well as in Devils Lake, N.D., at Lake Region State College, where, years earlier, he had earned his associate degree. He continued teaching until 2007, when he accepted a position teaching accounting at the U of M Crookston.

The campus has long had a volunteer program helping prepare taxes at the Golden Link in Crookston, Minn., but Bulie decided to expand the program and offer a certificate in taxation. “I felt that students who had experience in tax preparation would be better prepared for the job market,” Bulie explains. “Danny Lee ’13, who was one of my students, helped with the application to be an official tax preparation site and we are now an IRS approved site.”

Students do the tax preparation and Bulie reviews it. The returns are also reviewed an additional time by another tax preparer according to IRS guidelines before being submitted. “It is a great experience for students and also a great service to the community,” Bulie says. The efforts were rewarded by the Outstanding Service Learning Faculty Award, which was presented to Bulie last spring.

The Business Department focuses on quality in online teaching and learning, and Bulie has experience both on site and online. With the addition of the finance degree in 2013, he finds himself busier than ever. “Finance incorporates a lot from our major in accounting, but it is broader and covers topics including insurance, money and banking, investments, and estate planning,” he adds. “It is a great degree for someone interested in returning to school to complete a degree they started earlier or for someone looking at a career change.”

Along with his real-world experience, Bulie encourages students to take their pursuit of a degree seriously. “This program is diverse, and we have a nice range of majors and minors with a strong mix of courses,” he states. “As a student here, you have greater access to members of the faculty because class sizes are smaller, and as faculty, we have a greater ability to put the student first and that is what we strive to do.”

people and his goal is to have an influence on them. He is considering management training programs that could help him use his leadership skills in the workplace.

Even though he came to campus unsure of a major, the breadth of business appeals to him. “I love the variety within the major; it offers a great amount of flexibility,” Moore says. “I would have regretted not majoring in business. It is where I belong.”

He works in the Center for Rural Entrepreneurial Studies on campus and interned at the Crookston Chamber of Commerce. He grabs opportunities to be involved and to serve the campus.

It is true. Moore will leave a legacy on the campus. The greatest legacy of all might be his openness, energy, and leadership ability. Those are the things he has used to make a real difference here and what he will use to make a difference wherever he lives and works.

Note: Since the story was written, Moore has accepted a job with Frito Lay.