

## Connecting With Students, Building Bridges to Nations

**A**ssistant Professor of Accounting Dr. Bruce Dehning, born in Colorado to an accounting professor and a former elementary school teacher, says, "Perhaps it was preordained that I would end up as a teacher as well."



After teaching at UNH for five years, Dr. Dehning decided that a large public institution didn't fit with his professional goals. He learned about Chapman through two friends with Chapman ties – one an alumnus and one a former professor. They convinced him that Chapman was exactly what he was looking for: a school where good teaching was not just appreciated but required, and where research was valued and supported. So in the summer 2002, he moved to California with his wife and two daughters.

Dr. Dehning says Chapman has turned out to be everything he expected and more. "The students are great, and the small classes let me give each one the attention they deserve. In addition, the faculty in the Argyros School are collegial and supportive, unfortunately something that is getting harder to find in academia today."

Dr. Dehning has been named a Fulbright Scholar to teach at Tomas Bata University in the Czech Republic during the spring 2005 semester. "The Fulbright programs form a vital academic, professional and cultural link between nations, and

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it is an honor to be able to help shape our world through the Fulbright Scholar program," Dr. Dehning says.

He believes Chapman students will benefit from the firsthand knowledge this experience will bring. "This will be a chance to study how business works in the Czech Republic, which is going through many changes right now as one of the newest members of the European Union. To be able to bring that knowledge back to the classroom will be outstanding."

Dr. Dehning's research investigates the value of company's investments in information technology. He has published his work in several prominent journals and has presented papers at many prestigious national and international conferences. In May he was honored as the 2004 recipient of the Wang-Fradkin Professorship, the highest honor Chapman bestows on a faculty member for scholarly activity.

Growing up in Boulder County, he says it was an easy choice to attend the University of Colorado. After graduating with a B.S. in finance in 1987, he worked for State Farm Insurance for three years before going back to graduate school to study accounting. Finally, after receiving three degrees at Colorado, he jokingly claims university officials said, "Bruce, you're done, we don't offer tenure to students." He left Colorado in 1997 to take an assistant professor position at the University of New Hampshire.