Faculty Spotlight: Marko Svetina, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Finance
By Mary Levine, Parents Association Board

The University of San Diego can boast about its amazing faculty. USD Business School faculty member Dr. Marko Svetina, who just received his third award since joining the faculty in 2008, is certainly one of them. The newest award, the "SBA Dual Excellence Award", is in recognition for exemplary accomplishments in teaching and research. Dr. Svetina has previously been awarded the Professor of the Year in 2010 and the IMBA Cohort Outstanding Professor award in 2009.

San Diego is a world away from Dr. Svetina's home in Croatia. Fate stepped in when he visited his sister who was in Iowa as a high school exchange student. He was halfway through his college degree in Croatia but he was offered a spot at the University of Northern Iowa to complete his degree which he readily accepted. He then moved on to Iowa State University where he earned his Master's Degree in Economics. Dr. Svetina then moved from the Midwest to the Southwest earning his PhD. in Finance from Arizona State University. He had opportunities to join the faculties of six other institutions following his doctorate, but he found that the University of San Diego was the perfect fit for him. San Diego is a wonderful city to live in but the true draw was the environment of the community at USD.

The Business School had just named David Pyke as the new dean and the influence of this wave of excitement was contagious to the faculty as well. Teaching at USD is a joy because "the students are well brought up and respectful. They are all hard working and very bright. The majority of our students have wonderful personalities and great social skills. This is very distinguishing." Dr. Svetina also noted that he is especially appreciative of the athletes who devote so much of their time to their sports and their studies. Dr. Svetina teaches Corporate Finance and Investments at the undergraduate level and Corporate Finance and Investment Banking at the graduate level. His students are from all different disciplines that get a sampling of this subject in his class. "My biggest reward is when the student learns something about themselves" as well as the subject."If you want to learn everything there is to know about finance, Dr. Svetina is the professor you go to," senior Michael Levine said. "He is very passionate about the subject and makes class entertaining. He is the reason I am a finance major." The faculty is appreciated for their teaching skills as well as their research.
As a member of the USD faculty, Dr. Svetina finds his position not only rewarding but totally supported by the administration. He enjoys coming to work and feels that the other faculty members are not only constituents but also friends. His wife, Olena Tsurska, who has a PhD. in Linguistics, is currently in her first year of law school at USD. They are the proud parents of a two year old son, Evan.