

As a 1999 Hope grad, Adam Paarlberg saw how the skills and lessons taught in the management program would be applicable to any career option he chose. He is quick to note that the Department of Economics, Management and Accounting (DEMA) thus prepared him to be successful in the business field.

Adam credits his continued interest in the business field to the DEMA professors' ability to integrate their faith and passions into their work life. The opportunity to build strong relationships with the professors, in and outside of class, gave Adam a fresh perspective of how to construct his business mentality. Seeing the passion and zest that his teachers had for the business profession gave Adam an appreciation for business and, more importantly, the idea that a significant aspect of business is developing relationships. The DEMA program helped Adam develop the foundational skills for connecting with people. In addition, the faith-based education he received showed Adam how his Christian morals cannot be separate from business concepts. Combining his business skills with his Christian beliefs focused his attention on the significance of maintaining strong customer relations.

Spending a semester in Washington, D.C. and participating in the London May Term put Adam's classroom lessons into practice. The opportunity to use his management skills, as well as his broad liberal arts education, gave him a strong sense of confidence. He credits both Hope and the DEMA program for "preparing him to keep learning and developing in the business world." **The blend of strong relationships with faculty members and the boundless opportunities at Hope allowed him to develop his skills and prepare him to successfully pursue his vocation.**

Hope helped Adam to further discover his interests both within and outside of the business field. He encourages students to "take a broad range of classes." He recommends that students to advantage of as many opportunities as possible so that these experiences and life lessons will help students uncover their true interests, passions, and talents. Although Adam is content in his current career, he knows that Hope has prepared him to take advantage of the world of opportunities that exist. Sometimes, as Adam believes, it is necessary to "be refreshed with the possibilities of life."