

2009

## Razor's Edge, January 12, 2009-March 5, 2009

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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### Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering. (2009). Razor's Edge, January 12, 2009-March 5, 2009. *Razor's Edge*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/razors-edge/10>

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# THE RAZOR'S EDGE

TERM III 2009

1/12/09-3/5/09

## Winter Weather Is Here Again!



So far this winter bad weather has not forced the University to close but I want to inform you of my office procedures in case the University needs to shut down.

If bad weather strikes during the work day and your instructor decides to cancel class, or if the University will be closing early, I will send an email to students advising of the cancellation/early closing.

If bad weather occurs overnight, you can check online ([www.uark.edu](http://www.uark.edu)) to see if the University has decided to close. Local radio and TV stations will also be advised of closings.

## MSOM Program—A Rich History...

We are the largest graduate program in the U of A system. The graduate degree program in Operations Management was begun in 1974, after the closing of the Master of Science in Management program at military sites in Europe and at Blytheville, AR AFB. The Management program was offered by the Graduate School with academic support from the Business College. UA faculty members relocated to Europe to teach in the program on 8- or 16- week assignments.

After the closing of the European program, state-side military bases wanted similar degree options for their personnel, so the MSOM program was born. Developed by Industrial Engineering Department Chair Dr. John Imhoff with a curriculum based on topics from industrial engineering and public administration, the program was initially

offered at Blytheville Air Force Base, AR; Little Rock Air Force Base, Jacksonville, AR; and Naval Support Activity/Mid-South, Millington, TN. Designed for students from any undergraduate background and geared toward working students, the program was immediately very successful. Program admission and registration were handled by the UofA Graduate School, and Dr. Ray Asfahl served as chairman of studies. In the 1980s, additional program sites were added at Hurlburt Field, FL, Camden, AR and Russellville, AR.

In 1991 the MSOM program was thoroughly reviewed by the Graduate School and restructured. Some courses were moved to undergraduate prerequisite level, restrictions were placed on hiring of faculty from among MSOM graduates, comprehensive exams were added to degree requirements, and transfer credit

ments, and transfer credit was reduced from 12 hours to 6 hours.

These changes brought the program into conformance with on-campus policies and practices. At that time, the program was placed under the academic auspices and fiscal control of the Industrial Engineering Department with Dr. Asfahl serving as its first Director.

Our on-campus program in the Fayetteville, AR area was started in 2000. Dr. Sandra Parker succeeded Dr. Asfahl as Program Director. She retired in 2007 and was succeeded by the current Director, Dr. Ed Pohl.

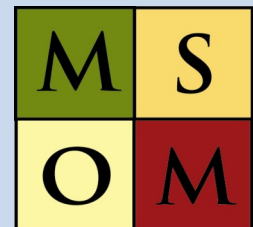
Our enrollment continues to soar with the successes of our graduates. The future is bright!

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- \* 2/14/09: Valentine's Day
- \* 2/16/09: Term IV Registration Begins
- \* 2/18/09: Last Day to Drop a Term III Course
- \* 3/5/09: Last Day of Term III Courses
- \* 3/11/09: Term IV Classes Begin

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*Congratulations Fall 2008 Fayetteville Graduates!*



*Azharsyah Azharsyah  
Erin Basnett  
Cekedrick Batton  
Brian Conover  
Zach Freeze  
Tom Eddy  
Jonathan Leonard  
Bill Layne  
Elizabeth Sullivan*



*Student Spotlight: Abdullah M. Al-Shanbri*



Abdullah M. Al-Shanbri grew up in the western region of Saudi Arabia, near the cities of Madinah, Taif, and Jeddah. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture at King Abdul-Aziz University in Jeddah. After he graduated, he joined an urban development company as a designer and project manager. Abdullah

travelled to Japan, South Korea and China to learn more about the design of technology parks.

Abdullah soon recognized the need for management skills to further his career and enrolled in the OMGT program at the UofA. He says that this degree will help him as a landscape architect to understand organizational management and structure. Furthermore, the degree will prepare him to become involved in city management and planning.

After finishing the program, Abdullah plans to return to

Saudi Arabia and put into practice what he has learned in the program. He believes that coming to the US and earning his Master's degree are the two most amazing experiences in his life. He appreciates the kindness of the American people and the history of this great country.

Abdullah has been married to his wife, Noha, for five years, and they have two children, Juri, 2 1/2 years, and Juwana, 7 months. He enjoys hiking, camping, event planning, travelling, photography and cooking with his wife.

Keep us posted! Have you gotten married, had a baby, received a promotion, run a marathon, caught a BIG fish, etc...? Email your news, announcements and pictures to [omgtfay@uark.edu](mailto:omgtfay@uark.edu) to share with your OMGT classmates!

## OMGT 5773 Special Problems

OMGT 5773 Special Problems is offered in an individual instruction format to students who have completed at least 5 graduate courses. The student typically performs a library, on-the-job, or other research project or a computer project under the direct supervision of a faculty member. Instead of meeting for regular classes, the student meets with the instructor on an appointment basis periodically during the term as needed.

Students must submit to the instructor a written proposal of their special project describing the objectives, procedures, sources and schedule for completion. Ideally, the special problem will utilize principles or techniques learned in other classes and, consequently, should be scheduled at or near the end of a student's program of study.

*The outline for the Special Problems Proposal can be downloaded from the "Forms and Documents" page on our website.*

The finalized written proposal becomes a part of the student's formal academic record and care should be taken in its preparation. Final approval of the proposed project from the

OMGT program office will be given after review of the proposal. Do not begin work on your project until you have received this approval.

The following features are characteristic of an academically acceptable Special Problems project proposal:

- \* Clear, grammatically correct presentation of organized ideas.
- \* Typed and carefully proofread.
- \* Evidence the student will research specific questions, whether by survey, industrial experiment, development (as in computer software project), or by library research. If the research is of the library type, there should be evidence that the student has analyzed and gleaned the knowledge from a variety of sources, rather than simply rewritten the work of another researcher.
- \* A project schedule that shows the student has done some planning for the completion of the project. There is no

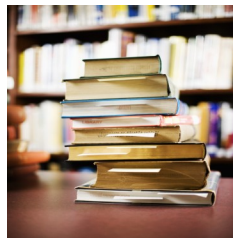
problem with changing the schedule as the project proceeds, but an initial plan should be in place.

*Interested in more than one focus area? You can take OMGT 5773 more than once to obtain a second certificate! But only 3 hrs of OMGT 5773 will count toward your degree.*

Special Problems may be taken whether or not a student is working toward a focus area designation, and students may select any instructor from the OMGT program as a mentor, regardless of location or the instructor's site affiliation.

### **Prior to registration time:**

- \* Select a project and an instructor to work with. Instructor contact information may be found on our website under Faculty/Staff.
- \* Type up a draft proposal following the format of the Special Problems proposal form that is on our website under "Forms and Documents."
- \* Submit your draft proposal to your instructor for review.
- \* Send in your draft proposal form with registration. Discuss your project idea with your mentor.



*See me for sample proposals!*



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**MASTER OF SCIENCE  
IN  
OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT**

The **Operations Management Master of Science** program at the University of Arkansas focuses on the essential concepts, methods and tools needed to successfully manage work processes and people in a wide spectrum of organizations, including business/industry, military, government and non-profit. Geared toward the working student who typically holds a professional or management position in an organizational setting, the program offers live evening classes that meet in five 8-week terms per year. Courses are also available in DVD/CD, online and independent study formats.

The Operations Management curriculum emphasizes practical knowledge in such areas as project planning, quality management, economic decision-making, supply chain management, human behavior analysis, operations research, and many other areas of importance to today's manager. In addition to taking a core of four required courses, students are able to select from over 20 courses to make up the ten required to complete the degree. Through course selection students can also specialize in focus areas such as **Industrial Management, Business Management, Human Resource Management, or Health & Safety Management**. The University of Arkansas is accredited as a graduate degree granting institution by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

*Meet Your Professor: Randy Roy*

Randy Roy is one of our faculty members based at the University of Arkansas campus at the Naval Support Activity Station in Millington, Tennessee. He also teaches distance courses to students residing at other locations. Roy graduated from the OMGT program in 1996 and has been teaching for the OMGT program for the past 6 years.

Roy recently retired after 25 years at FedEx. As Vice President of Network Computing, he sat on several industry and university boards and councils. He spent five years on the board of directors for a research consortium at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) on artificial intelligence. The consortium was called "Things That Think". Roy's role was to help steer MIT's research in artificial intelligence into areas with practical industry applications, such

as low cost RFID tags.

In addition to teaching, he is a business consultant in the areas of telecommunications, project management and strategic management.

Roy's lifelong hobby and passion is astronomy. He has done quite a bit of consulting and served on numerous boards and committees for telescope manufacturers and astronomical observatories. You can catch him in his private observatory stargazing until the early morning hours almost every evening when the skies are clear. Another one of his hobbies is mountain climbing and he's climbed several slopes in Colorado, the Cascades (Pacific Northwest), Mexico and South America. In 2002, along with his son, Tony, he completed the 52 mile Santa Cruz loop in the



high Andes above Lima, Peru. He is planning a return visit to Peru later this year with his wife to trek along the Inca trail and visit Machu Picchu, the famous "Lost City of the Incas."

Both son Tony and daughter Lisa are married to medical doctors. Roy has no grandchildren yet, but holds out hope. Lisa is completing her doctorate in history this spring at Emory University. Tony is Vice-President of marketing for Alliance Health Corp. in Salt Lake City. Roy and his wife live in Lakeland, Tennessee in a house they built overlooking a 240 acre lake. Roy says that his wife was actually the designer, project manager and general contractor, while he was the "helper".