

10-21-2009

Razor's Edge: Remote Student Segment, October 21, 2009 - December 16, 2009

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering. (2009). Razor's Edge: Remote Student Segment, October 21, 2009 - December 16, 2009. *Razor's Edge Remote Edition*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/razors-edge-remote/5>

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New Table on Webpage to Ease Development of Study Plans

A newly added document entitled “Course Overview Chart” on the Forms & Documents page of the MSOM website presents a table that summarizes useful details about our courses, including the formats in which they are available and the Focus Areas they count toward. The main purpose of the table, however, is to show both current undergraduate prerequisites (for those graduate courses that have them), as well as prerequisites that will be applied to additional graduate courses, effective in Fall, 2010.

We recommend that students start observing the second set of prerequisites when making their course selections immediately, though, because the graduate courses to which prereqs are being newly attached will become much more accessible to students if they have taken the corresponding prereqs first. For example, next Fall OMGT 4323 – Industrial Cost Analysis (i.e., Accounting) will become a prereq specific to OMGT 5123 – Finance and OMGT 5463 – Economic Decision-Making. OMGT 5433 – Cost Estimation Models will require that students have completed both OMGT 4323 and OMGT 4333 – Applied Statistics prereqs. The Course Overview Chart will help students plan their studies more effectively by sequencing classes in ways that avoid exposure to course material for which they don’t have sufficient background.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 11/26/09-11/27/09: Thanksgiving Holiday (University closed)
- 12/2/09: Last Day to Withdraw from Term II
- 12/7/09: Term III Registration Begins
- 1/11/10: Term III Classes Begin
- 1/13/10: Last day to add

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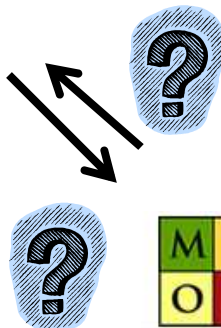
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Announcing a Contest!

What could the *MSOM Program* have in common with *Saturday Night Live*?

A really cool prize will be awarded to the winner!

Hurry! See page 3 for details...



Enjoy the Holiday Season & Best Wishes for a Healthy & Happy 2010





Did You Know Facts ... about the MSOM Program

- ✓ *Established course objectives will be built into course syllabi and included in course descriptions posted on the web. Also, they will serve as an aid for comp exam prep.*
- ✓ *In November, we successfully piloted our first use of "Elluminate," (a state-of-the-art instructional application/technology for on-line learning) for our first "oral" comp exam.*
- ✓ *The University of Arkansas Career Development Center is actively working to better package their services to reach distance students. This includes the use of podcasting in delivering more training and information.*
- ✓ *An impressive frame-able document, separate from a diploma, is given for the earning of a Focus Designation distinction. Numerous MSOM alumni come back as a "non-degree seeking" student to earn more than one.*
- ✓ *A helpful and concise Financial Aid Guide was created specifically for MSOM students and can be found on the Forms & Documents webpage.*

Student Spotlight: Shari Tumlin



Shari is starting her fourth term and pursuing a Business Management focus area with the intention of graduating in late 2010. She decided to come back to college to learn something new. Shari holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Oklahoma and a Master's degree in Human Services from East Central State University. After completing her previous degrees, she worked with people in hospitals and insurance companies as a

therapist and coordinator. After 18 years in the Health Care she wanted a change.

Shari and her husband moved to Arkansas eight years ago from Dallas. She went to work for J.B. Hunt Transport as a fleet manager. She moved to a safety instructor role for several years and two weeks before starting OMGT classes she became a safety supervisor.

One of Shari's hobbies is fishing. While she's not sure if she spends more time feeding the fish than she does catching them, she does have fun. One of her goals is to learn fly fishing and to try her hand at feeding trout!

Shari and her husband have two dogs, two cats, two outside cats who have adopted

them and a group of deer who come by almost every night. One of the deer has actually come up to her and eaten out of her hand, which he says was an incredible experience.

Shari hopes the MSOM degree will open more doors of opportunity. She says that coming back to school has been a challenge because it is such a different style of learning (Blackboard!) than she has ever experienced before. But coming back to school has been exciting and she is considering pursuing a doctorate after completing her MSOM degree next year. She is blessed to have a husband who has encouraged her and family and friends who have also been very supportive.

The University will be closed from 12/24/09 until 1/4/10.

 Term III classes begin 1/11/10. *Enjoy your break!*

In late August, 20 faculty members, representing almost all program sites converged on Fayetteville for a two-day curriculum review session. The purpose of the review was to examine and update titles, descriptions, objectives and textbooks for 19 of the 23 courses that make up the curriculum of the OMGT program. Upon arrival, instructors from the various sites were divided into working groups based on the courses that they regularly taught. Each group was charged with producing recommendations for revising and consolidating the essential features of the courses assigned to them. Deliverables included a model syllabus for each of the courses reviewed, as well as a proposal for a new textbook if the group decided that replacement of the current text was desirable.

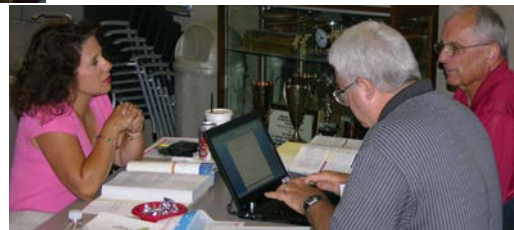
While change for the sake of change can be an unproductive exercise, change for the sake of continuously improving program quality is a necessary and useful process. This was our first full-scale curriculum review in many years, and it is our hope that students will reap the benefits of this rejuvenation of the OMGT program for some time to come.

Below: Jeff Bean (Fay), Eddie Robinson (LRAFB), and Dr. Charles Wilson (HFF) discuss main concepts that should be covered in OMGT 5133 Operations Management in the Service Sector.



Left: Rick Teague (Fay) and Cliff Sandsmark (Fay) pose with the custom book used for OMGT 5143 Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Management. The book was put together by Sandsmark.

Right: Industrial Engineering Department Chair Dr. Kim Needy (Fay), Mickey Yeager (LRAFB), and Dr. Don King (Fay) review OMGT 4623 Strategic Management.



What does the *University of Arkansas MSOM Program* have in common with the *Saturday Night Live*?



**Master of Science in
Operations Management**

The first to email me (omgtrem@uark.edu) the correct answer will win a *handsome arched shaped crystal paperweight, etched with a mighty Razorback and "Arkansas" inscription.*

As soon as I receive the correct answer, I will email all to announce the winner and correct answer. *Time is of the essence!*



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We're on the Web!
New homepage:
www.MSOM.uark.edu

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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 courses in five 8-week terms per year. Distance courses are available online, in DVD/CD, 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.

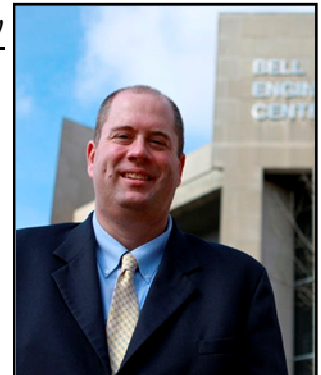
Meet Your Professor: Dr. Richard Cassady

Dr. Cassady enrolled at Virginia Tech in the fall of 1988, and stayed for eight years, earning three degrees in industrial and systems engineering along the way. He is passionately devoted to Virginia Tech and its athletic teams, the **Hokies**. His wife, Wendy, is a speech-language pathologist and owns and operates Wendy Cassady Speech Pathology, Inc. in Springdale. They have two great boys, James Bryant (7) and Banes Ramey (3).

Dr. Cassady started teaching (ten undergraduate courses to be exact!) while he was a Ph.D. student. After finishing his Ph.D., he and Wendy moved to Starkville, Mississippi, so that he could begin his career at MSU. They spent four rewarding years there and made several dear friends. Dr. Cassady says it was the perfect place to begin his career and is very thankful to the people at MSU for giving him that opportunity.

In 2000, Cassady says he found his "dream job" when he joined the Industrial Engineering faculty at the U of A. He calls this "a great place to work"; and "the perfect fit for him professionally." During 2006 and 2007, he had the honor of holding the John L. Imhoff Chair, an endowed chair that rotates among Industrial Engineering faculty every two years. In 2006, he led an effort in the College of Engineering to develop a proposal for a first-year program for all engineering students at the U of A. In October 2006, the College of Engineering faculty voted to create the Freshman Engineering Program, and in November of the same year, Cassady was appointed its first Director. Dr. Cassady was promoted to full professor with tenure in August of 2008.

Cassady is teaching and research are focused in the areas



of Reliability & Maintenance Engineering, Statistical Quality Control, Operations Research and Probability & Statistics. Among Cassady's many teaching and research accolades is the prestigious, campus-wide Baum Faculty Teaching Award in 2006.

This is Cassady's first year teaching in the OMGT program, and he will be teaching OMGT 4873 Principles of Operations Research for Fayetteville students in Term III starting on January 11th.