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Razor's Edge Remote Edition

Operations Management

3-10-2010

Razor's Edge: Remote Student Segment, March 10, 2010 - May 14, 2010

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering. (2010). Razor's Edge: Remote Student Segment, March 10, 2010 - May 14, 2010. *Razor's Edge Remote Edition*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/razors-edge-remote/7>

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MSOM Program—A Rich 35 Year 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, initial program sites were 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 was handled by U of A 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 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 site was started in 2000. Dr. Sandra Parker succeeded Dr. Asfahl as Program Director. She retired and was replaced by the current Director, Dr. Ed Pohl.

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



Don't Get Locked Out! UARK Password



Students must check their UARK email regularly for notifications and other official UARK correspondence. A good idea is to have your UARK emails forwarded to a personal email ac-

count that you check more regularly (see Student Handbook—section II C.)

A very important notification that is sent periodically to students' UARK email instructs them to change their passwords within 30 days. If this is not done, a student will be LOCKED OUT OF UARK EMAIL & BLACKBOARD. This

could happen in the middle of a term, causing you be unable to login for a day or two! Resetting a password after getting "locked out" involves contacting the Registrar's Office.

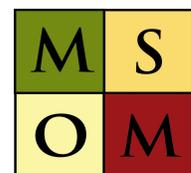
For questions, comments, or assistance, please contact Computing Services' Help Desk at 479-575-2905.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ◇ 4/26/10: Term V Registration Begins
- ◇ 5/6/10: Term IV Classes End
- ◇ 5/8/10: Graduation Day
- ◇ 5/17/10: Term V Classes Begin

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MSOM VS. MBA: HOW THEY DIFFER

While our degree focuses on management skills for individuals who manage work processes, projects and people at various levels of any kind of organization, the MBA tends to deal more with high-finance, starting or acquiring companies, floating stock issues, and other matters of interest to top management or to entrepreneurs. There are always going to be more general management jobs than CEO-level positions. So while our degree will always be more practical and marketable for those wishing to advance in management, it compares particularly well now given the current financial crisis. <http://finance.yahoo.com/college-education/article/105779/B-Schools-Wary-on-Lehman,-Merrill-Impact>

The 2010-2011 academic year schedule will be posted on our website sometime in July. Link to check:

http://www.uark.edu/rd_engr/omgt/2516.php?code=REMOTE

Student Spotlight: Stephanie Parry



Stephanie Parry, a May 2009 MSOM graduate, wants to share good news about how this degree helped her attain a new position. Stephanie completed the MSOM with a focus in Human Resource

Management. Before starting the OMGT program at the University of Arkansas, Stephanie earned her undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University.

Stephanie's husband Andrew Parry (pictured) was assigned to Guam last year. Soon after, Stephanie's resume was identified as a perfect match for a newly formed position there with DZSP 21, a provider of a wide variety of services in areas ranging from trans-

portation and facilities maintenance to port operations and public affairs. She's pleased to begin serving that company as an HR Generalist.

"This degree, and the HR focus area I selected, totally opened huge doors for me," said Stephanie. "Now as my husband and I continue to move around the world, I'm hopeful my education and experience will continue to shine."

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 omgtrem@uark.edu to share with your MSOM classmates!

Remote Access to the U of A Library

The University Libraries strive to offer students enrolled in University of Arkansas distance education courses services equivalent to those available to students on the Fayetteville Campus.

What services are available?

- ◇ Remote access to library databases and electronic collections
 - More than 100 research databases
 - More than 7,000 online journals and magazines
 - A growing collection of electronic books
 - Reference works such as encyclopedias, dictionaries and statistical handbooks
- ◇ Direct delivery of books and article copies
 - Books from UA collections mailed to your home or office
 - Copies of articles or chapters delivered electronically
 - Interlibrary loan services to borrow books or articles from other libraries
- ◇ Reference and research assistance
 - Help in identifying and using appropriate databases
 - Help in locating articles and books on your topic
 - 24/7 chat service with a librarian

Who's eligible?

Currently enrolled University of Arkansas students. Students who are completing a prior term course can gain access by contacting their Program Coordinator.

Are there any charges for distance services?

No. There are no charges for students who meet the criteria above. However, if you borrow a book through Interlibrary Loan, you are responsible for the cost of returning the book to the UA Fayetteville library. Fines apply for late materials, and replacement fees apply for lost materials.

Who should I contact for more information?

Patricia Kirkwood, Engineering Librarian, at pkirkwo@uark.edu or 479-575-2480.

MSOM By The Numbers

Students often ask just how many students are in the program. Here are the numbers from Term III:

	Number of Students enrolled in Term III	Number of "Seats" Students Registered For
Blytheville	17	21
Camden	16	25
Little Rock	80	122
Hurlburt, FL	80	111
Memphis	83	126
Fayetteville	97	136
Remote	80	111
	Total Students: 453	Total "Seats": 652

That's right! **453** students enrolled in **652** "seats" in Term III 2010!



Julie Watson
Remote Program
Coordinator

Mailing Address:
4207 Bell Engineering Center
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Office Location: 311 Engineering
Hall

Phone: 479-575-5192
Fax: 479-575-4760
E-mail: omgtrem@uark.edu

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

Other Contacts

Dr. Ed Pohl
Director & Chairman of
Studies
479-575-6042
epohl@uark.edu

Dr. Alex Mironoff
Associate Director
479-575-2082
alasare@uark.edu

Nancy Sloan
Associate Director
479-575-7426
ncsloan@uark.edu

Shadaya Kavaar Litt
Administrative Assistant
479-575-4802
slitt@uark.edu

Jamie Snider
Program Secretary
479-575-3413
jssnider@uark.edu

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, projects 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: Bruce Rasmussen

Bruce Rasmussen is one of our faculty members at the University of Arkansas campus at the Naval Support Activity Station in Millington, Tennessee. He also teaches distance courses to students at other locations. Rasmussen came on board in the spring of 2003 teaching Human Resource Management and Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Management. Eventually, Professor Rasmussen added Cost Estimation Models and Strategic Management to his portfolio of courses. In addition, he currently teaches Economic Decision Making, Finance for Operations Managers and Introduction to Operations Management.

Professor Rasmussen comes to the University with over 30 years experience in management. He completed a career in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of Captain. During his Navy career he gained experience as a Project Manager

responsible for numerous multi-million dollar projects. Working his way through the ranks, he eventually assumed command of a Naval Ship. As a Senior Officer, he was the Director of Operations Programs over 80,000 personnel and Director of Human Resources over 170,000 personnel.

After serving in the military, traveling around the world, and moving over 16 times, Professor Rasmussen settled in Millington and started a manufacturing business. The company made custom products for another corporation. When the parent corporation changed product lines, Professor Rasmussen settled in Millington and started a manufacturing business. The company made custom products for another corporation. When the parent corporation changed product lines, Professor Rasmussen decided to retire again in order to spend more time teaching at the University. He spends

his leisure time working in his wood shop and doing organic gardening on 2 acres of land.



Professor Rasmussen married his high school sweetheart, and they raised two children. His son currently serves in the U.S. Army. His daughter married an LSU fan, and they live in Louisiana. The Friday after Thanksgiving is always exciting.

Professor Rasmussen earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee in Mathematics and his Master of Science degree from the University of Arkansas in Operations Management. He attributes most of his success in the military to the knowledge he acquired in the program.