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Razor's Edge

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2007

## Razor's Edge, March 14, 2007-May 10, 2007

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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### Citation

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering. (2007). Razor's Edge, March 14, 2007-May 10, 2007. *Razor's Edge*. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/razors-edge/1>

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## Need Resume/Job Interview Help?



Open to students, faculty/staff, alumni and employers, the Career Development Center can help you do everything from make sense of your employment options to negotiate a job offer. Resume critique services as well as mock interviews are available.

Career Services counselors will help students create quality resumes, steer them toward job openings and help with interviewing skills.

Informative workshops covering topics such as Diversity in the Workplace, Creating Your Personal Branding Statement, Wal-Mart: Committed to Developing Leaders in Our Communities and How to Find a Federal Job are sponsored throughout the year.

For more information on the services offered contact the Career Development Center at 575-2805 or <http://career.uark.edu/>.

**Note that nearly all your professors have extensive experience in the corporate sector. Be sure to get their input on interview skills, resume construction and career advancement.**

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- ◆ 03/27/07: Comprehensive Exams
- ◆ 04/25/07: Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W"
- ◆ 04/30/07: Registration for Term 5 begins
- ◆ 05/12/07: Graduation
- ◆ 05/16/07: Term 5 classes begin

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## Other News and Announcements



Please be on time for exams! Many of you set up appointments with me to take make up and proficiency exams. Occasionally students have arrived late or not shown up at all. It is very important that you arrive at your scheduled time or contact me in advance if you can't make it.

Books for OMGT classes are usually not available at the U of A bookstore on campus. Books can be purchased online from MBS. Simply go to our website [www.opnsmgmt.uark.edu](http://www.opnsmgmt.uark.edu) and click on the Textbooks tab. It's always a good idea to check this site first for any updates before you purchase. Because textbook editions change rapidly, it is also best not to buy textbooks too far in advance.

The only textbooks available for rental are the prerequisite books and OMGT 5003 Introduction to Operations Management. You are responsible for getting your textbook for the other classes.

Please register early for DVD/internet classes. The last two terms my DVD/internet classes have filled up by the second day of registration.





*Food For Thought:* Students in 4623 Strategic Management hold a special class at Dr. Larry Long's office. They enjoyed pizza and sodas while they discussed productivity and cost reduction.

*Student Spotlight: Ron Creech*



Ron Creech is enrolled in his third semester in the Master of Science in Operations Management program and is earning a certificate of specialization in Industrial Management.

Ron was raised in Dixon, Missouri and moved to Mississippi as a teenager.

He completed his bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Mississippi College in 1994, before moving to the Fayetteville area in 1995. Upon completing college, Ron spent the first part of his career working as a manager in the restaurant and retail business.

Ron began working for Tyson Foods' Mexican Original plant in Fayetteville in 2001 as a production supervisor. In 2004, he transferred to the poultry processing facility on Berry Street in Springdale. At Berry Street, Ron progressed

from production supervisor to sanitation supervisor. He was recently promoted to Senior Distribution Coordinator and is based at Tyson corporate headquarters.

Ron has been married for eleven years and has two daughters, ages seven and ten. He is active in his church and coaches his daughter's softball team. His favorite sport is baseball and his favorite team is the St. Louis Cardinals.

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 [ammarti@uark.edu](mailto:ammarti@uark.edu) to share with your OMGT classmates!

### *From The Desk Of...David DelCastillo*

What's in your toolbox?

Many years ago, I set some personal goals for myself with hopes that reaching those goals would help me attain improved career opportunities. I didn't know it, but what I really did was build a career advancement "tool kit." It seems like a stretch to compare such things as education, experience and occupational certifications to wrenches, hammers and sockets, but think about this: a missing tool cannot help you complete a task. When you need a certain size wrench to turn a bolt, nothing else will do!



Your work history and experience are valuable to your employer, and can help lock in that new job. But more often, there are more qualifications that are essential for the position:

**Work Experience and History** - A strong work ethic, a positive attitude and a willingness to be there when your employer needs you will carry you a long way. The old saying, "It's hard to find good help" has a solid ring of truth to it. If you are the "good help" you should make yourself invaluable to your employer. Be accountable and honest with your employer, and you should expect that in return. Stay out of inter-office politics or gossip - it will lead you down a rocky road. Always be prepared with knowledge and facts about the current project. Go the extra mile but don't burn yourself out. In the words of Bill Gates, "You have to make them need you."

**Trade/Occupational Certification** - An FAA airframe and power-plant certificate, a computer or networking certification, an FCC license and an EMT certification are examples of a trade certification that can open doors to you. In the government sector, they may not be required but may be useful to help showcase your experience. If you are currently working in a field that offers a certification, find out what the process is to obtain the license or certification. It may be useful to climb the career ladder, it may open doors for you and you might even learn more about your chosen occupation.

**Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's Degrees** - If you are enrolled in the University of Arkansas OMGIT program, it is safe to assume you have a degree. Encourage your coworkers or mentor a subordinate by encouraging them to set and achieve educational goals. Having a Bachelor's degree is one tool in your box that is invaluable, if the help wanted ad requires one. Sometimes it is not so clear why a Master's degree is important; however, it is a "specialty tool" that is absolutely essential to achieving that next level in employment opportunities. Many employers require you to have a Master's degree to move to upper level management. Even if it is not required it may edge your resume to the top of the pile against other candidates. Today's workplace is an ever more competitive environment for those seeking to move up. If all other factors are equal (experience, work history, certifications), the Master's degree may be all that separates you from the pack.

The UA Operations Management degree provides you with challenges you need to hone your speaking and writing skills, improve your critical thinking processes and understand the need for technology driven management tools. When you earn this degree you have placed an invaluable tool into your inventory, and when you need it, it will serve you well.

*David DelCastillo has extensive experience in aviation as a technician, instructor and manager. He served as a B-52 and KC-135 aircraft mechanic as well as the computer network administrator for his squadron before retiring from the United States Air Force after 21 years of service. He holds a Federal Aviation Administration airframe and powerplant mechanic's certificate. He has over eight years experience as a computer repair technician and network administrator, and is certified through the Computer Technology Industry Association as an A+ certified repair technician. He has a Master of Aeronautics in Management from ERAU.*



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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. 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 earn certificates in areas of specialization 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: Coy Hurd*

Coy Hurd is originally from Northeast Arkansas and has lived in Fayetteville for about twenty years. He has taught for six different universities but says that the U of A is his favorite.

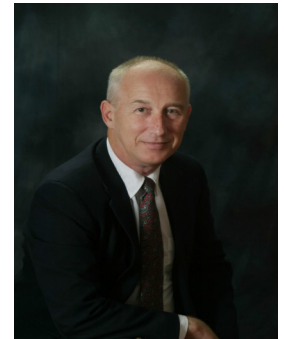
Hurd earned both his Master's and Doctoral degrees from the University of Arkansas. He is also a licensed psychotherapist.

Hurd worked at the University of Arkansas for twelve years as a Program Manager in the

Facilities Management Department. He is currently employed with the City of Fayetteville as a Project Manager responsible for planning and the construction of fire and police stations.

Hurd teaches Organization and Control in the OMGT program.

In his spare time, Hurd plays guitar in a rhythm and blues band. His wife Debra is a Research Associate in the School of Social Work at the U of A.



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