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## Razor's Edge: Remote Student Segment, August 24, 2009 - October 15, 2009

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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The screenshot shows the MSOM website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, Academics, Program Sites, Tuition/Books, Faculty/Staff, Forms/Documents, Info/Request, Alumni, and UA Links. The main content area features a large image of a building tower. To the right of the image is a sidebar with links: Admission Application, Login to Blackboard, ISIS login, Financial Aid Office, UA Mail, Student Handbook, Course Schedule, and Request Information. Below the image, the title "Master of Science in Operations Management" is displayed. The main text describes the program's focus on essential concepts and tools for managing work processes. A "News" section on the right highlights the 2009-2010 Academic Year Schedule and the 35th anniversary of the MSOM program. At the bottom, there are links for Informational Video, Schedule Selection Page, and Current Course Syllabi.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- \* 9/30/09: Term II Registration Begins
- \* 10/5/09: Last Day to Withdraw—Term I
- \* 10/15/09: Term I Classes End
- \* 10/21/09: Term II Begins
- \* 10/26/09: Last Day to Add a Term II Course

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As you probably know, we have recently launched a new MSOM website: [www.msom.uark.edu](http://www.msom.uark.edu). (Homepage above.) With this comprehensive and user friendly site, there will be no need to go back and forth between the Operations Management website and the main University of Arkansas website.

The new MSOM site brings everything together in one convenient location just for our students. It easily relays all that a prospective student may want to know about applying to and getting started in the program. And it puts all information, schedules, links and documents in a simple to navigate format for our current students.

The homepage's upper right corner provides frequently used links, such as Blackboard (log-in to online classes), the Student Handbook and ISIS (course enrollment, grades and account balance.) Don't forget that you can find out your grades within a week after each term ends. Also in the upper right corner of the homepage is a link that will take students to log on their UArk mail. This will help to remind all to check their UArk email frequently.

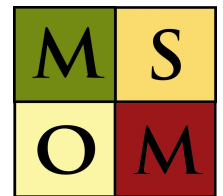
Dates of upcoming events, such as scheduled Oral Comp dates at each site, are now displayed at right in the "News" column.

Students will now find it simple to locate information

on required textbooks for their upcoming courses because a drop down menu takes students directly to all book information as well as to the link for purchasing directly through the MBS online bookstore.

The new site also features a terrific tool for career research and job hunting. The university's Career Development Center puts resources at students' fingertips in one spot.

Hats off to Associate Director Alex Mironoff for his talented and diligent effort in this redesign! If you have suggestions as you explore the new site, please forward them to me.





*Did You Know Facts ... about the MSOM Program*

- ✓ *We are the largest graduate program at the UofA, with over 400 active students.*
- ✓ *Over 4,000 students have graduated from our program.*
- ✓ *Students can earn Focus Area designations in Human Resource Management, Safety and Health Care Management, Business Management, and Industrial Management. The latter two are readily obtainable by remote students.*
- ✓ *We have been in operation at Air Force and Navy military bases since 1974.*
- ✓ *In May, a formal graduation ceremony is held in Fayetteville, Hurlburt, Little Rock & Memphis.*
- ✓ *We have recently obtained a license for "Elluminate," a state-of-the-art instructional application/technology for on-line learning.*

*Student Spotlight: Steven Stoiber*

Steven Stoiber is a new Foreign Service Officer with the Department of State. In June 2009 he and his family were posted to Bangkok, Thailand, where they will serve for the next three years. He is a May graduate of the UofA MSOM Program.

Steven is a retired U.S. Army Warrant Officer. Nineteen of his twenty-one years of Army service were spent overseas in countries such as Germany, Egypt, Pakistan, Lebanon, India and Zimbabwe. After retirement Steven completed two BS degrees in Liberal Arts and in Business Administration. Upon completion of these degrees he was employed by the Joint Special Operations University as a course director for the "Combating Terrorist Networks Seminar".

During this time he and a colleague at the Joint Special Operations University discussed the Master's Degree opportunities accessible to them at the Air Force Special Operations Education Center of Hurlburt Field, Florida. After careful review of all available curriculums, he decided the UofA's was the most challenging *and* had the best mascot. Yes, the final deci-

sion on going with UofA was the Razorback!

While deeply immersed in the MSOM Program Steven was notified by the Department of State that he had been selected to become a Foreign Service Officer, and further, that he had only a few months in which to move from Florida to Washington, DC to begin training. As a consequence he had to transition from taking live classes with the MSOM Program to the remote courses in order complete his degree.

The State Department allowed Steven to stay in Washington through March, 2009 in order to complete his MSOM requirements then in April sent him off to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to work at the American Embassy until June, 2009, at which time they brought him back to the USA to out-process, pack-out and move to Bangkok, Thailand with his family.

Steven continues to use all the elements he has learned from the MSOM program on a daily basis and credits this program with making him a better manager. The education gained from UofA allows him to address problems and embrace technological innovations

more quickly and efficiently than his peers.

Steven was not able to make it back to the UofA for the commencement ceremony in May, 2009, but that did not stop the UofA from recognizing him and his achievements in completing the MSOM half a world away. During the Embassy's annual awards ceremony, Steven was recognized by the U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, Mark C. Minton, for his completion of the MSOM Program.



*In May, student Terry Blauvelt had two major events to celebrate. These were graduating from the MSOM program and welcoming the birth of son ( and future Razorback) Jackson Oliver. "Jack," born May 21st, 2009, is being held by proud big brother Teddy. Terry is the Acting Assistant Office Director for the Missouri State government in the Business Services Division of the Secretary of States Office.*

# OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT - 35 YEARS STRONG!

## THEN...



1974



- Three sites: Little Rock AFB, Blytheville AFB, Naval Air Station Memphis
- 18 courses
- First year's enrollment = 1090
- Tuition = \$65/hour
- 68 graduates in first complete year



## NOW

twitter 2009



- Six sites: Little Rock AFB, Hurlburt Field, FL, Naval Support Academy Mid-South, Fayetteville, Blytheville, Camden, Remote (coast to coast & abroad)
- 23 graduate & 4 undergrad courses
- 08-09 enrollment = 2570
- Tuition = \$240/hr since 2002—Best UA graduate program value
- 200 2008/2009 grads
- Total grads = 4153



Even our endearing Razorback is taking precautions for avoiding the swine flu...! We have students all over the United States and abroad, with varied levels of exposure. Take heed.

During this high-risk time of the year, take action to avoid this serious illness - such as keeping a hand sanitizer near by.

*This bronze statue tribute to our mighty UofA mascot is located on campus at the University House on Maple Street.*

## Congratulations Summer 2009 Graduates!

*Michael Bittenbender, United States Air Force Academy*

*Curtis Hill, Arkansas State University*

*Brian Janssen, University of Texas*

*John Jatta, Millerville University, et al.*

*Kevin Monkman, Southern Illinois University*

*Timothy Murray, Wayland Baptist*

*Rachel Parson, Texas A & M*

*Charles Reichert, Southern Illinois University*

*Justin Scarbrough, Arkansas State University*



*Warm congratulations for your vision, hard work, and dedication in earning this most challenging and valuable degree. Here's wishing all the best in your career and future endeavors.*



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](mailto:omgtrem@uark.edu)

**We're on the Web!**  
**New homepage:**  
[www.MSOM.uark.edu](http://www.MSOM.uark.edu)

#### Other Contacts

**Dr. Ed Pohl**  
Director & Chairman of  
Studies  
575-6042  
[epohl@uark.edu](mailto:epohl@uark.edu)

**Dr. Alex Mironoff**  
Assistant Director  
575-2082  
[alasare@uark.edu](mailto:alasare@uark.edu)

**Nancy Sloan**  
Program Manager  
575-7426  
[nclsloan@uark.edu](mailto:nclsloan@uark.edu)

**Shadaya Kavaar Litt**  
Administrative Assistant  
575-4802  
[plasiter@uark.edu](mailto:plasiter@uark.edu)

**Jamie Snider**  
Program Secretary  
575-3413  
[jssnider@uark.edu](mailto: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 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: Leonard Nethercutt

Leonard Nethercutt has also completed coursework been teaching as a distance toward a PhD in Business learning instructor for the Administration with a concentration in Finance and a more than 10 years. He frequently teaches 5003 Introduction to Operations Management and 4873 Principles of Operations Research. He also teaches two of the prereq undergrad courses: 4323 Industrial Cost and 4333 Statistics.

His assigned classes generally include Finance, Economics, quantitative methods and analysis, cost estimation, project analysis, and cost analysis. His education includes a BS in Accounting and an MBA from UALR (Arkansas-Little Rock). He

also completed coursework toward a PhD in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and a minor in Economics from the University of Memphis. His dissertation is still in progress; however, he has been published twice in academic journals as a result of his dissertation research.

His business background and experience include several closely held business ventures that run the gamut from management consulting services to multi-state retail operations in partnership with major oil companies, and wholesale petroleum distribution. He is from Mayflower, AR and is



married with one daughter. He and his family enjoy horseback riding, golf, snow skiing, and fishing.

In Term 2, Professor Nethercutt will be teaching OMGT 4783 Principles of Operations Research, as well as OMGT 5003 Introduction to Operations Management - both online courses.

**The Fall oral comprehensive exam dates will be posted on the MSOM homepage, in the "News" column. They will be held in Fayetteville, Hurlburt and Little Rock in late October.**

***Please let me know if you would like to join the schedule.***