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Razor's Edge: Remote Student Segment, January 11, 2010 - March 4, 2010

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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The Big 5 Questions to Ask About Online Degree Programs

(according to www.military.com, which serves all United States Military Services)

Hitting the mark in all five of these areas affirms that the University of Arkansas MSOM program is topnotch, while also representing an outstanding value.

√ **1. How is the course delivered?** There are many ways that an instructor can lecture: online using text, with accompanying slides, with or without student interaction, video, teleconferencing, audiotapes, CD-ROM, etc. Course content is more easily understood if it's presented in a dynamic engaging manner that involves an interaction between the students, the instructor, and the material. When you choose a program you should make sure that your online school utilizes many different methods to convey information.

√ **2. How do I interact with the instructor and other students?** Some standard options for online student interaction include chat rooms, instant messaging, teleconferencing, and video conferencing. Finding a program that facilitates, and even requires, student interaction is an important aspect of choosing an online program. How the online community functions should be very important to both the instructor and the institution.

√ **3. How will I be evaluated?** Will you actually be required to work in order to earn your degree. If students aren't evaluated appropriately and degrees are handed out with little or no verification that the students have actually learned anything, the program is not likely worthwhile and even less likely to be accepted by employers. A school that offers shortcuts may actually be a diploma mill, and should be avoided.

√ **4. What kind of library and research materials are available?** Ensure that the school you are interested in has a good system for providing reference materials and texts—they should be accessible from anywhere. The school's online references should be up-to-date and available at any time.

√ **5. Is the school Regionally or Nationally accredited?** Ask about the school's credentials and the degrees the instructors hold. Many unaccredited online schools will eagerly grant you a degree, however these degrees from unaccredited schools are worthless. A diploma mill or unaccredited school should be avoided.

<http://www.military.com/education/content/finding-a-school/evaluating-an-online-degree-program.html>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 2/17/10: Term IV Registration Begins
- 2/22/10: Last Day to drop Term III course
- 3/10/10: Term IV Classes Begin
- 3/15/10: Last day to add a course

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Did You Know Facts ... about the MSOM Program

- √ *The MSOM remote segment is the largest ever! In Term III, there are 80 students with 111 enrollments. This is up 46% from last year. Many thanks for your referrals.*
- √ *"Get "Plugged In.." MSOM manages Remote Student and a MSOM Alumni LinkedIn groups (LinkedIn is the most established professional networking website). Go to <http://www.linkedin.com/>, become a member and search for University of Arkansas Master of Science in Operations Management Program (Remote Segment). Then request to be a member. Post such things as a discussion item, job opening, and more.*
- √ *To showcase your hard-earned diploma, frame sets can be purchased through SAKE (Students Seeking Knowledge through Enterprise). Framing options include a charcoal hand rubbing of your name from the Senior Walk, mats, and prints of Old Main or hog mascot. SAKE is a non-profit business operated as a college credit class by students at the University of Arkansas' Walton College of Business. Check out <http://www.sake.org/>. They also sell artwork and apparel.*

Student Spotlight: Bill Layne



Bill Layne is from Farmington, AR and earned his bachelor's degree in Organizational Management at John Brown University. He served 10 years in the US Army, and attended a 1 year program at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA. There he learned to read, write and speak Korean. Bill served three duty assignments as a counterintelligence agent, travelling to Ha-

waii, Europe, the Middle East, AR, and South Korea.

After his service in the Army, Bill worked at JB Hunt for 4 years, first in Corporate Security/Emergency Medicine then in Operations. He left Hunt to work for a smaller trucking operation for about 14 months, then went into the box industry. He worked at Love Box/Pratt Industries for two years until a force reduction prompted him to consider the MSOM Program. Bill says being enrolled in MSOM classes was a key element in helping him to secure an internship as Production Manager (a new career direction) at Specialty Fasteners. Specialty Fasteners is a mid-size nail manufacturer in Prairie Grove,

Bill has been married to his wife, Erin, for 17 years and they have two children. Brit-tany is 16 and an Honors Student at Farmington High School. Caleb is 13, very active with the Boy Scouts of America and on his way to making Eagle Scout. Bill is active with the Scouts, loves to camp, fish, canoe, hunt, hike and play golf. He teaches 7th and 8th grade Boys Sunday School at First Baptist Farmington. He recently joined Kiwanis and is a member of the Gideon's International.

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!

Congratulations Fall 2009 Graduates!

Trina L. Fletcher, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Dawana S. Jones, University of Honolulu

Louis O. Morris, Mississippi State University

Clinton R. Morton, Arkansas State University

Michael W. Terrell, Crichton College

Andrew P. Smith, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith

Christopher D. Womack, University of Arkansas



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.



Introducing Luci Ava, whose proud father and mother are MSOM students. Mitch and Brockette Minnick were blessed with this little beauty May 26th. Shown here at six months, Luci is bound to turn heads for years to come!



Have you moved? Be sure to complete and send to me a Change of Address form (located on the Forms & Documents webpage.)



For students throughout the U.S. and abroad, a RazALERT call in the wee hours of the morning with news not pertinent to them is likely to be more annoying than helpful. RazALERT *is the University of Arkansas' emergency notification system that reports information relevant to the Fayetteville campus such as inclement weather closures, etc.*

Students are automatically signed up for this system when they enroll. You can opt out of these notifications or select how you receive messages by logging into your [ISIS](#) account. In "Student Center" select "Personal Information" (located under the "Finances" section.) Then select "Other personal..." and "Campus Alerts System" which allows editing and deleting phone/cell numbers and email address.



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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, 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 MSOM Associate Director: Dr. Alexander Mironoff

Dr. Alex Mironoff is the Associate Director of the Operations Management Program with responsibility for recruiting in Fayetteville, Blytheville and Camden and for developing and distributing promotional materials to all sites. His chief assignment is to reach prospective students in this rapidly growing corner of the state with the goal of making Fayetteville a "flagship" site for the program. He also recruits local faculty, edits program materials, and recruits for smaller sites in the state. In addition, Dr. Mironoff reviews all students' Special Problems proposals and serves as Advisor to all students at civilian sites, which account for nearly half the OMGT student body.

He joined the department in 2005 after a long career in the corporate sector, working primarily in Human Resource

Management for companies such as J.B. Hunt Transport, Unum-Provident, Cabot Corporation and Fluor Engineers.

Alex began his career as a Russian translator at NASA's Johnson Space Center prior to the U.S.-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz Mission which culminated in 1975. While there, he met his wife Hana, a fellow translator. He organized a translation department for Fluor Engineers when the company landed a contract to design and build gas processing plants in Western Siberia. It is a point of pride with Alex that none of the translations he was responsible for ever led to equipment malfunctions, explosions or international incidents.

Alex has a B.A. and M.A. in Slavic Languages and Literatures from Harvard University. In 2001 he earned a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology

from the University of Arkansas.

When not acting as groundskeeper at his homestead in the country, Alex enjoys writing, film, and other intellectual pursuits. He has, however, also been known to enjoy watching "Family Guy," "The Simpsons," and similar entertainments not reputed for their subtlety or refinement.



Alex Mironoff