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Razor's Edge

Operations Management

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2008

## Razor's Edge, October 22, 2008-December 17, 2008

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. College of Engineering

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# THE RAZOR'S EDGE

TERM II 2008

10/22/08-12/17/08

### The Oral Comprehensive Exam

Successful completion of a comprehensive examination is one of the final steps toward earning the MSOM degree. The comprehensive exam is a tool for evaluating the student to verify that he/she has achieved a sufficient level of knowledge and expertise in the OMGT curriculum to be awarded the degree. The exam also serves as an assessment of the effectiveness of both the teaching in the program as well as curriculum content.

Oral examinations are given 3 times a year in Fayetteville. To be eligible for the examination, a student must have completed all prerequisite courses and 8 graduate courses, which may include approved graduate transfer credit. The oral exam panel consists of 3-4 faculty members. Only questions from

courses that the student has taken are asked. The questions on the exam are designed to measure knowledge of the basic concepts and principles of each course. The student is expected to be able to delve into topics in depth and with understanding of the concepts, rather than simply providing rote answers from the textbook.

To prepare for the exam, students should review the main ideas from each course. It is very helpful to keep textbooks and notes for each class completed. Some useful review techniques include re-reading class notes; making an outline of principal concepts from each course; preparing a glossary of key terms, theories, and leaders/ideas in specific fields.

Although there is a high

pass rate for the MSOM comprehensive exam, students should not take the exam lightly. Seriousness of purpose should be expressed by the student's diligent preparation, positive attitude, and professional manner of dress.

Any questions asked during the comprehensive exam are expected to remain confidential. Passing information about the content of the exam itself on to other students is considered a violation of the University's academic honesty policy.

For more information, including a sample question and a typical discussion, click on the "Comprehensive Exam Preparation" link on the Forms & Documents page of the OMGT website.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

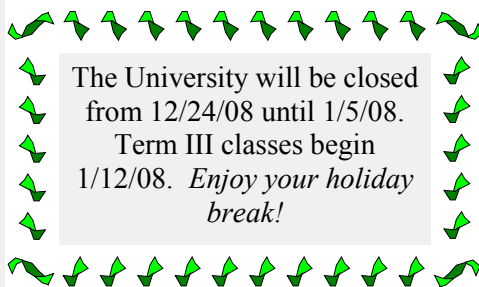
- ◆ 11/27/08-11/28/08: Thanksgiving break (University closed)
- ◆ 12/8/08: Term III registration begins
- ◆ 12/17/08: Term II classes end
- ◆ 12/24/08-1/2/09: Christmas break (University closed)

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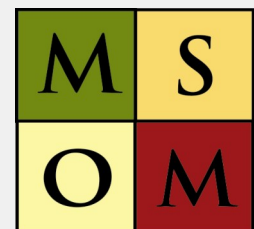
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### Other News & Announcements

**WOW!!!** Term I enrollments for the Fayetteville site set a new record! Fayetteville students enrolled in over 130 seats for Term I courses, making us the largest site in the OMGT program! I know many of you have been spreading the word about our program. Come by my office for posters, brochures, schedules, etc. to post at work or share with your colleagues. Thank you for your help in recruiting!



**Have you moved? Make sure to update me if your mailing or email addresses have changed.**



*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, Walmart: 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.***

**E-Recruiting Available to UA Students** Did you know that the University of Arkansas has over 500 jobs posted on eRecruiting right now and that students have access to the site? Your eRecruiting "username" is your full uark log-in name and your password is the word "password". Get into eRecruiting and find a job at <https://uark.erecruiting.com/> There are jobs waiting for all majors. Have questions? Call the Career Development Center at 575-2805.

*Student Spotlight: Jack & Maria King*



Jack and Maria King are both registered professional geologists with Master's degrees from the University of Arkansas. Maria received her Bachelors degree in Geology in Venezuela in 1998 and Jack received his Bachelors degree in Geology in 1983 from Arkansas Tech University. They met in the jungle of South America on a diamond exploration project.

Jack and Maria have worked in Utah, Colorado, Texas, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska,

Iowa, North Carolina, and Arkansas, all for economic mineral exploration concerns. They have also worked in the South American nations of Venezuela, Guyana, and Argentina.

Jack was hired as the Project Manager for Northwest Guyana Sacre-Coeur Minerals last fall and the couple relocated to Port Kaituma, Guyana. Jack oversaw 80 workers, an exploration office, and 3 jungle camps. Maria managed all the GIS work for NW Guyana and made decisions on prospective areas for gold exploration.

Without seeing anything of the outside world except for a supply helicopter every two

weeks and with only a short wave radio as a means of communication, the Kings had to put their OMGT coursework on hold. The Kings returned to the US in December 2007 when Jack was offered a position to plan and organize an exploration program for uranium in Utah. They have returned to Fayetteville and resumed classes this fall.

Jack and Maria have three children, Lian (3 weeks), John (2 years) and Carlyne (5 years). They also have a small heavy minerals lab next to their home, where they process samples for microscopic diamond indicator minerals, for various companies doing diamond exploration work.

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

### *Meet the OMGT Staff*

Most of you are familiar with my many duties and functions as Program Coordinator - registrar, advisor, recruiter, event planner, and advocate for students. I want to introduce you to the other Operations Management personnel and functions that are located on the University of Arkansas main campus in Fayetteville.

**Suzanne Kenner:** Suzanne is the Program Coordinator for students in Blytheville and Camden. Since her students are located in different areas of the state, the majority of her work is done by email and phone.

**Pamela Lasiter:** Pamela is the Administrative Assistant for the Operations Management program, and the newest member of our staff. Pamela handles the accounting functions of the program and supervises the video staff.

**Christine Maupin:** Christine is the program's secretary. Among her multitude of tasks, she assists with admission paperwork and requirements letters, maintains our student records, and keeps our faculty up to date with the latest textbooks for the courses they teach. She also processes and ships all the video orders to our military locations, another vital function in our program.

**Alex Mironoff:** Alex is the Assistant Director of the OMGT program. 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, reviews all special problems proposals, edits program materials, and recruits for smaller sites in the state.

**Nancy Sloan:** In effect, Nancy is the Operations Manager for the program. She supervises all the program coordinators and ensures that the "behind the scenes" tasks are done so the program can run smoothly. She also handles admissions, prerequisite evaluations, registration, financial functions, and serves on comp exam committees.

**Julie Watson:** Julie is the remote Program Coordinator for students who are not located near an established OMGT site. Her students come from all over the U.S. She is working on expanding our program on military bases where we have no live site yet.

**Video Productions:** The staff includes Logan, who works for us part-time. They are the ones who record live classes for video courses and produce DVDs for distribution.

#### 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>



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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. 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 several faculty members at the U of A campus located at the Naval Support Activity Station in Millington, Tennessee. In addition to live classes he also teaches distance courses to students in other locations. Professor Rasmussen came on board in the spring of 2003 to teach Human Resource Management and Contemporary Issues in Human Resource Management. He soon expanded his portfolio of courses to include Cost Estimation Models and Strategic Management. 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 numer-

ous multi-million dollar projects. Working his way through the ranks, he eventually assumed command of a 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 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 often an exciting day for the family due to the usual matchup between these two rivals.

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