

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

Introducing the first edition for the Distance/Remote student segment

TERM II 2008

12/01/08

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

MSOM Program—a Rich 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, stateside 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!



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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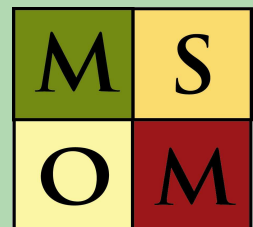
Other News & Announcements

WOW!!! The Distance/Remote segment of the MSOM continues to break records! Distance students had over 80 “seats” for Term I courses, throughout the U.S. & abroad. I know many of you have been spreading the word about our program. I would love to provide posters, brochures, schedules, etc. to post at work or share with your colleagues & friends. FYI: referral awards include MSOM caps, t-shirts & more!!



 The University will be closed from 12/24/08 until 1/5/08. Term III classes begin 1/12/08. *Enjoy your holiday break!*

Have you moved? Make sure to complete a “Change of Address Form” on our Form & Documents web page link & send to me. Also, let me know of any email addresses changes ASAP.



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. Although these are held in Fayetteville, Career Services has prepared printed materials

on each topic. For more information on the services offered contact the Career Development Center at 479-575-2805 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, career advancement and job opportunities networking.

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 479-575-2805.

Student Spotlight: NSAM Student Matthew Underwood



Meet a Memphis student, Matthew Underwood. He has been featured in The Commercial Appeal (a Memphis newspaper) Arkansas Democrat Gazette (Little Rock) & on National Public Radio.

Navy Lt. Matthew Underwood of Germantown, TN volunteered for a special assignment to help show the Afghan National Army how to operate a modern human resources department. But before returning home in March, he helped save the life of a boy severely injured by a land mine.

He worked with his wife, Jennifer, to distribute about 50 tons of food, school supplies, clothes and other items to about 100 children in Afghan villages. Matt has returned to his normal duty of helping the Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN manage Navy careers.

He grew up in Memphis, and attended Christian Brothers University in Memphis before transferring to the University of Memphis and its Navy ROTC program. While in Afghanistan, he completed four OMG T courses.

In the service since 2002, Matt is trained as a "ship driver," but he's been assigned to the personnel command since 2005. He volunteered for the "temporary additional duty" to seize the opportunity to

experience a kind of shore duty he wouldn't normally have. One day, he was in a convoy picking up and distributing supplies when a caravan it came across tried to get the convoy's attention. Matt's convoy stopped, and he learned that two boys there had just accidentally stepped on an old land mine. One boy lost his leg and the other lost an eye. Matt helped save the life of one of the boys by applying a tourniquet and starting him on an IV.

He says the hours of work could vary widely in Afghanistan, from five hours a week to 80. "Like anything else in life, you have to make time for what you want. There'd be a few weeks when I'd get two or three hours of sleep at night," he says. Matt received his MSOM degree last May with a Focus Area Designation in Human Resources.

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 OMG T classmates!

Meet the OMGT Staff

Most of you are familiar with my many duties and functions as Program Coordinator - advisor, recruiter, registrar and advocate for “distance/remote” students that take all courses outside a live classroom. 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 outside locations, another vital function in our program.

Dr. Ed Pohl: Dr. Pohl is our Director and Chairman of Studies. He holds the MSOM most executive role and teaches for the program. Outside of MSOM, he is an associate professor in the UA Industrial Engineering Department. He is renowned in research areas such as maintenance, data analysis and engineering optimization. He also holds the John L. Imhoff Chair.

Dr. Alex Mironoff: Dr. Mironoff is the Assistant Director of the OMGT program. His chief assignment is to reach prospective students in northwest Arkansas, our newest and now largest site. 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.

April Martin: April is the Program Coordinator for Fayetteville students. Since her students reside in this area, she coordinates the live classes and personally services her students. She also participates in local recruiting fairs.

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 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 numer-

ous 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.

We're on the Web! www.opnsmgmt.uark.edu

Other Contacts

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