

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Starting this month, University of Phoenix will celebrate its 30th anniversary. The University has established a unique scholarship program to mark this milestone, allowing its many successful alumni the opportunity to help somebody else realize the dream of a college degree. The "University of Phoenix, Paying it Forward" Scholarship Program will give alumni the opportunity to nominate someone they know would benefit personally or professionally by earning a college degree. The University will then select 30 recipients of the full-tuition scholarship to pursue a bachelor's degree at University of Phoenix in a program of their choosing.

A commemorative website has been created at <http://30years.phoenix.edu> in connection with the 30-year celebration.

Since its founding in 1976, more than a quarter-million students from virtually every corner of the globe have graduated from the University, furthering its aim of broadening access to education through the use of technology and adult-based learning models.

"Throughout our 30-year history, University of Phoenix has provided the technology, scheduling and coursework to inspire our working students to improve their lives with a college degree," said Brian Mueller, president of University of Phoenix's parent company Apollo Group, Inc. "Our success as an organization has always been built on individual student success stories, and the University will continue to innovate on behalf of working students everywhere."

University of Phoenix was established in 1976 by Dr. John Sperling to meet a growing need for learning opportunities that were sensitive to the learning characteristics and schedules of busy working students. Since then, the school has pioneered new approaches to curriculum and teaching, including providing extensive student support throughout all steps of the college experience; hiring faculty practitioners who have real-world work experience, in addition to strong academic credentials; offering classes online so that students can attend class and complete coursework at times that are convenient to their schedules; and providing learning materials electronically through rEsource, the University of Phoenix's platform for delivering electronic course materials and services. The rEsource platform also includes access to the University's vast online library—one of the most comprehensive digital collections available with numerous subscription databases containing over 22,000 periodicals, as well as dissertations, conference proceedings, financial reports, key reference books, a 600-volume e-textbook collection, and simulations that allow students to practice decision-making in a safe environment.

"While the country's economy and higher education climate have changed significantly over the last few decades, the mission of University of Phoenix has remained constant—to meet the education needs of our working students. We've developed technologies and learning models to make sure we deliver on that promise with every student," said Dr. John Sperling, the University's founder and Acting Executive Chairman of the Board.

At its inception, the University offered 12 undergraduate degree programs. The school's hundreds of thousands of current students can choose from a vast number and variety of degree programs, including master's and doctoral programs. Throughout its history, the University's offerings have been carefully selected to mirror the demands of the American economy.



photo by Peter Speyer



University of Phoenix

## Axia College Moves Mainstream

Apollo Group, Inc., the parent company of University of Phoenix, announced in May that Axia College has become a new division of University of Phoenix.

For 30 years, University of Phoenix has been developing tools and technologies to teach the non-traditional adult learner. Today, non-traditional students are the norm. As part of University of Phoenix, Axia College will be able to harness tools and best practices in higher education to meet the needs of military students, teaching those students how to learn online, build a stable foundation for future studies, and most importantly, manage personal demands while achieving their educational goals.

University of Phoenix is committed to serving the unique needs of Axia College students seeking their associate degrees. Military students have transferred to Axia College of University of Phoenix. Their credits have been reevaluated and another student agreement has been issued. In many cases, students receive additional credit toward their degree program for elective and interdisciplinary course work.

SEE **A Unique and Interactive Format**, Pg. 4



photo by Pvt. Charlie Chavez

**ONLINE NURSING** STORY ON Pg. 3

Want to learn more about online programs at University of Phoenix? Call to speak to a military enrollment representative at 800-680-9770 or visit [www.uopx.com/patriot](http://www.uopx.com/patriot)

# FINDING STRENGTH IN EDUCATION

## Army Servicewoman and Online Student Christina Wall Shares Her Story

It was December of 2004. I was attending Axia College of University of Phoenix. Having served in the army and raising a family, it was difficult to find the time to visit the actual classroom, so the online environment was ideal. I previously attended Kansas State University and was anxious to get back to class.

My greatest fear was not being able to financially maintain a steady attendance. However, I was a thankful recipient of special government funding to assist with tuition- it was my goal to achieve a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree at University of Phoenix.

I was steadily going to school and enjoying every minute of it when tragedy struck. I was in the third week of class on July 6, 2004, when my husband Steve said he was feeling ill—his back hurt. I took him to the emergency room in Davenport, Iowa, only to find him whisked away to surgery immediately. Several hours later, my daughter and I were taken to a room where we waited for the surgeon.



Christina picture with husband Steven a month before his passing.

I was not prepared for what came next. According to the doctors, my husband had stage four pancreatic cancer— we were told he had three to five months to live. I felt as if the surgeon had punched me in the stomach. This could not be! My husband never complained and we had just returned home from camping over the 4th of July—the first time without our kids—we danced in the dark and slept on the ground in sleeping bags!

My husband was in the intensive care unit at the hospital for seven days. Meanwhile I worried about school—how was I supposed to stay focused? I had papers due and a team who depended on me. At this point my family needed me more. It was July 14th before we took him home. Our son Steven flew home from Eglin Air Force Base to celebrate his 21st birthday with his father.

Meanwhile, school loomed. I was coming up on the fifth week and I had to finish this class. My final paper was due and I wrote with a passion unlike I had for any other paper. In the mist of adversity, I finished the paper receiving an “A.” I finished my class but decided to take a couple of weeks off.

I never thought my husband would leave us—it was unfath-



The grave site of Steve Wall.

omable to me. On July 22nd, his condition had deteriorated. I called the hospice nurse who summoned an ambulance. By 3:00 a.m. the next morning, he was settled in the Oncology ward. I held his hand and talked to him, sang to him and let him know I was there. I was taking my breaths the same as his until he slipped away. He succumbed to his cancer only seventeen days after being diagnosed. After spending half my life with this man, he was gone.

Steve served twenty four years in the Army and his military funeral was befitting. Our son returned after being granted 30 days emergency leave.

Two months after my husband's passing, I was deployed to support the military efforts in the global war on terrorism. I am an Ammunition Manger responsible for the accountability of pre-positioned stocks afloat. I had started class again, this time a nutritional class which helped in some ways for I had lost 20 pounds from worry and grief.

After this, I had two more classes to go to achieve my associate degree, both of which were math classes. There were some days I cried over my homework. There were others days I didn't care “how to find x or y.” Yet, I trudged on and achieved an “A” in both subsequent classes. I felt my strength coming back. My financial counselor came through for me as well. He contacted the Veterans Administration to help maintain my financial aid and ensured that I received the University of Phoenix military discount.

I finally received my associate degree on February 7, 2006. I purchased the best frame University of Phoenix had. It sits on my nightstand so that I can see it every morning and know that every minute devoted to education will make my life better.

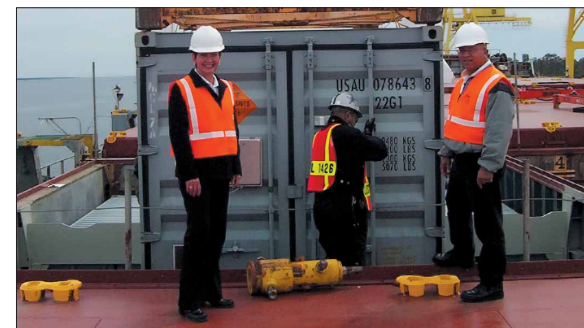
If it had not been for the support of my counselors and advisors at University of Phoenix, I would not have been able to achieve my goals. It's like exercise. Once you stop it's hard to start again. Our son is approaching the end of his four year enlistment now. He has considered reenlisting in the Air Force on his father's birthday, June 16, 2006, for four more years. He is enrolling in University of Phoenix as well.

My future plans are to continue taking classes and graduate with a bachelor's degree in spring 2008. University of Phoenix allowed me to overcome obstacles that were immeasurable; when doubt crept in, I held steady. An education is a lifelong reward. It is a benefit that will enrich one's life. After ten years of attending various colleges, University of Phoenix helped me align my credits and complete my degree. Time is of the essence, and it is the will that drives you to succeed. We often do things for others— this is one thing you must do for yourself.

Thank you, University of Phoenix, for changing my life.  
Written by Christina Wall



Deployed, unknown location, with a work associate.



Deployed, unknown location, standing with associates.

## United States Coast Guard Celebrates 216 Years of Service

In August, veteran and active-duty Coast Guard members around the globe celebrated the United States Coast Guard's 216th birthday. Rich in tradition, the Coast Guard's military roots date back to 1790 when the Lighthouse Service established the Revenue Cutter Service, sanctioned by Alexander Hamilton under the Treasury Department.

The United States Coast Guard is the nation's oldest maritime military force. Today, the Coast Guard combines five formerly separate divisions of the Federal government which were eventually merged into the single unit. With multiple missions and responsibilities, the modern Coast Guard has been successful in defending a number of today's national security interests. Currently the Coast Guard, a division of Homeland Security, has a vital role supporting the military forces abroad.

Participating with multi mission character and capabilities, as well as unique abilities in port, coastal and environmental security, the U.S. Coast Guard has served in numerous roles during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Coast Guard has a tremendous responsibility in support of the military in its ongoing fight against terrorism.



Coast Guard Cutter Eagle under full sail off the coast of Puerto Rico.  
photo by PA1 Telfair H. Brown

# University of Phoenix Keeps Online Nursing Students on the Pulse of Health Care

To keep up with the constant changes in the health care field, University of Phoenix has rolled out three new degree programs designed to keep online students abreast of changes within the nursing profession.

## NURSES IN DEMAND!

At the heart of health care systems around the world are nurses. Registered nurses (RNs) represent the largest, single component of the health care profession with an estimated 2.7 million RNs in the United States. According to a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. currently has a nurse shortage of nearly 150,000 RNs and will have a shortage of more than 800,000 RNs by the year 2020.

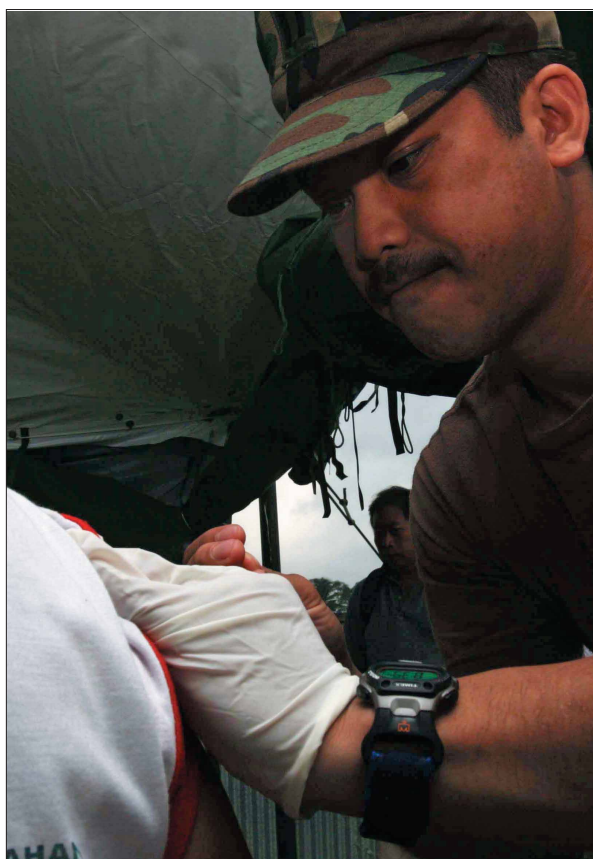
University of Phoenix is committed to helping the nation combat this critical nursing shortage with expanded graduate programs designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of RNs. To complement the Master of Science in Nursing degree program, the University has unveiled three new specializations: Master of Science in Nursing/Integrative Health care, Master of Science in Nursing/Health care Education, and the Master of Science in Nursing/ Master of Health Administration dual degree. These programs were designed to keep students on the cutting-edge of the healthcare industry and meet the needs of specialized medicine. The programs prepare nurses to function in leadership roles, advanced nursing theory, and provides the foundation for nurses to influence the future of nursing and health care. The Master of Science in Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE). For more information on accreditation, please contact CCNE at One DuPont Circle, NW; Washington, DC; 20036-1120 or at (202) 887-6791.

## NEW NURSING DEGREE PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND INFORMATION

### *Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Health Administration*

The Master of Science in Nursing and Master of Health Administration (MSN/MHA) degree program is designed to provide nurses with a unique blend of advanced nursing and health care related business skills to manage in today's evolving health care delivery systems. The program incorporates parts of both degrees providing students with the knowledge and skills to effectively face issues and trends impacting health care. Nurses who intend to advance to the director level or higher within an organization will find the program to be very helpful in the pursuit of these career goals.

The MSN portion of the degree is designed for nurses who want to pursue more advanced positions in the health care environment. The curriculum blends nursing theory and



**Peace Navy Preoperative Nurse Lt. Jason Patacsil gives a tetanus vaccination.**

*photo by Lance Cpl. Warren Peace*

advanced practice concepts to prepare students to work in any size health care organization or nursing setting.

The MSN program consists of three major areas: the core, the major, and the cognate. The core incorporates the theory of nursing, influence of nursing research, and the advanced practice of nursing. The major includes advanced coursework in nursing—management of families and aggregates, administration, and education.

The MHA curriculum focuses on the content related to finance, economics, policy, quality improvement, marketing, and strategic planning. Graduates enhance their management and administrative backgrounds through curriculum that provides them with the ability to apply theory to contemporary practice applications.

*Master of Science in Nursing/ Health Care Education* The Health care Education curriculum\* is designed for nursing and health care professionals interested in pursuing or advancing in careers as faculty in higher educational settings.

Those with no background in higher education receive a strong foundation for many dimensions of the faculty role. Current educators can update or expand their knowledge in curriculum development, assessment and evaluation, and instructional strategies.

*\*This credit-bearing specialization is also available as a certificate program for post-baccalaureate students.*

*Master of Science in Nursing/ Integrative Health care* The Integrative Health care curriculum\* focuses on a synthesis or blend of conventional care with alternative and complementary healing therapies. Those with little or some knowledge in the field can learn more about the background and current status of integrative care, as well as health policy, legal, regulatory and ethical issues. An overview of commonly-used alternative and complementary healing therapies provides a strong foundation for continued learning. Participants develop a proposal for an integrative health care project or course, based on their current or future work setting.

*\*This credit-bearing specialization is also available as a certificate program for post-baccalaureate students.*

## UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX NURSING PROGRAMS: RELEVANT AND ON THE CUTTING EDGE

The cornerstone of all of the MSN programs is the integration of theoretical/conceptual foundations from multiple disciplines into practice, education and research. The program is set up to guide the advanced development of critical thinking, evidence-based therapeutic interventions, and communication with individuals, families and communities.

All instructors in the MSN programs are experienced practitioners. The faculty's advanced theoretical knowledge base, coupled with experience in the profession, allows them to understand and respond to the educational requirements of the program. Faculty members demonstrate their mentorship in the classroom by bridging theory, education, and service; they evidence their scholarship through the advancement of practice and serve as role models for students.

University of Phoenix responds to the ever-changing health care environment by enhancing positive relationships with organizations, vigorously maintaining the relevance of the curriculum, and developing graduates to assume leadership positions in the profession and in their communities internationally.

For more information on the Master of Science in Nursing degree programs online, contact a University of Phoenix enrollment representative.

## MAJOR SUCCEEDING IN DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAM ONLINE

*University of Phoenix Allows Busy Air Force Service Member Attain Goals*

Currently stationed in Europe, Major John C. Mateer utilizes University of Phoenix's doctoral degree program in the online format to the fullest. Maj. Mateer takes his education seriously and values the reputation of the University of Phoenix doctoral degree programs.

According to Mateer, "I chose the University of Phoenix online doctoral degree program because of its reputation as a top notch school, Online portability, and convenience." Maj. Mateer first earned his bachelor's degree from the Air Force Academy, in Space Operations. He went on to receive a master's in Adult Education and Higher Learning from the University of Oklahoma, as well as a master's in Leadership from Bellevue University. Also, he was selected to attend the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he earned a Master of Science degree in National Security Studies.

Maj. Mateer says, "I completed my master's degree from Bellevue University entirely online and thought that was great. I wanted my doctorate, but I hadn't seen too many opportunities to complete a doctoral degree in the online format until I found that the University of Phoenix offered six different doctoral programs. With my schedule in the Air Force, using the online format is the only way I could achieve my goal."

### ACHIEVING GOALS AND APPLYING LEARNED CONCEPTS

Achieving his goals at work are challenging since he commands a squadron consisting of approximately four hundred munitions maintenance and aircraft armament specialists. He is responsible for the production and administration of the squadron which supports the munitions and armament requirements of more than 80 F-15C and F-15E aircraft. Maj. Mateer expresses his appreciation for the doctoral program: "Leading an organization of this size during a period of great change in the Air Force is a great learning laboratory for the degree which I am pursuing. We discuss concepts in class and I can immediately apply them on the job. Likewise, I can discuss situations at work in my virtual classroom and get instantaneous mentoring from the facilitators and other students in my class."

Planning to continue on in his Air Force career, Maj. Mateer believes that achieving a doctoral degree will help him become a better leader in the Air Force and eventually land him a job

as a consultant upon retirement. When asked if he had any advice for young officers and enlisted members, the answer was, "Get your education!" He adds, "Do it while you are young, because you will never have more time than you do right now." "Use the benefits while you can and get your degree! Today, the Air Force offers tuition assistance for attending colleges and achieving your goals. Getting your education will make you a better leader and airman, and will prepare you for life after the Air Force.

Maj. Mateer recommends the online concept as a viable option for service members to achieve an education. "We are deploying more often to remote locations and make permanent change of stations almost as often. But one thing we can carry along is the Internet connectivity. Because of the online option, there are no excuses these days for failing to achieve a degree," he says.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX DOCTORAL PROGRAM ONLINE

The University of Phoenix Online doctoral programs are designed to be completed in approximately three years through a flexible online format that allows the student to maintain his or her professional and personal commitments. All online courses are taken sequentially in eight-week modules, with a one week break between classes. In addition, students will be required to attend residential workshops in Phoenix, Arizona, for eight days in the first and third year and for three days in the second year. These cohort-based workshops and seminars create a community of scholars in which student learning will be accelerated by the exchange of ideas and experiences.

As with all online classes, students are able to log on for group discussions, engage in mentor-directed study, and complete individual, as well as team projects, at their convenience, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.

For more information concerning University of Phoenix's online doctoral degree programs, please contact an enrollment representative at 800-366-9699 or online at [www.uopxmilitary.com](http://www.uopxmilitary.com).

## NEW PROGRAM PAVES THE WAY FOR SECURITY PROFESSIONALS

*University of Phoenix introduces a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Security and Management.*

In direct response to the national and international need for greater technical competence and professionalism in the security industry, University of Phoenix has introduced the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Security and Management.

While the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration concentrates on incident response and enforcement orientation, the Bachelor of Science in Organizational Security and Management features a curriculum deep in primary prevention and asset protection orientation.

This degree program recognizes the distinctions between the roles of criminal justice agencies and private security organizations. Additionally, the curriculum provides students

with competencies and management skills needed in today's organizational security professions.

The degree program includes courses with topics such as terrorism and homeland security, and recognizes the scope of the discipline. Therefore, the program provides a variety of courses designed to expose students to the entire spectrum of the security profession.

Story by Matt Williams

**For more information on the program contact your military enrollment representative at 1-800-366-9699 or online at [www.uopx.military.com](http://www.uopx.military.com)**



Courtesy of the USMC.  
photo by Pfc. J. Ethan Hoaldrige

## A Unique and Interactive Format

Designed to develop learning skills and provide the building blocks for further education, Axia College of University of Phoenix allows military students to manage personal demands while achieving their higher education goals, including preparation for baccalaureate study.

Drawing from best practices of higher education industry leader University of Phoenix, Axia College blends a unique curriculum model with unparalleled academic support to help students develop academic skills while they focus on the mechanics of learning.

Established in 2004, Axia College was recently added as a division of University of Phoenix and draws from the University's 30 years of experience in higher education. University of Phoenix has removed barriers in education for working students by providing accessible scheduling and rigorous degree programs centered on meeting professional goals. The University's focus on small interactive classes, highly personalized teaching and comprehensive academic accountability systems has won praise and recognition by noteworthy academic and business leaders.

This innovative online format focuses on serving students who are new to the college experience by providing superlative support and a curriculum designed to give them the skills they need to achieve success in college and beyond.

A hallmark of University of Phoenix programs has been unparalleled student support. Through Axia College, that same attention to student success is being put into practice. University leaders recognized that students with little college experience, and those entering as first-generation college students, benefit from more guidance, academic counseling and a learning model specifically designed to meet their needs.

"Axia College takes time to understand students' individual needs and works with them to design a plan to meet those needs," said Mark Alexander, Dean of Axia College. "An Axia College education focuses on building blocks: writing, critical thinking, and information utilization. Our experience has shown that helping students acquire these essential proficiencies is the best way to help them succeed in their first two years of college and beyond."

**Coming Soon** Look for the Winter 2006 issue of Online Patriot.

»**Meet** two extraordinary University of Phoenix students enrolled in online degree programs who are preparing to cross the stage to receive their degrees. Find out how these students successfully juggled a hectic deployment schedule, family obligations, and college studies.

»**Enjoy** a follow-up look at (Ret.) Senior Master Sgt. McLeod, his recent move to Phoenix, Arizona, and life after the White House.

»**Answer** your questions immediately. Read the most Frequently Asked Questions about the University of Phoenix.

## Life *After* Graduation

*Here's a look at what some of our top University of Phoenix military graduates are up to.*

**CPO Douglas Nelson**, 2004 MAOM graduate, advanced to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy.

**LTC Roy Jewell**, 2000 MAOM graduate, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Army and was reassigned to the 377th Theatre Sustainment Command in New Orleans, LA to make preparations for deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**SSgt Derrick Oliver**, 2005 AAGS graduate, is the enlisted aide to Marine Corps Recruit Depot's Commanding General in San Diego, CA.

**MSgt Duane Davis**, 2005 MBA graduate, has been promoted to Master Sergeant assigned to the Air Force 94th Combat Support Hospital as the Manager of the Training and Operations section.

**CPO Lee O'Connor**, 2002 AA graduate, has been promoted to Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy.

**LTJG Edward Semler Jr.**, 1999 AA/TS graduate, has been promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade in the U.S. Coast Guard.

**Ensign Scott Milliet**, 2003 BSB/M graduate, received his commission as a Naval Officer after completing Officer Candidate School.

**2nd LT Carl Ronhaar**, 2003 BSB/A graduate, was commissioned to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

**VADM Kirkland Donald**, 1999 MBA graduate, received his 4th Star and became Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion.

**LT Eric Johnson**, 2003 MBA/GM graduate, is Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Southeast Regional Fisheries Training Center in Charleston, SC.

**CPT Bradley Koopmeiners**, 2000 MBA/GM graduate, was deployed with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for Anti-terrorism protection in Fallujah, Iraq.

**Lt. Col. Michael Morgan**, 1988 BSB/A graduate, has advanced to Comptroller of the 161st Air Refueling Wing, Arizona Air National Guard.

**MSgt Chad Shuherk**, 2003 BSB/M graduate, was promoted to Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force-- Shuherk was selected to be the Wing Executive Support Chief for the 88th Air Base Wing Commander.

**SSgt Jamil Winston**, 2004 BSB/M graduate, has been selected to attend the U.S. Marine Corps Officer Candidate School and will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon completion.

**Cpt. Edward "Ted" Cassen**, 1995 MBA graduate, was promoted to Chief Information Officer, for the Office of Space Command Surgeon General, HQ AF Space Command, Peterson Air Force Base, CO.

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## Questions? Comments?

We want to hear from you. Is there something you'd like to see in the next issue of Online Patriot? Do you have a colleague who should be recognized or featured? What can we do better? Email comments to [onlinepatriot@phoenix.edu](mailto:onlinepatriot@phoenix.edu).

## UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX STADIUM REVEALED

In September, University of Phoenix and parent company Apollo Group, Inc., became naming rights partner of the NFL's Arizona Cardinals. As such, the Cardinals' world-class stadium in Glendale, AZ, will now be called University of Phoenix Stadium.

This investment grants the University stadium signage, advertising, marketing, merchandising, promotional and charitable opportunities. "We have campuses in almost every NFL city," said Apollo Group president Brian Mueller. "The NFL is the country's most successful and visible professional sports league and their demographics overlap significantly with ours. This exclusive partnership will enable the University to reach a broader array of students in an exciting venue."

"Students should be assured that we are making similar investments in our academic programs and services," said Brian Mueller. "What has made the University of Phoenix so successful over the years is our willingness to invest in both the academic and business operations equally. Our goal is to add value to a University of Phoenix degree, whether it be through institutional image development, or through the knowledge and skills that our students take out into the real world as a graduate."



Arizona Cardinals Vice President Michael Bidwill (left) and Apollo Group President Brian Mueller outside the newly named University of Phoenix Stadium.