



University of Phoenix Online Leads Graduation Rates

University of Phoenix Online, the nation's largest, private, accredited university, graduates a higher percentage of students than some of the nation's largest public universities.

As of March 2004, 65 percent of students who remain enrolled after the third class graduate from University of Phoenix Online. Compare this to some of the largest, public universities in the United States.

According to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), the following universities reported the largest enrollments for Fall 2004.

Graduation Rates

School	Graduation rate (GR) within 4 years	
	TE	GR
1. Ohio State University	50,995	29.2%
2. University of Minnesota	50,954	27.6%
3. University of Texas, Austin	50,377	36.4%
4. Arizona State University	49,171	26%
5. University of Florida	47,993	49.5%
6. Michigan State University	44,836	33.6%
7. Texas A & M University	44,435	31.7%
8. Pennsylvania State University	41,289	48.2%
9. University of Wisconsin	41,169	39.5%
10. University of Illinois	40,360	58.1%

While these graduation rates may seem low, these universities actually graduate more students than the average university, in a four-year period. The Education Trust reports only 37% of first-time freshmen entering four-year bachelor's degree programs actually complete their degrees within four years.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, more than 2.5 million students will graduate from college in 2005 with associates, bachelor's and graduate degrees.

Baghdad Chief of Public Affairs leads Business Students



Lt. Col. Steve Boylan answers reporters' questions at a September 2004 press conference. In addition to teaching online courses, Lt. Col. Boylan heads up the press center for military forces in Iraq. Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Steve Boylan

Army Lieutenant Colonel balances demanding duties with homework assignments

(Baghdad, Iraq) – There is no such thing as a slow day for Lt. Col. Steve Boylan. The director of the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad spends his day briefing reporters, managing a team of Iraqi translators, and coordinating internal military communications.

"There hasn't been a typical day yet I can figure out. Every day has new challenges," he said.

Lt. Col. Boylan works around the clock, tending to media emergencies and new developments in Iraq. On a slow day he puts in a mere 15 hours. Yet, somehow he manages to work in time to teach courses for University of Phoenix Online. The Chief of Public Affairs typically teaches two online classes at a time.

"It's a welcome diversion away from work, so I can wrap my mind around something else for a while," he said.

Lt. Col. Boylan gets a wide variety of

SEE **Boylan, Pg. 3**

Educational Benefits Forgotten

Montgomery GI Bill Boosted to more than \$1,000 a month

Many men and women join the military for the educational benefits, but surprisingly few service members actually take advantage of them. According to Military.com, 90 percent of all service members enter the service for the educational benefits, yet less than 50 percent use these benefits. Currently, the Montgomery GI Bill offers as much as \$36,000 towards tuition in return for a three-year military commitment. Service members pay in \$100 a month for one year. As of October 1, 2004, that investment comes back as more than \$1,000 a month for three years. That's thirty times the original investment.

Typically, service members have ten years to use GI benefits. The monthly benefit, according to the Veteran's Association, is based on the type of training and length of service. At times, the Department of Defense adds extra money to a MGIB funds, called "kickers."

The Veteran's Association reports reservists may qualify for MGIB benefits, as well. This applies to Guard and Reserve members activated under Title 10 U.S. Code, who served on active duty continuously for 24 months. In order to receive Chapter 30 benefits, service members must meet the following requirements:

- Have no active duty prior to 7/1/85
- Have been called to active duty under Title 10 U.S. Code after 7/1/85
- Have served a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty
- Complete DD Form 2366 Election to Participate in the MGIB Active Duty Program
- Pay \$1200 to DSAF to enroll in the program
- Have Honorable service for the active duty period

For more information on the Montgomery GI Bill, go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

New Program Hits Store Shelves

Retail Management program comes to University of Phoenix Online

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, more than 23 million Americans are employed in the retailing industry in more than 2 million retail establishments. Retail is big business; it's the backbone of the global economy. It's a dynamic industry with tremendous opportunity for career and personal success. As long as people need to buy products there will be retail employment. And as long as there is retail employment, there is a demand for top-notch management.

SEE **Program, Pg. 2**



Education Doesn't Stop in Combat Zones

STORY ON Pg. 2



Want to learn more about University of Phoenix Online programs? Call and speak to a military enrollment counselor at 800-680-9770 or visit www.uopx.com/patriot

Education Doesn't STOP in Combat Zones

A former Army ranger battles homework while deployed with 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment

By Spc. Sarah Wilkins
1st Corps Public Affairs
Northwest Guardian, Fort Lewis

Sitting before an overheating laptop with bombs going off in the background and a fine layer of Afghanistan's dust settling throughout a green Army tent, 43-year-old Buck Whitfield studiously works on finishing his homework.

He only needs a few more credits to earn his bachelor's in computer science, and regularly deploying with 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment to combat zones doesn't keep the former Ranger private and Special Forces sergeant major from completing his objective.

"It's like the rest of the world shuts down — it's like he's in a zone," said Pfc. Joseph Easton, a Ranger who deployed with Buck in July and returned with him last month. "He's totally concentrated on getting his work done."

In a remote mountain village, Buck connects to the University of Phoenix's online degree program and chats with fellow students half a world away.

He doesn't have the same characteristics as a regular college student, and he doesn't have to worry about future employment, since he already has a job in the computer field. It's just a job that requires extra skills.

Worn desert combat boots and a dusty bulletproof vest rest on the floor by his desk, surrounded by pictures of former exploits and comrades — including a graduation class photo of his Ranger buddies.

Near the top of his vest, frayed duct tape with black marker notating his blood type stands out as a reminder of the job's dangers.

But for a man who "wanted to be something special" and "needed something more," continuing more than 20 years of service to the Army — only now in a civilian capacity and facing many of the same dangers — seemed a natural progression.

The workaholic father of three children who possesses a dry, sarcastic sense of humor, said he needs new challenges in his life. So, he decided to use his communications background to keep working in the special operations community after retiring as a computer specialist — all the while improving his education and spending more time with his wife and kids.

Buck got out of the special operations lifestyle when he realized how much of his children's lives he missed because of constant deployments. The turning point occurred when his oldest son graduated from Marine Corps boot camp and walked across the field to shake his hand. "The conversion was made — he's a man now," said Buck. "When I shook his hand at graduation, it was the last time as a boy...I missed a lot of opportunities." So he turned in his retirement papers and took a civilian job helping the Rangers with computer setup and troubleshooting.

That was before Sept. 11, however, and the Rangers suddenly started deploying frequently in response to the Global War on Terrorism — and they needed Buck and his co-workers to go overseas with them for computer support. Called up once more to serve his country away from his family, Buck wouldn't let his goal of attaining a bachelor's disappear. Luckily, every thing Buck needs to work on his degree, he can carry with



Buck Whitfield does not let his deployments with 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt, get in the way of his studies. Whitfield continues his studies online, while deployed to Afghanistan, and other combat zones. Photo courtesy of Buck Whitfield

him. All he needs are a laptop and an Internet connection. The coursework, syllabi and book material are available on the class's Web site — and Buck has plenty of real-world scenarios to make his classes relevant.

"He's one of the best that we have over there, and I'm very proud to have had him in my class," said Jeromy McMahon, one of Buck's professors.

"(His presence in Afghanistan) really puts things in perspective," said McMahon. "I have a lot of admiration and respect for him."

Rangers whom he works with and encourages to excel also praise his traits and experiences. Buck regularly talks to Soldiers about increasing their education and gaining knowledge through online college programs.

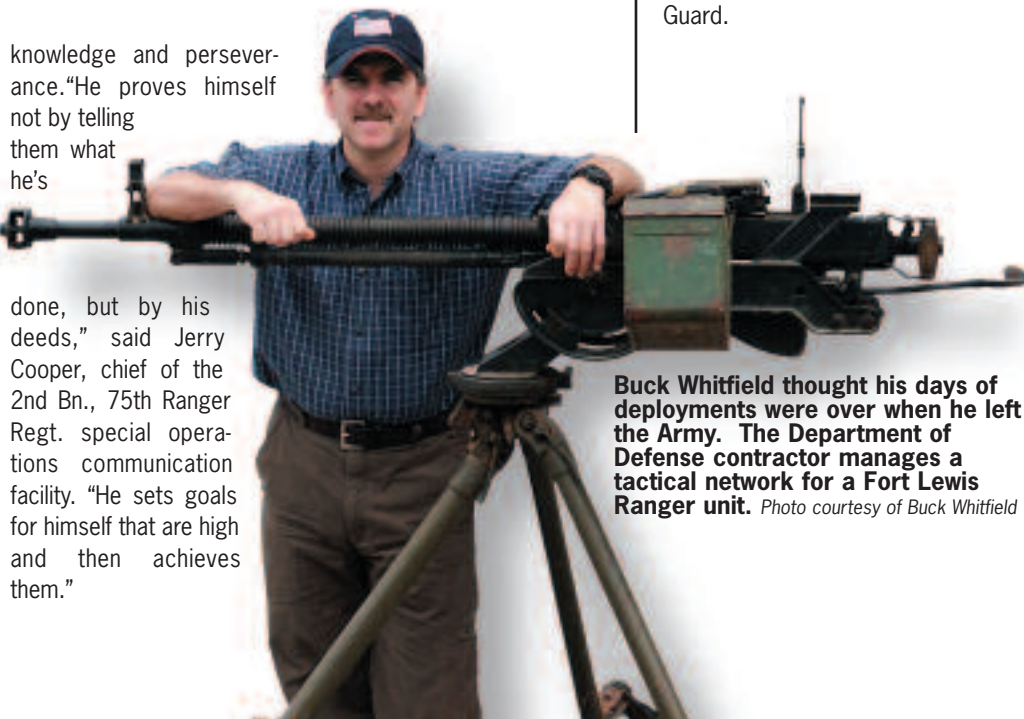
"He's setting an example...he says if he can do it, any other Soldier can do it, as well," said 21-year-old Easton. "He's not just a civilian — he's actually been where all of us have been."

He still continues his military regimen by working out, keeping up with Rangers on occasional runs and sharpening his weapons' skills at ranges. That dedication and adherence to physical standards are assets in the war zones he frequently inhabits.

He'll likely keep deploying to war zones as America continues its fight against terrorism — and he'll continue to complete his goal of earning a slip of paper symbolizing a gaining

knowledge and perseverance. "He proves himself not by telling them what he's

done, but by his deeds," said Jerry Cooper, chief of the 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt. special operations communication facility. "He sets goals for himself that are high and then achieves them."



Buck Whitfield thought his days of deployments were over when he left the Army. The Department of Defense contractor manages a tactical network for a Fort Lewis Ranger unit. Photo courtesy of Buck Whitfield

Program from Pg. 1

Now, the nation's largest private university is offering an exciting degree program for those who seek the many rewards of retail management. University of Phoenix Online wants to give you the tools for a successful career in retail management.

The new Bachelor of Science in Business/Retail Management was carefully designed with retail industry leaders to give students the most current, relevant, and innovative education among any educational program available. Moreover, you can complete your degree entirely online at the times most convenient to your schedule, and without having to quit working. The BSB/RM program emphasizes skill development in strategic management, marketing, supply management, product and brand management, retail operations, merchandising, and personnel management unique to the retail industry. Upon completion of this program, our students will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be leaders in the retail industry.

The BSB/RM allows the student to study coursework with both Management and Retail emphasis. The coursework also has a specific retail focus rather than a general management focus. If you are interested in going into the retail industry or understanding how the industry functions, the BSB/RM would be the ideal program.

University of Phoenix Online Partners with Military Comptrollers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers has joined forces with University of Phoenix Online, and members reap the benefits

University of Phoenix Online announced its partnership with the American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC) in December 2004. The agreement brings ASMC members the opportunity to continue their education at a 25% tuition discount at University of Phoenix Online. In addition, specific guidelines ensure academic support in assisting ASMC members who are pursuing undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate degrees.



The American Society of Military Comptrollers is a non-profit educational and professional organization for military members and civilians working in the field of military comptrollership. The mission statement of ASMC is to "promote education, training and professional development in all aspects of military comptrollership."

ASMC promotes education and training, and supports the advancement of military comptrollers. In addition, the society sponsors research and keeps members current with issues, techniques, and approaches in the field. Established in 1948 under a different name, there now are more than 18,000 professionals in the society. Military comptrollership is defined as the professions of financial management in the Department of Defense and Coast Guard.

PHOENIX AIRMEN SQUEEZE ONLINE STUDIES INTO HECTIC SCHEDULES

Online education has become the only option for at least two Phoenix airmen

(Phoenix, AZ) – Fighting terrorism 10 to 12 hours a day leaves little time for Brian Robinson to do anything else – especially attend college. The Air Force Master Sergeant is an Anti Terrorism Manager with the 161st Air Refueling Wing at Sky Harbor International Airport. His duties as a security policeman keep him busy, often working long hours. Were it not for the opportunity to attend class online, a college degree would not be a reality for this dedicated military professional.

“Getting to a computer is a lot easier than getting to a class,” he said.

After 16 years with the Air Force, Master Sergeant Robinson said online education is his ticket to a bachelor’s degree.

“If I deploy, I take my laptop with me and continue my studies that way,” he said.

Master Sergeant Robinson is working towards a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. Upon completion of his bachelor’s degree, he intends to pursue a degree in engineering. He hopes his education, combined with an anti-terrorism background, will help him secure a job in anti-terrorism construction.

Master Sergeant Robinson enjoys the online classroom environment. “It flows very well. It’s a lot easier to communicate. It’s a lot easier to provide feedback,” he said. “It takes the intimidation factor out.” He adds that a reserved student is given more of a chance to participate.

The opportunity to study online also enables Air Force Sgt. Dave Blum to pursue his educational goals. Sgt. Blum, a Bachelor of Science in Business Management student, doesn’t wait for his colleagues to participate. His instructors describe him as a class leader.

“After 20 years of service, I pretty much know how to motivate people,” Sgt. Blum said.

Sgt. Blum, an expeditor stationed at Luke Air Force Base, finds a direct correlation between his military leadership training and online management courses. He will put the

skills he’s learned both in the classroom and on the airstrip to the test when he separates from the military in March 2005. In addition to putting in more than 40 hours a week with the Air Force,

time, 24 hours a day, and do what I need,” he said.

Many military students face the same dilemma. University of Phoenix Online programs cater to a military lifestyle. Between moves, deployments, and training, military members and spouses live a transient lifestyle. Rather than losing credits and



Master Sgt. Brian Robinson is an Anti Terrorism Manager with the 161st Air Refueling Wing at Sky Harbor International Airport. Master Sgt. Robinson works long hours, and fits in online courses in his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program. Peter Speyer/University of Phoenix Online

Blum works part-time at Home Depot. He plans to move into a full-time position after he retires from the military. He says a degree will help him move up in the management track faster.

Sgt. Blum’s instructors call him “proactive” and say he is a classroom leader. “He was able to go in and offer some tips and encouragement to other students,” said Jerry Weylan, Sgt. Blum’s Research and Evaluation instructor.

Although Sgt. Blum’s Montgomery GI Bill and other military funding completely cover the cost of his education, he cherishes the knowledge he gains. “I’m really not just there for the credit. I’m there to learn,” he said.

Sgt. Blum said his schedule does not allow him to attend a traditional college. He typically logs on around midnight and wraps up around 3 or 4 a.m. “I can go in there any-

constantly transferring to a new educational institution, students have the luxury of continuing a University of Phoenix Online degree program wherever they go.

In addition, University of Phoenix Online offers active military members, reservists, Guard members, and their spouses a discount. The discount reflects a more affordable rate, and in many cases meets what military tuition assistance covers. Thus, the student is left with manageable out-of-pocket expenses.

University of Phoenix Online awards credit for military training and professional experience. It is not uncommon for new students to enter with an average 24 credits from military experience alone.

There are currently more than 23,000 military members, spouses, and veterans enrolled at University of Phoenix Online.



Master Sgt. Brian Robinson demonstrates use of a bomb detection machine, used in vehicle surveillance at the 161st Air Refueling Wing at Sky Harbor International Airport. The airman hopes a degree, combined with his military training, will pay off in the civilian world. Peter Speyer/University of Phoenix Online

MEETING THE EXPENSE OF COLLEGE: FINANCIAL AID 101

There is little doubt that a college degree is one of the strongest ways to boost your career. Our increasingly competitive marketplace has raised the value of a college degree tremendously. Today, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, college graduates earn an average of 62% more income than high school graduates and those with a master's degree earn 95% more. And the gap is widening. Through the year 2006, a majority of the fastest growing and highest paying occupations will require at least a bachelor's degree. For many, it's not a question of whether or not to do it; rather, it becomes a question of how you can afford it.

"A college degree will undoubtedly be the best investment you ever make," says John Kline, vice president for operations and finance at University of Phoenix Online. "The short-term financial commitment for tuition will lead to long-term financial gain; the pure economic pay off is certainly worth the time, money, and effort put into earning a degree."

With tuition assistance, the Montgomery G.I. Bill, and other military funding, military members may find it simple to meet the financial demands of college tuition. Yet, not every servicemember takes advantage of government money while it is available. Spouses may also find it difficult to finance a college education.

While the cost of attending a private college today is over \$20,000 a year at many schools, the cost of attending college at University of Phoenix Online is less than half that, says Kline. Add in the benefit of being able to attend class at times most convenient for you through the Internet, and it becomes a pretty good deal.

In addition to competitive tuition rates, University of Phoenix Online offers the advantage of paying for online college courses one course at a time, rather than an entire semester or year at once.

"This can help you manage your cash flow and personal budget," Kline said. "Some universities require that you pay for the entire semester at once, which can make it more difficult." An often over-looked benefit for thousands of Americans is tuition assistance from employers and the vast array of scholarship opportunities from a number of organizations and government programs. In addition, University of Phoenix Online offers a tuition discount to military members.

"A growing number of companies will reimburse part or all of their employees' tuition for online college courses because they understand the importance of investing in their workforce," Kline said, "and many government or municipal employees have tuition options available. People considering a degree program should certainly check with their own employer as they weigh the options."

There are a number of tax deductions and credits for tuition and student loan interest available as well. Kline suggests that you check with your tax preparation provider for more details about how to maximize those benefits.

In addition, numerous financial aid options are available to the vast majority of people, regardless of income. University of Phoenix Online participates in financial aid programs for its online college courses, including the Federal Stafford Student Loan, the Federal PLUS Loan, and the Federal Pell Grant.

There are other costs to keep in mind when applying to a university- costs that Kline says University of Phoenix Online tries to minimize.

"Our goal is to help our students achieve their educational goals in the most efficient, economical, and realistic way possible," he said.

In the event you are forced to leave a class midstream, there are a number of options available to you, both academic and financial, he said. Naturally, the length of time in class and your academic progress will influence which options will be

best, but Kline says the University works with students who are in unique situations every day.

The typical University of Phoenix Online student is a busy working professional who is trying to balance all of life's demands while pursuing a degree. Military members who move frequently or face deployment find assurance in a program that moves with them.

Students have found the convenience of an online degree not only makes it easier to attend class, but they have also learned earning your degree online doesn't mean that it's less challenging academically. The curriculum for every degree program is carefully designed in cooperation with industry leaders to provide the most relevant, up-to-date courses.

Since its establishment in 1976, enrollment at University of Phoenix has grown from eight students to more than 200,000. More than 23,000 military students are currently enrolled. University of Phoenix Online is now the largest private university in America. The university system comprises 151 campus facilities in 30 states within the U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, and world-wide via the Internet.



University of Phoenix Online offers a variety of certificate programs for non-degree students, and 14 different bachelor's programs, 25 master's programs, and 4 Ph.D. programs. More than 9,000 faculty teach at the online campus.

"Today's job market is fiercely competitive," Kline said, "and earning a degree is going to make the most impact on your success- how can you afford not to do it? It's an investment in yourself, and your future."

For important information about financial aid and the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA), visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.



College Degrees Earn **STRIPES**

Servicemembers won't get far without college degrees

A high school diploma may get a sailor onboard with the U.S. Navy. But before long, enlisted men and women will need more than a 12th grade education to advance in the Navy. This comes after an announcement from Navy leaders.

The Navy's Chief Learning Officer is raising the bar on education. Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, is calling on sailors to get their degrees.

"Ultimately, from the earliest days of their careers, our sailors and their leaders will know what professional military education is expected and required."

As part of the Navy's new Professional Military Education Continuum, a sailor will need a degree to earn certain promotions. According to the Naval Education and Training Command, the PME Continuum integrates post-secondary education, military training, and leadership skills.

In announcing the new plan, Vice Adm. Harms said, "As sailors become more senior, education will provide more strategic perspectives, and develop more effective management and business practices. Leadership development will be more position-focused to align with roles across a career. Ultimately, from the earliest days of their careers, our sailors and their leaders will know what professional military education is expected and required."

Plan to hold an associate's degree to make senior chief. Eventually, a bachelor's degree will be required to for command master chief and other senior enlisted jobs.

Vice Adm. Harms commends distance learning education. He said, "The sailors like the flexibility this approach provides, and they want it."

University of Phoenix Online military students tend to agree.

SK1 Alex Jean-Gilles is currently stationed in Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. SK1 Jean-Gilles, a University of Phoenix Online student, said, "It wasn't until 2002 that I

realized in order to advance in my profession and in my personal life that it was absolutely necessary that I finished my degree."

Now four classes away from a Bachelor of Science in Management, the sailor has a new goal in mind. He wants to become a Naval officer. "It's always been my goal to be an officer in the U.S. Navy," he said, "without a degree it's nearly impossible."

SK1 Jean-Gilles finds his coursework instrumental to his advancement. "Being an officer in the military is a leadership and management position, and I figured a degree in management will give the tools necessary to do well," he said.

These tools will allow the sailor, amongst other things, to apply for a commission and attend officer candidate school in the supply corps.

The Navy isn't the only military branch hitting the books. According to RAND Corporation, the Department of Defense finances formal education for servicemembers for three reasons. By educating its forces, the military stands to gain in the following areas: increased productivity, longer retention, and increased morale.

Promotion of enlisted personnel across all services is based on a three-tiered system. At the senior NCO level, education plays a key role in promotion.



U.S. Navy photo by Shannon Bosserman

Boylan from Pg. 1

students in class, ranging from stay-at-home moms to corporate executives.

Jamie Gentry, a Bachelor of Science in Business/Management student, is an administrative assistant for Warner Brothers. She hopes a bachelor's degree will help with career advancement. Lt. Col. Boylan facilitated Gentry's Organizational Behavior course.

Gentry was impressed with her instructor's background after reading the biography he posted the first day of class. "I was like wow. He's not only had a full life, he's overseas," she said.

Gentry said she bragged to her friends about her instructor's experience. She said Lt. Col. Boylan's job in Iraq did not prevent him from providing feedback to the class in a timely fashion.

"It says that he's a hard worker, and that he's willing to learn and teach. He's very dedicated," she said.

Sabrina Nunez, a student in Boylan's Introduction to Research and Information Utilization course, was also impressed with her instructor's experience.

"I was blown away," Nunez said, "With that background I'm sure I'll learn about research techniques other people wouldn't know of."

In addition to civilians, Lt. Col. Boylan comes across military students in his classes. The first thing he tries to do is break them of military habits. Getting them to call him by his first name, rather than "sir," is the first step. The lieutenant colonel

compares the content of online business courses to military training and leadership practices. He finds

many similarities between the military and business world. From the very beginning of class, he compares his rank and career with that of someone working in a large company. He tells students, through his posted biography, that his Army division is equivalent to a civilian company of 45,000 employees, and he is the equivalent of a

degree. The key, according to Boylan, is learning how to translate their experience, how to "change the terms." He said ramifications with leadership and management illustrate such. For example, he explained, what might lead to a federal conviction in the military translates into getting fired in the corporate world.

His work at the Combined Press Information Center comes after more than 20 years with the Army. Lt. Col.

Lt. Col. Boylan is in good company at University of Phoenix Online. University faculty include more than 9,000 highly qualified instructors from across the country. Because University of Phoenix Online is not restricted by geography, the university can draw from the most qualified in any given field or subject from all over the world.

All instructors hold a master's or doctoral degree. In addition, they currently hold high-level positions within the fields they teach. To facilitate a productive and stimulating online learning environment, faculty must also complete an extensive testing, training, and mentoring program. All faculty must meet rigorous standards for both content knowledge and facilitation skills to pass the selection process.

Lt. Col. Boylan has led more than 130 classes, mentorships, and peer reviews, most of which were with University of Phoenix.

"It's the interaction. It keeps me current with what's going on. To do this, you have to enjoy it. It's not for everybody," he said.

When asked about retirement, Lt. Col. Boylan admits it is tough to determine when he will separate from the military. His job in Iraq remains urgent. By law, he said the government must keep Americans informed on what their military is doing.

"We have an obligation to tell the American public what their sons and daughters, wives and husbands are doing, especially when in harm's way," he said.

Lt. Col. Boylan's wife and three children live in Wausau, Wisconsin.



Lt. Col. Steve Boylan visits the Saddam Bunker Convention Center. Lt. Col. Boylan is the Director of the Combined Press Information Center in Iraq. He teaches two University of Phoenix Online courses.

Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Steve Boylan.

vice president of public relations or communications.

"I think there are things the military can bring to the civilian side of the business world," he said. Lt. Col. Boylan tries to convince young soldiers that their military experience will benefit them in the civilian world, and encourages them to get their

Boylan piloted AH-64 Apache helicopters before moving into public affairs. He has spent time in the Army teaching senior leaders how to interact with the media. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Mercer University and a Master in Management from Webster University.

In the NEWS...

University of Phoenix Online military students constantly make headlines around the country. Check out these articles to find out what your peers are up to:

Stars and Stripes, August 6, 2004: "Phoenix Grows Younger"
Summary: University of Phoenix Online accepts 18-year-old students.

The Times-News (Twin Falls, Idaho), August 15, 2004: "Opting Out...More women put careers on hold to raise children"
Summary: Former Army member becomes at-home mom, completes education online.

Military Education Network, September 25, 2004: "Marines earn degrees while deployed"

Summary: Marines with the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing don't let deployment to Iraq stand in the way of their education. Staff Sgt. Alaina J. DioDonet is pursuing her online bachelor's in "eBusiness" with University of Phoenix Online.

Washington Post, November 7, 2004: "Soldiering On"

Summary: Students continue their education online, while deployed.

Northwest Guardian (Ft. Lewis base paper), November 12, 2004: "Former Soldier pursues education on the job, Online degree program doesn't stop in war zone"

Summary: Ranger civilian balances schoolwork with combat zone duties

United States Army Special Operations Command News Service, November 15, 2004: "Ranger civilian balances schoolwork with combat zone duties"

Summary: Northwest Guardian article rebroadcast

Daily Midway Driller (Taft, CA), December 1, 2004: "Taft resident honors country by serving military"

Summary: A University of Phoenix Online student serves as a military police officer with the Army at Camp War Horse in Baqubah, Iraq.

University of Phoenix News: November-December 2004

Distributed to Arizona media and state government officials at the end of every month

Summary: University of Phoenix military students from Phoenix, Arizona are featured in this issue, along with information about military educational benefits.

Wausau Daily Herald: January 16, 2005: "Soldier in Iraq finds time to teach online"

Summary: Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, U.S. Army, Director of the Combined Press Information Center for the Multi-National Forces-Iraq Public Affairs, teaches three online courses for University of Phoenix Online while in Iraq.

Ironton Tribune: January 12, 2005: "Coming home: Mom balances military, school"

Summary: Rebekah Highcock, a student in the middle of a war zone, in the Sunai Triangle in Iraq, takes online courses.

October 2004 Alumni Network Foundation Scholarship Awarded

32 University of Phoenix students win scholarship money

The top winner of the October 2004 Alumni Network Foundation Scholarship received a \$2,500 Scholarship. The remaining winners received awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a grand total of \$38,000.

University of Phoenix students are continuously looking for scholarship dollars and there are scholarships available through the Alumni Network and from other outside sources.

Students can download an application for any or all open scholarships offered by the UOP Alumni Network by following this link:

<https://www.phoenixalumni.com/Scholarships/SC01.asp>.

Students can also do free searches online for scholarships offered externally. The two best websites for this are www.fastweb.com and www.srnexpress.com.

119 students applied for the October scholarship. The Alumni Network has committees for each of the scholarships offered. The committee is required to have at least three, and no more than five members. These committee members score the applicants individually and the committee scores are averaged to determine the scholarship recipients.

Coming in May...

Look for the May 2005 issue of Online Patriot.

Met two students dedicated to both their country and education. A federal intern with the Department of the Navy juggles a demanding career and works on his Master of Business Administration. This comes after completing his Bachelor of Science in Business/Administration at University of Phoenix Online.

A White House medical office staffer, also an Air Force Senior MSgt., works on his Bachelor of Science in Management degree, while serving the President and his country.

The Department of Labor reports three fields will prosper by the year 2012. Find out which professions tout the highest employment outlook. University of Phoenix Online offers degree programs in these areas. Are you on the right track? Online Patriot has the answers.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Mercado

Life After Graduation

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

Carlos L. Mercado, Jr., 2004 MBA graduate, was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard and has become the first Commanding Officer of the Maritime Safety and Security Team in Florida. Prior to his present assignment, he served as the plank owner Executive Officer for MSST 91103, San Pedro, California. He managed operations, administration, human resources, and Maritime Homeland Security Deployments for MSST 91103 throughout the Pacific Area of responsibility. Lieutenant Commander Mercado enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1983. He served 11 years as an Enlisted member, in which he was stationed onboard two cutters, two air stations, and one Base/Group. In January 1994, he accepted orders to attend Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia. In July 1994, he earned his commission as an Ensign. LCDR Mercado's personal military awards include two Coast Guard Commendation Medals with operational distinguishing device, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals with the operational distinguishing device, and three Commandant Letter of Commendations with the operational distinguishing device.

Michael Bryne, 2001 BSB/M graduate, accepted a position as Head of the Navy T&E and Fleet Training Section for the Naval Air Systems Command's Land Range at China Lake, California.

Francine M. Chavez, 2002 BSB/M graduate, accepted a position through the Keystone Internship Program with the Department of Defense as a Contract Administrator working for the Defense Contract Management Agency in San Diego, California.

Anthony Falvo, 2003 BSB/MKT graduate, received the Reserve Military Member of the Year award from the U.S. Joint Forces Command. Falvo is currently pursuing an MBA with University of Phoenix Online.

Chantel L.R. Jolly, 2003 BSB/M graduate, was selected as the Louisiana National Guard 2004 Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and was nominated as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Brad D. Pryor, 2003 BSB/M graduate, received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School at Naval Aviation Schools Command, Pensacola, Florida.

Arlene Arzola-Kloch, 2003 MAOM graduate, was promoted to Intelligence Analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's San Diego Field Office. Arzola-Kloch's husband is a United States Marine.

Arthur Boudreau, 2004 MBA/TM graduate, was promoted to Program Manager for the Joint MILSAT-COM Network Integrated Control System, located in San Diego, California, for U.S. Navy communications shore stations around the world.

Rhonda Fleming-Makell, 2003 MBA/TM graduate, has become the first African-American woman to retire as a commissioned officer in the Coast Guard's 214-year history.

On the ROAD

University of Phoenix Online has a team of liaisons and business development specialists that travel to military installations around the world. The team typically makes approximately 250 visits every year. Representatives conduct informational meetings, counsel potential students, participate in education fairs, and forge relationships with the military community.

Look for a University of Phoenix Online representative on the following dates:

Feb. 7-11 Council of College and Military Educators Conference (New Orleans, LA)

March 6-10 Fort McPherson, Fort Gordon, Robins Air Force Base

March 11-14 395th OD Company (Appleton, WI)

March 13-19 Minott Air Force Base, Cavalier Air Station, Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota Air National Guard, Camp Gilbert, Bohn Armory

March 16-18 Fort Gordon

Want to schedule a visit? Have your education service officer contact Kirk Kyle at 800-366-9699, extension 76490 or at kirk.kyle@phoenix.edu.

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 that should be recognized or featured? What can we do better? Email comments to mary.brandenberger@phoenix.edu.

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