

Department of Defense

employee trains Iraqi police by day; earns degree by night

University of Phoenix Online student completes a bachelor's degree while deployed

Central Baghdad, Iraq – Donna Sheain left her job with the Coweta County Sheriff's Office to help mentor Iraqi police officers. For the past year, she has taken her expertise to the streets of Baghdad.

On a typical day, Sheain leaves her secured compound in an armored suburban and travels to her assigned unit. She meets with a translator, who helps her interact with her Iraqi counterparts. Sheain and her colleagues issue equipment and train the Iraqi police. They also assist in criminal cases, and evaluate equipment and supplies.

When the Department of Defense employee returns to her compound, her day is only half over. After taking care of business, she logs on to the Internet and goes to class. Sheain is working on a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree at University of Phoenix Online. She is one of the more than 650 Department of Defense employees enrolled at University of Phoenix Online.

"It helps pass the time and will open doors for me when I return home. Being overseas, away from all your friends and family members is very difficult. I have made many new friends but when you are alone studying, learning new things, and writing papers seems to help me get through every day. I enjoy the difficult classes that make me work hard to improve myself. If you stop learning, you stop living," she said.

Sheain plans to enter federal law enforcement upon her return to the United States. According to Sheain, this requires a bachelor's degree. She is already applying the leadership skills she is learning in her business management classes in her current work.

Her classmates benefit from her experience overseas, as well. Stephanie Edens, Sheain's instructor for MGT/350, Critical Thinking: Strategies in Decision Making, describes Sheain as optimistic and an asset in class.

"I think a lot of people felt more patriotic because of the posts she sent," Edens said.

The instructor said Sheain did not let her job get in the way of her coursework. "She was right off the bat, even with her pressing commitments, from the beginning," she said.

Edens said Sheain enlightened her classmates as to what was going on the frontline, describing her experiences, and even posting video.

The instructor said that Sheain is a testament to time management skills and that "if she can do it, they (other students) can do it."

Sheain agreed. "The University of Phoenix has helped me fulfill a dream of mine," she said. "This is the only way working adults can earn their degree. There is almost no way anyone can work a full time job, raise a family, and be a full time student."

Sheain plans to spend another year in Iraq. In the past year, her perception of the world and life in general, has changed.

"I love my country more than ever and will never take for granted what a wonderful free country I live in. I realized that by helping others that are different from us and have different beliefs is very rewarding. I think that FREEDOM is worth fighting for and I will not take even the smallest things for granted," she said.



Donna Sheain takes in Baghdad from the roof of her hotel on election day.

PHOTO GALLERY **Baghdad: A Student's Perspective, Pg. 4**

New program paves the way for law enforcement and security professionals

University of Phoenix Online introduces the Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security degree



The Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security degree provides the required knowledge to develop competence in administering criminal justice or security programs. While distinctions between the roles of justice and security organizations are understood, the degree emphasizes an understanding of administrative responsibilities common to both disciplines.

The value of cooperative interaction is also addressed. The degree provides students with administrative program development and problem solving skills in preparation for promotional or transitional opportunities in the management of police, corrections, security or court operations.

The Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security degree is comprised of 36 credits. Classes include Management of Institutional Risk, Criminological Theory, Cyber Crime and Information Systems Security, Forensic Science and Psychological Profiling, and many others. For more information, contact your enrollment counselor.

University of Phoenix brings graduation ceremonies overseas

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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

University of Phoenix brings graduation ceremonies overseas

Graduation marks the end of a long journey. Until this year, University of Phoenix graduates had to travel to the United States to celebrate their achievement. This year, military students stationed at installations throughout Europe and Asia had the opportunity to walk in graduation ceremonies on or near the bases where they are stationed.

The University of Phoenix Asia Pacific campus held four ceremonies. Graduates crossed the stage to receive diplomas at Yongsan Army Garrison, Kadena Air Force Base, Yokota Air Force Base, and Andersen Air Force Base. A total of 62 military students walked in the Asia Pacific graduation ceremonies. Military students and their spouses in the Asia Pacific region have the opportunity to earn a Master of Education or Master of Management degree by taking on site courses.

Master of Education and Master of Business Administration graduates stationed in Europe walked in a commencement ceremony June 26, 2005. It took place at Patrick Henry Village – Village Pavilions. Sixty graduates crossed the stage to receive diplomas, to pomp and circumstance played by a traditional German band. About 200 guests attended.

Dr. Bill Pepicello, University of Phoenix Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, spoke at the ceremony. Dr. Pepicello is the founding dean of the School of Advanced Studies, which houses the University's doctoral programs. He has also served as Dean of the College of General and Professional Studies and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Europe graduates completed their degrees through on-site courses, held at Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Naval Support Activity, Naples, Aviano Air Base, Mildenhall Air Base, Lakenheath Air Base, SHAPE, Patton Barracks, Mannheim-Sullivan Barracks, Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Hanau-Pioneer Kaserne, Ramstein Air Base, and Spangdahlem Air Base



Students stand during the commencement ceremony to sing the national anthem. The graduates later crossed the stage to pomp and circumstance played by a traditional German band.

University of Phoenix graduates walk in overseas ceremonies for the first time.



Graduates move their tassels from right to left to symbolize their degree completion.



David Warren, Europe Campus Director, leads the procession of graduates in the first Europe commencement ceremony in University of Phoenix history.

MILITARY SPOUSES EARN DEGREES TOGETHER

Military members and their spouses are hitting the books – together. Typically, one spouse starts taking classes at University of Phoenix Online, and it is not long before the other half jumps on board.

That was the case for David and Jennifer Thomas. Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer Thomas started working on her Associate of Arts in General Studies in January 2005. Her husband, a Navy veteran, was taking classes at another school. He realized his classes were taking longer to get through. "I was going through the classes a lot faster than he was," Jennifer said.

In March 2005, David followed his wife's example and enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Business/Management program. "I found I could get my degree a lot faster," he said.

David said taking classes online also saves money on daycare and transportation. The online curriculum also allows him to spend more time with his kids. Jennifer finds the online environment fits her lifestyle. "I like knowing I can go to school when I can," she said.

She also enjoys working in learning teams and meeting other people in similar situations. "Everyone understands our real jobs come first, then schoolwork," she said. David and Melissa Shaffer found themselves in a similar situation. Melissa wanted to go back to school, but didn't want to spend time away from her kids. "My priority is my kids first. I don't like to be away from home for too long," she said.

Her kids are 11 and 13. Melissa has been a stay-at-home mom for more than a decade. "The kids are getting older," she said, "I need to start thinking about myself."

Melissa is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business/Administration.

Retired Lieutenant Colonel dedicates his life to military education



Dr. Anderson has dedicated a lifetime to military education. In July, he moved into a part-time position with Servicemembers' Opportunity College.

Dr. Clinton Anderson has been an advocate for military education for decades

After more than 40 years in military education, Dr. Clinton Anderson is not ready to throw in the towel. The former Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) Associate Director stepped down July 1, 2005, and now serves as the SOC Coast Guard Project Director on a part-time basis.

The retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel looks back on a fulfilling career. "I've gotten more than I've given," he said. Anderson feels fortunate to be able to continue his work part-time. "I've come to the end of a career, and I'm still able to do what I want to do," he said.

As the SOC Associate Director and SOC Coast Guard Project Manager, Anderson was responsible for training U.S. Coast Guard personnel and working with education service officers.

SOC is a consortium of more than 1800 colleges and universities that provides educational opportunities for servicemembers and their families. Member colleges agree to accept transfer credits from other institutions within the network. This allows students who move frequently to continue their education, without taking excess courses within their chosen degree plan.

Anderson encourages servicemembers to pursue an education. "There is a built in incentive for the working population to go to college and get a degree," he said. "It's a self-fulfillment goal on a servicemember's agenda."

The 67-year-old Army veteran sees education as the "keys to opening doors in the future."

Many servicemembers never take advantage of educational benefits offered by the military. Anderson attributes this to a fear of college and the "great unknown" that many military members experience. "They have to determine on their own rite that they're college capable," he said.

Anderson encourages students to look at all college options, including online degree programs. "I think what online programs have given is the opportunity to engage yourself in opportunities that otherwise wouldn't be given," he said.

Pat Landry, Manager, Higher Education Programs for Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), refers to Anderson as a "walking encyclopedia of volunteer education."

"Dr. Clinton Anderson (Andy) is one of the most professional individuals I have ever had the pleasure of working with and knowing. He is truly a genuine and caring educator," Landry said.

"He never ceases to amaze me how positive and passionate he is about all the VolEd (voluntary education) programs," she said.

In addition to his work with SOC, Anderson spent time as an education consultant, evaluator, and military history lecturer. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1982.

Workplace values are in most demand among today's employers

In today's dynamic workplace, it is not enough to have the right degree or work experience to land a great job or earn a promotion. Employees who want to advance in their careers also must be team players with excellent communication and problem-solving skills, according to a national survey conducted by University of Phoenix.

To help identify the skills that lead to better career opportunities and advancement, the University polled 330 employers in health care, education, technology and other hot-growth sectors identified by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Utilizing a five-point scale, executives said the most important skills to succeed in today's workplace are communication, followed by learning aptitude/desire to grow, collaboration and teamwork and creative problem-solving. The majority of those surveyed agreed that the types of skills evaluated in the survey link to better career opportunities.

"It's not enough to have the relevant skills and experience," said Dr. Laura Palmer Noone, president of University of Phoenix. "Those who want to hold onto their jobs and move up the career ladder must be able to present the right attitude, communicate well with their peers, and work in teams."

Nearly three-quarters – 74 percent – expect continued growth for jobs in their respective industries, but two-thirds – 65 percent – of those polled also cited a shortage of skilled candidates to fill these anticipated positions.

"Obtaining those skills is a matter of finding educational options which focus on the whole person," said Noone.

"Education tailored to specific professions or industries, such as nursing, education, business, human services and information technology is needed, but the academic environment should incorporate assignments which enable students to practice leading and following, hone their teamwork and discussion skills, and use critical thinking and problem solving in their work. This may seem obvious," she said, "but many faculty still use reading, lecturing and rote memorization as their primary learning tools, when they could be using much more active methods to promote these deeper layers of learning."

When asked to rank the importance of four employee attributes, participants rated personal skills, such as attitude and chemistry, and professional skills, such as communication and presentation abilities, higher than work experience or the right education.

However, this does not mean formal education is not highly regarded. In fact, more than half of those surveyed favor continuous improvement and updating of skills through education and training. Nearly 57 percent of the respondents offer tuition reimbursement to employees seeking to enhance their skills.

"This statistic tells us that today's employees, particularly those in the fastest-growing industries, are expected to adapt quickly to industry changes and differing roles within their respective organizations," said Noone. "And, post-secondary institutions have to keep up too, adapting their learning strategies to meet the ever-changing demands of a workplace that has become increasingly complex and global."

Special message goes out to military graduates overseas

Keynote speakers in the 2005 graduation video include distinguished students, faculty, and dignitaries

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, CA – Cpl. Russell Schlyer squints as the bright lights come on, and the photographer adjusts the camera aimed at the young Marine. Cpl. Schlyer collects his thoughts, as he prepares for an interview about his work and education.

Like many of his colleagues, Cpl. Schlyer is both a full-time University of Phoenix Online student and active-duty servicemember. Yet, this military student has taken his dedication to his country and education one step further. While deployed to Iraq, he continued his education with University of Phoenix Online.

Cpl. Schlyer admits it was not easy to balance his classes and military assignment. "We work 16 hour days," he said. "It's a whole new outlook on life when you're getting shot at day in and day out by guys you don't even see."

Cpl. Schlyer's words of encouragement echoed throughout graduation ceremonies in Europe and Asia. As part of a commencement video honoring graduates, the Marine said military members have no excuse to put off getting an education.

"If myself and other marines, soldiers, and sailors can do it, over in a combat zone where we're shot at 24-7, why can't someone who's got a nine to five do it here?" he said.

In addition, Senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy veteran, addressed the graduates in the video, commending them on their achievement. Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, U.S. Army, also congratulated the new degree holders. Lt. Boylan is the Combined Press Information Center Director in Baghdad, as well as a University of Phoenix Online instructor. Other speakers included Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Arizona Rep. J.D. Hayworth.



Cpl. Schlyer sat for an interview for the 2005 graduation video. Cpl. Schlyer continued taking online classes while deployed to Iraq.

Baghdad: A Student's Perspective

a day in the life of Donna Sheain



International Police Liaison Officers, such as Donna Sheain, travel with military personnel to police stations. The above photo was taken by a colleague of Sheain, while in route to a station.



On January 30, Iraq held its first free vote election in half a century. Donna Sheain took this photo on election day when she stepped out onto the roof of the hotel where she was staying. She said she went there to "reflect on such a moving and historical day." She describes it as a day she will never forget.





Donna Sheain and her colleagues are accompanied by the military when traveling to police stations. This photo was taken on the way to a police station, where Sheain and her colleagues evaluated that station..



Donna Sheain shows the Iraqi guards the type of schoolwork she is doing.

“The University of Phoenix has helped me fulfill a dream of mine.”

“This is the only way working adults can earn their degree.”

-Donna Sheain

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:

Coast Guard 7th District Web Site, April 2005

"Coast Guardsmen Make the Best of Education Benefits"
Summary: Two Coast Guard students in the 7th District who attend University of Phoenix Online would otherwise not be able to attend college.

Link: www.d7publicaffairs.com

The Signal (Fort Gordon installation paper), May 20, 2005
"Phoenix Online offers greater discount to Fort Gordon community"

Summary: A new agreement with University of Phoenix Online and Fort Gordon allows the Fort Gordon community a greater discount and frequent visits by a University representative.

Link: <http://www.gordon.army.mil/pao/archives.htm>

USMC.mil, June 2, 2005

"Marine wife excels despite numerous obstacles"

Summary: A University of Phoenix Online student and Marine Corps spouse balances family and school, while overcoming personal challenges.

Link: <http://www.usmc.mil/>

Herald-Post (the post newspaper that covers Heidelberg, Mannheim, Darmstadt, Babenhausen, Kaiserslautern, Miesau and Landstuhl), June 16, 2005

"University of Phoenix holds first overseas graduation ceremony"

Summary: University of Phoenix held its first overseas graduation ceremony.

Link: <http://www.26thasg.heidelberg.army.mil/>

Military Spouse magazine, August 2005

"Internet University"

Summary: Military spouses are looking to online universities to earn a degree. A University of Phoenix Online military spouse shares her success.

Link: <http://www.militaryspousemagazine.com/>

Coming in November...

Look for the November 2005 issue of Online Patriot.

The largest graduating class of University of Phoenix Online crosses the stage to receive diplomas. The July commencement ceremonies represent the largest graduation for an online university. Meet some military graduates with unique and inspiring stories.

Life After Graduation

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

Admiral Kirkland H. Donald

Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program
Biography courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Admiral Kirkland Donald assumed duties as Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion, on 5 November 2004. Originally from Norlina, N.C., he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering.

After nuclear power and submarine training, he served in USS Batfish (SSN 681), USS Mariano G. Vallejo (SSBN 658), and USS Seahorse (SSN 669).

Adm. Donald was Commanding Officer on USS Key West (SSN 722) from October 1990 to February 1993. He served as Commander, Submarine Development Squadron Twelve from August 1995 to July 1997. From June 2002 to July 2003, he was assigned as Commander, Submarine Group 8; Commander, Submarine Force Sixth Fleet (CTF 69); Commander, Submarines Allied Naval Forces South; and Commander, Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine Force (CTF 164) in Naples, Italy. Most recently, he served as Commander Naval Submarine Forces; Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Commander Allied Submarine Command; and Commander Task Forces 84 and 144. His shore assignments include the Pacific Fleet Nuclear Propulsion Examining Board and the staff of the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion. He also served at the Bureau of Naval Personnel and on The Joint Staff. Adm. Donald's last shore assignment was Deputy Chief of Staff for C4I, Resources, Requirements and Assessments, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Adm. Donald holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and is a graduate of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executive Fellows Program.

Adm. Donald is authorized to wear the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with four Gold Stars, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Gold Star in addition to several other personal and unit awards.

Thomas R. Nutter, 1999 MBA/TM graduate and Director of Special Programs for Commander, Naval Submarine Forces, retired after 45 years of service to the U.S. Navy and the nation. During the retirement ceremony, Nutter was presented the Distinguished Civilian Service Award.

Lee D. O'Connor, 2002 AA graduate, was recently selected for promotion to Chief Perry Officer in the U.S. Navy while assigned aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, home-ported in Mayport, Fla.

Coast Guard Lt. J. G. Edward L. Semler Jr., 1999 AA/TS graduate, was promoted to his present rank while serving aboard the Coast Guard cutter Dependable, home-ported in Portsmouth, Va.



U.S. Navy Adm. Kirkland Donald graduated from University of Phoenix Online in 1999 with an MBA.

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Martha Longoria, 1999 BSB/A graduate, has retired from the U.S. Air Force and relocated to Cedar Springs, Iowa, where she works as a Night Shift Facilitator for Rockwell Collins.

Carl Ronhaar, 2003 BSB/A graduate, was commissioned to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve during a recent ceremony in Quantico, Va.

David R. Swander Jr., 2004 BSIT/NTC graduate and Army National Guard Specialist, has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson located in Columbia, S.C.

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

Lt. Eric D. Johnson, 2003 MBA/GM graduate, has assumed duties as Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Southeast Regional Fisheries Training Center in Charleston, S.C.

Capt. Bradley J. Koopmeiners, U.S. Marine Corps, 2000 MBA/GM graduate, was deployed with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force for anti-terrorism protection in Fallujah, Iraq.

Tamara Lewis-Ibrahim, 2004 MBA graduate, has advanced to an Auditor position with the U.S. Air Force in Camp Spring, Md.

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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:

Aug. 1-3 Buckley ANGB, F.E. Warren AFB, Fort Carson, Peterson AFB

Aug. 1-3 Marine Corps AGCC 29 Palms, Yuma Proving Ground, MCAS Yuma

Aug. 1-3 Lackland AFB, Fort Sam Houston, Kirtland AFB

Aug. 1-5 NAS Pensacola, Eglin AFB, Hurlburt Field, Keesler AFB, NS Pascagoula

Aug. 8-12 Fort Bragg, Pope AFB, Camp Lejeune, MCAS Cherry Point

Aug. 10-12 Dover AFB, Fort Meade, NAS Pax River

Aug. 10-12 Fort Hood, Fort Sam Houston

Aug. 16-18 Fort Benning, Fort Gordon

Aug. 21-23 2005 Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States conference, Orlando, Florida

Aug. 21-24 Fort Bragg, Pope AFB, Seymour Johnson AFB, Camp Lejeune

Aug. 21-26 NS Everett, Camp Murray, Fort Lewis, NAS Whidbey Island, NSB Bangor

Aug. 23-26 Travis AFB, Beale AFB

Sept. 11-16 Fort Lewis, Camp Murray, NS Everett, McChord AFB, NSB Bangor

Sept. 12-15 Langley AFB, NS Norfolk

Sept. 12-15 MCB Quantico – Modern Day Marine Expo

Sept. 13-15 Fort Benning, Fort Gordon

Sept. 16-23 Hickam AFB, NS Pearl Harbor, Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks

Sept. 21-23 Fort Leonard Wood – Military Police Conference

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.