



However, during this deployment—thanks to APSU and other on-post colleges—soldiers can continue classes while in Iraq through Web-based instruction.

Comments from soldiers returning after the first deployment indicated that, while in Iraq, they alternated between periods of high activity and downtime. Many had inquired about taking Web-based classes during those downtimes.

APSU and the other institutions developed and facilitated early registration for soldiers fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom, along with timely shipping of textbooks, online procedures for tuition assistance and online services from the Registrar's and Business Offices.

And complete advisement services for soldiers are available online.

Courses offered range from art and biology to homeland security and political science. Both bachelor's and master's level classes, as well as technical courses, are available online.

Profs teach Islam, Muslim cultures to soldiers

Last spring, as a community service and at the request of Col. David Gray, commander of the 3,000 soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), two APSU professors taught an orientation course on

Muslims and Islam for members of the 1st Brigade, prior to its second deployment to Iraq.

Dr. Albert Randall, professor of philosophy and religion, and Dr. Dewey Browder, professor of history and chair of the department, taught "The History and Religion of Iraq," along with Gray and Col. Jim D. Scudieri, commander of the 101st Sustainment Brigade. Both Gray and Scudieri hold doctorates in military history.

The course was designed to familiarize the soldiers with accurate information about Iraq and Islam and dispel stereotypes. The course also served as a pilot course for the new Institute for Global Security Studies.

Construction means short-term pain for long-term gain

Once again, parts of campus are cordoned off with wire fencing and yellow construction tape. Although this means temporary detours and fewer parking spots, it's also a sign of progress.

With Austin Peay's award-winning ROTC program relocated in the Memorial Health Building (Red Barn), the old Armory was demolished in May to make way for a new recreation center, scheduled for completion as early as Fall 2006. With an \$11 million price tag, the rec center will feature a climbing wall, a cardio/weight room, three full-sized basketball courts, four racquetball courts and other amenities that, research shows, are expectations of today's college students.

Massive renovations to the antiquated McCord Building have begun. With its beautiful Georgian facade, the building has become a shell, as most of the interior has been gutted and is being rebuilt to make acceptable space for the School of Nursing, the geosciences and an expanded GIS Center.

For the first time in history, APSU has a women's soccer field located behind the Tennis Center, and construction has begun on the APSU Farm Project animal retention facility. Properties owned by APSU along Ford Street, Castle Heights, Robb Avenue and Patrick Street are slated to come down to make way for new growth.

In an unusual move by the federal government and the U.S. Army, APSU has received permission to construct additional class and

office space adjacent to the Fort Campbell Education Center, which operates at capacity, day and night. As soon as approval is received from the State Building Commission, construction can begin.

They just don't build 'em like they used to. Above right, the first swing of the wrecking ball did little damage, as it bounced off the building like a basketball.



When interior renovations are complete, the McCord Building will house the School of Nursing, the geosciences and an expanded GIS Center.



Bill Penzinger

