Seth Shaul, an education specialist student in library media through UWA online, will be featured May 21 on Education Talk Radio with a half-hour segment that begins at noon central daylight time. The show is expected to focus on UWA Online’s commitment to educational opportunities for active military members.

The show will be broadcast live and can be heard, no matter where you are, at blogtalkradio.com/highereducationtalkradio. The show will also be archived on the web at highereducationtalkradio.org.

A Tech Sergeant, or E-6, Shaul is currently stationed at the 117th Air Refueling Wing in Birmingham, Ala. Already holding bachelor’s degree in secondary education and master’s degree in library media from UWA, Shaul was the first recipient of UWA’s scholarship for active military members taking online courses.

In his civilian job, Shaul is a middle school library media specialist. “Serving in our armed forces is a privilege.” Shaul told Online OUTLOOK. “There is a sense of honor you feel when wearing the uniform. It’s being a part of something bigger than yourself.” He said that being the recipient of UWA Online’s scholarship for active military members takes “a huge burden off me and my family.” Shaul said the scholarship will keep him from having to borrow extra money to finish his Ed.S. program.

The upcoming show on May 21 is the second visit on Education Talk Radio for UWA Online in 2012. Online Dean Martha Hocutt, College of Education and School of Graduate Studies Dean Kathy Chandler, as well as College of Business Dean Ken Tucker were featured on the network in February with host Larry Jacobs to discuss the entirety of online offerings at The University of West Alabama.

Scholarships for UWA Online studies are available for active duty military, including National Guard and Reserve units. For information contact Hocutt at mhocutt@uwa.edu or by calling 205-652-3675.
Can We Answer Your Online Questions?

Following are questions recently received via Webmaster by the University of West Alabama Division of Online Programs advisor staff. What follows are their responses to those questions. Hopefully, it will help answer some questions you may have.

Q: I have a bachelor’s degree in secondary social science, but no classroom experience as a teacher. I have been a teacher’s aide for six years and was told I could get a waiver from our school superintendent to bypass this requirement. Would this type of waiver be acceptable for enrollment in your program?
A: You may be admitted into the Master’s of Education programs with a valid renewable teaching certification. You could be admitted into the school counseling or library media programs without the teaching experience, however, the experience is required to receive certification in those areas. If there are ways to bypass this within your school system, then that would be between the school system and the state department.

Q: I took my GRE in 2002. Is this sufficient or do I need to retake it to apply for the Ed.S. in Instructional Leadership?
A: You will not have to have a GRE score for the education specialist program.

Q: What are the admission requirements for the Ed.S. in School Counseling?
A: In order to apply for the Ed.S. School Counseling Program you must submit the following: Application for admission, official copy of your transcripts, copy of your master’s level school counseling certificate and background clearance through Cogent (you may take up to 12 hours before having this on file).

Q: I am currently enrolled in an MAT program at a university in Tennessee and have completed 18 hours. Due to family circumstances I need to transfer to complete my degree. What are the next steps?
A: The Alabama State Department of Education has recently changed the regulations on transfer credits into certified programs, so you will more than likely not be able to transfer any credits into our MAT Certification program. If you are in a non-certification program it shouldn’t be a problem.

Q: If I were to enroll in the Master of Arts in Teaching program, how many of the mathematics classes would be offered online?
A: The MAT Mathematics degree can be completed entirely online. All of the required courses, including the mathematics course, are offered totally online.

Q: Do you have to have two years of teaching experience to be enrolled in the M.Ed. School Counseling program and when should I apply to start in January 2014?
A: You do not have to have the two years of teaching experience to be admitted into the program, however, you will need it to be awarded certification. You should apply no later than December of 2013 to start in January 2014.

Q: I currently have a BS in special education and a teaching license in Tennessee. I would like to get a master’s in school counseling before moving on to an Ed.S. in school psychology. If I go through the master’s program at UWA will I still be eligible for licensure in the state of Tennessee?
A: The M.Ed. School Counseling is a certified program, meaning it will lead to a master’s level teaching certification. We have a reciprocal agreement with the state of Tennessee and there has been no problem with students earning their certification, but we always urge out of state students to double check with their state department of education for assurance.

Q: Is a standardized test, such as the GRE or MAT, required for admittance into the school counseling program?
A: Yes, you do need to take the GRE or the MAT to be admitted. A score needs to be on file with the UWA School of Graduate Studies.
Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Wayne Bedford, professor of information systems and a member of the UWA Online faculty, was recently named as one of 10 regional recipients of the 2012 Teaching Excellence Award from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Award recipients are selected based on their classroom teaching, professional development, and community and campus involvement.

In addition to teaching, Bedford serves as associate dean of the College of Business and is the chair of the Department of Computer Information Systems and Technology. He earned his doctorate, master’s, M.B.A., and bachelor’s degrees at Mississippi State University and has taught at UWA since 2003.

His research interests include mobile commerce, and ethics and trust in information systems, and he maintains membership in the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Association of Computing Machinery, the Decision Sciences Institute, and the Southern Management Association.

Bedford and the other nine regional recipients will be honored at the ACBSP’s annual conference in Baltimore, Md., this June. As a regional recipient, Bedford is now a candidate for the 2012 ACBSP International Teaching Excellence Award, which will be announced at the conference.

The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, founded in 1988, is an international accrediting association for business education.

Bedford is teaching Statistics (BA 271) and Advanced Statistics (BA 272) during the 2012 UWA Online Summer Session.
The University of West Alabama was chartered in 1835 as a church-related female academy and admitted its first students in 1839. A resolution by the Board of Trustees in 1876 excluded boys, and this policy was followed until the beginning of the 20th century.

From 1881 to 1910 the school at Livingston was under the direction of the noted educator and reformer Julia Tutwiler, who succeeded in getting a small state appropriation in 1883 to establish normal school training for girls at Livingston Female Academy. The first normal school diplomas were granted in 1886.

Livingston Female Academy and State Normal College continued as a private institution until 1907, when the State assumed full control. During the early years the school offered both secondary education and normal school programs for the training of teachers.

In 1929 the school became State Teachers College, Livingston, Ala., with authority to confer the degree of Bachelor of Science. The Bachelor of Arts degree was authorized in 1947.

In 1957 the name was again changed — this time to Livingston State College — and the following year the mission of the institution was broadened when the Graduate Division was established and the College was authorized to confer master's degrees in the field of professional education. In 1967 an act of the Legislature created Livingston University, with its own Board of Trustees.

In 1995 the institution recognized its broader mission as a regional university serving the educational needs of all the citizens of the area by changing its name to the University of West Alabama.

UWA Online Since ’02 ... Making the UWA Difference a Lot Longer

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UWA FACTS

PUBLIC/STATE/LIBERAL ARTS

PRESIDENT - DR. RICHARD HOLLAND (2002 - PRESENT)

APPROXIMATELY 2,800 ONLINE STUDENTS

APPROXIMATELY 2,200 ON-CAMPUS STUDENTS

85% OF ON-CAMPUS FACULTY HOLD TERMINAL DEGREES, 90% OF ONLINE FACULTY