OSP SPAA’s Directors establish a culture of continuous improvement and learning. One way that this is communicated to SPAA teammates is through encouragement of teammates to pursue higher education degrees.

Melinda McGlaun and Angie York (above) are SPAA teammates who have within this past year completed their Masters in Business Administration. Melinda and Angie both pursued their degrees while employed full-time in SPAA.

Congratulations to both Angie and Melinda! Their education and experience are great assets to the OSP – SPAA team.
Sponsored Projects Award Administration

**September**
SPAA’s busiest month is upon us! Activities are increasing to full-throttle focused on the following activities: final reporting, new award set-ups, closeout reporting for Federal Fiscal Year End, preparation of portions of the annual financial report including the Schedule of Expenditures on Federal Awards, process improvement projects, along with our routine invoicing and collection activities.

**Welch Reporting**
The Welch Foundation reporting deadline was July 15th. Seventy-one financial reports were completed. Kristin Cress managed SPAA’s portion of the process with coaching from Angie York who handled the process last year.

Dr. L. Webb and Dr. Keatinge-Clay were among the first to proactively sign their reports in mid-June. Among the outstanding departmental research administrators to support their staff were Jennifer Rodgers, Sylvia Jean, Annie Harding, and Jo Ann Smith.

Reggie Crim, manager of the non-negotiated award team in OSP, delivered the reports to the Vice President for Research, Dr. Juan Sanchez for signature before sending them off to the Welch Foundation.

It was an outstanding collaborative effort that reflects well on the reputation of our great university.

---

**Audits**
On behalf of UT Austin’s Researchers, SPAA is anticipating our annual A-133 audit visit in October.

If your department is contacted about an audit, please contact SPAA oajrichter@austin.utexas.edu. SPAA is available to assist with the audit process and can serve as your liaison with the audit entity.

**Congratulations to Amy Blake!** We’re celebrating 15 years of her service to the research community of UT Austin with OSP - SPAA (Contract & Grants).

**Effort Reporting Training Upcoming**
The Central Effort Coordinator AE Always has released the timeline for the October-November effort reporting cycle. It is on the OSP Effort Reporting website. Signup for the Fall SP 601 (concepts) and SP 602 (how to) classes on TXClass is beginning.

On September 16th, NCURA will host a web event Managing Effort: Truth or Consequences presented by Patrick Fitzgerald, an Assoc. Dean for Research Administration at Harvard University and Brenda Kavanaugh, Assist. Director, of the Office of Research and Project Administration at the University of Rochester. Signup is available on TXClass for this under SP 205. AE Always in collaboration with Elena Mota will facilitate our campus’ participation in the event in ACES 2.402.
Happy News –
Wedding Bells in the SPAA Family

Account Specialist Barry Stewart took a lovely bride in August. Congratulations, Barry!

Happy News –
An Addition to the SPAA Family

Adorable Charlotte was born to Michael Martindale and his wife in August, gratefully.

Michael thanks his SPAA teammates, Melinda, Barry, and Kristin for covering his account assignment duties while he and his wife welcome their little bundle of joy.

Congratulations to the Martindales on a beautiful and healthy baby girl!
Meet Chrystal Dodson. She is the Administrative Associate serving as the Federal II Billing/Reporting Team Lead in SPAA.

How many years have you been with SPAA? I have worked in SPAA almost four years.

Why do you prefer to work here at UT Austin, rather than another institution or organization? I prefer to work here at UT Austin because I really like being on campus daily. There is so much to do and see, and it is all within walking distance on my break.

Where do you enjoy dining on campus? I have a few places I like to eat on campus. Lately I have been going to the Pita Pit. I really like their turkey pita with sautéed mushrooms. http://www.pitapitaustin.com/

What do you wish UT Austin’s PIs and Research Administrators knew about SPAA? I would like for UT’s PIs and Research Administrators to know that we try our best to get reports and invoices to the sponsor in a timely manner and their help in providing necessary information quickly is always appreciated. ♥

*Certified Research Administrator (CRA) http://www.cra-cert.org/*
NIH Salary Cap is $199,700  http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm

**Research Administrators’ Certification Exam**
A new UT Austin study group for the certification exam administered by the Research Administrator’s Certification Council is forming this Fall.

Dr. Susan Sedwick was the first CRA at UT Austin. Since joining the university she has inspired many research administrators to follow in her footsteps to obtain the professional credentials.

Find about the certification exam here: [www.cra-cert.org](http://www.cra-cert.org)

**NIH Salary Cap** - The salary rate is $199,700. If a PI’s salary is over the cap, when they propose for an NIH award they should identify a university account for cost sharing the difference. The NIH Salary cap is a prorated requirement. For effort reporting, salary in excess of the cap should be shown as effort cost shared. Angie York advised more than 40 PIs about management of their at-the-cap status this quarter. Questions? NIHcap@austin.utexas.edu [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm)

**The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**
Over the summer, SPAA handled weekly reporting on stimulus awards to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. In late July, OSP - Research Information Services resumed this responsibility.

The Comptroller’s website on stimulus activity for the state of Texas is: [http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/)

The Office of the Vice President for Research at our university has a helpful ARRA Web resource: [http://www.utexas.edu/research/resources/stimulus/index.php](http://www.utexas.edu/research/resources/stimulus/index.php)

**Research Administration Conference Attendance**
Upcoming opportunities:
* **SRA 2010 Annual Meeting**
  October 16-20, 2010   Chicago, IL
* **52nd Annual NCURA National Meeting**
  Oct 30-Nov 3, 2010   Washington, DC

In June, Kathy Peterson and Angie York attended the National Institutes of Health Regional Seminar in Portland, OR.