Keeping the Awareness
Flowing In & Around

Melissa Gidley and Robert Prentiss have risen up through the ranks in SPAA. Their experience on the billing team benefits researchers as they continue to serve researchers in their new Account Specialist positions. They replace two specialists who accepted positions elsewhere.

Contact: aalways@austin.utexas.edu
Audits & Desk Reviews

On behalf of UT Austin’s Researchers, in the months April through July 2011, SPAA has/will handle 10 audits/reviews:

- Advanced Research Program Grants (ARP)
- Comptroller (2)
- Governor’s Office
- Internal Audit Office
- Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)
- NSF Federal Financial Report review
- Sandia
- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- University of Illinois at Chicago

If you are contacted about an audit, please contact SPAA
oa.jrichter@austin.utexas.edu. SPAA is available to assist with the audit process and can serve as your liaison with the auditors.

New Account Contacts & Billing Teammates

SPAA’s Account Specialist Team is thankfully fully staffed again. The updated account assignments:

http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/accounts.html

As SPAA teammates have stepped upwards into new roles, vacancies have also been filled from reception to billing. Updated org chart:

http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/org_charts/award_team.html

Welch Reporting Season

Recipients should look for emails from SPAA’s Kristin Cress in preparation for the Welch financial reporting due date July 15th. Welch reports require original signatures from their PIs. Kristin works with UT’s Welch recipients in advance to plan the most convenient time for PIs to sign after Kristin prepares the reports for them in June. Kristin Cress is a great resource for questions about Welch financial reporting. Her e-mail: cress@austin.utexas.edu

For Welch award recipients the annual progress report and financial statement for the year 6/1/10-5/31/11, will be due to the Welch Foundation by July 31, 2011.

Awardees please send a signed original of your progress report to Reggie Crim by July 19th, so these can be countersigned by the Vice President for Research Dr. Juan Sanchez and then shipped to the Welch Foundation.

Info about the Welch Foundation Grants and Awards is available here: http://www.welch1.org/

Special Thanks to Department Research Administrators who took time to visit us at our Open House event! ★
Keeping Knowledgeable
With Training
SP 602 Participants
Anderson-Wimberly, Leah
Alvarez, Laurie
Angelo, Angela
Apodaca, Julia
Bables, Stacie
Barrientes, Esther
Berkman, Marsha
Borowski, Kathy
Cousins, Margo
Fry, Christine
Garcia Galvan, Esmeralda
Gilbert, Amy
Goodfellow, Nikki
Grier, Victoria
Hald, Tinley
Holder, Gloria
Hopkins, Christa
Huntzis, Stephanie
Judson, Dana
Keudell, C J
Kizzee, Angela
Lira, Leticia
McGlaun, Melinda
Meserve, Jeffrey
Miller, Michelle
Montgomery, Jon
Palaima, Carolyn
Prather, Deborah
Rasmussen, Ashley
Salinas, Lizeth
Sandoval, Cheryl
Sherrick, Tera K
Snow, Eleanour
Stone, Shelley
Thatcher, Kathy
Uzri, Salwa
Weidman, Kristin
Whitman, Jay

All Effort Contacts (ECs) are valuable. Each cycle some ECs go beyond the minimum, even go beyond doing a “good job”. MVPs are those that rise to the level of effort reporting heroes, performing great feats of detailed proactive review and analysis.

This cycle a few of the MVPs are:

Nikki Goodfellow on the 1st day of precertification in April identified an obscure issue related to hourly workers and retroactive HRMS changes.
Stephanie Huntzis Achebe ditto with Nikki on the same day.
Angela Kizzee while proactively adding her PIs to projects/providing them cost sharing reminders, she found a typo OSP had made in RMS for us to fix.
Deborah Prather noticed that tuition remission promised as cost sharing was missing. Someone had processed it with the wrong object code.
Glenda Taylor caught a tuition remission mix-up and had it fixed by SAR.
Kamar Nassor & Lizet Villafranca Dept Report tab needed an IT fix.
School of Social Work & Information School Effort Contacts
All effort reports were certified by their PIs by day 30!
Charla Carrington proactively planning for a smooth departure for a PI.
Julie Duiker noticed a primary was appearing as a supporting individual.
Loretta Cowen handling a unique situation as she was best qualified to do.
Lindy Aleshire untangled knots left by another, made overdue corrections.

There are more. I wish I could name each. ★ THANK YOU to All, MVPs! ★

Office Managers who responded with agility to ensure that their faculty had Effort Contacts:

Bugnand, Sharon
Cantrell, Tommy
Foster, Rosalie
Howard, Barbara
Kahlor, Leaann
Leitao, Egidio
Rosenblatt, Bernard
Preuss, Janet
Williams, Sherian
Zabaneh, Kimberly
Meet Arlene Packard, Federal Billing & Account Processing Teammate in SPAA.

How many years have you been with OSP?
I have been in this department since moving to Austin almost 6 years ago. When Hurricane Rita was headed straight to Houston my husband and I packed up a u-haul, with 3 cats and 1 dog. We came here and stayed with family. It only took 15 hours to get here! That was an experience I will never forget. Luckily, while I was here I applied for this position and landed the job.

What motivates you in your work?
The feeling of achievement from successfully completing my work and obtaining my goals.

What do you enjoy here on the UT Austin campus?
I enjoy that everything is so close--the post office, banks and shopping. There is always something to do on your lunch break.

What are your hobbies?
I like to shop: going to antiques stores, flea markets and garage sales. I love to decorate, always changing things around at my house. I got into beading a few years ago and really enjoy that.

Why do you prefer to work here at UT Austin, rather than another organization?
I have worked several jobs over the years but I prefer the structure and the working environment UT provides.

Where do you enjoy dining here?
Being in our new location [NOA] just a few months I have not had the opportunity to check out many restaurants, but I have been to Posse East a couple of times and really enjoyed the food and atmosphere.
As announced in the previous issue, some vacancies in SPAA were created as SPAA teammates accepted other positions elsewhere. One of the many services SPAA provides the university is that of training ground for research administrators. SPAA trains staff with valuable knowledge and skills.
Sponsored Projects Award Administration

**NIH Salary Cap**
The cap for FY 2011 is $199,700 (same as 2010).

The NIH Salary cap is a prorated requirement. If an individual’s annualized salary with supplement is over the cap, they should identify a university account for cost sharing the difference. In effort reporting, salary in excess of the cap will be shown as “effort cost shared”.

Questions: [NIHcap@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:NIHcap@austin.utexas.edu)

**Research Alerts from Tim Green in the VPR’s Office:**
[http://www.utexas.edu/research/resources/research-alerts](http://www.utexas.edu/research/resources/research-alerts)

**Free Resource from NIH:**

**NSF Regional Grants Conference in Austin Oct. 17-18, 2011:**

**Professional Development**

**SP101** Life Cycle of a Sponsored Research Grant – Pre-award
_Aug 23, 2011_ NOA 5.318 Signup in TXCLASS

**SP102** Life Cycle of a Sponsored Research Grant – Post-award
_Aug 23, 2011_ NOA 5.318 Signup in TXCLASS

**NCURA**
[http://www.ncura.edu/content/calendar/](http://www.ncura.edu/content/calendar/)

**SRA International**
[http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/index.cfm](http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/index.cfm)

**For NIH Researchers at/over the Salary Cap**
In Spring 2011 the Vice President for Research’s Office announced the availability of supplemental university funds to support a limited number of researchers’ overage. The funds will allow acceptance of an NIH project, in cases in which truly the college and department are devoid of other sources of support for the PI. PIs in this situation should look for an announcement in Spring 2012 via the PIN listserv _principal_investigator_network@utlists.utexas.edu_.

The Research Administrators Certification Council announced the new Certified Pre-award Research Administrator (CPRA) Examination. The CPRA is an addition to the existing CRA certification. The handbook and application are available: [http://cra-cert.org/](http://cra-cert.org/)