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, Chrystal Dodson, and Angie York (above) are three SPAA teammates that are currently employed full-time while pursuing degrees. Melinda and Angie have each been working towards completing their Masters in Business Administration. Chrystal is undertaking a Baccalaureate degree in Religious Studies with a minor in Computer Science.

Other SPAA teammates take higher education classes for personal growth and enjoyment. Teammates are encouraged to attend research administration conferences and to study for the CRA certification exam. More inside.
Welch Reporting
The Welch Reporting deadline was July 15th. All of our reports were submitted on-time thanks to the diligence of Angie York and the cooperation of all the Welch award recipients.

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.

Effort Reporting
The Central Effort Coordinator communicated with several PIs over the summer offering assistance in cleaning up corrections to recent effort reports. All spring effort reports are now in. Preparations are underway for the open of the October-November effort cycle. Look for SP 601 for new research administrators in TXCLASS.

Audits
On behalf of UT Austin’s Researchers, in the months June 2009 through August 2009, SPAA has handled new or continued audits from Sandia and the National Science Foundation. If your department is 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 audit entity.

SPAA’s Service Statistics
- Monthly Bills: 650, 155, 23, 87
- Amount of Active LOC Accounts: 1,092
- Federal: $16,816,644
  - State: $1,573,097
  - Private: $242,674
  - Local: $1,077,288
- Avg Monthly Sponsor Billing
- Federal Letter of Credit Draws: $14,017,013
- Thank you to SPAA’s Amy Blake for her statistics contributions!
Meet Angie York, Grants & Contracts Specialist III. She is the contact for awards from NASA, Hogg Foundation, Welch Foundation, and some U.S. military. She graduated with her MBA with a concentration in Business Management in August.

**What motivates you in your work?**
I take great pride in the working relationships I make within the university. I enjoy feeling like I contribute to the betterment of society. Though I’m not physically doing the research, I do the behind the scenes financial management and compliance.

**What do you wish UT Austin’s PIs and Research Administrators knew about SPAA?**
It’s important for the research community to understand the balance between customer service and compliance. It can be challenging at times to walk that line because I want to deliver the best customer service experience, which can be difficult if I’m also staying within the frame work of all the rules and regulations inherent to sponsored award management.

**What are your hobbies?**
Working full time and going to school full time has not allowed for much else. I love a good indie rock show and anything fun involving a lake or a river.

**How many years have you been with SPAA?**
I started in November 2003 as a financial reporter and have worked nearly every position in this office and worked with pretty much every funding agency. I was promoted to Grants and Contracts Specialist in May 2006 and received my CRA* in June 2009. I have worked in this office for nearly six years.

**Why do you prefer to work here at UT Austin, rather than another institution or organization?**
I earned my undergraduate degree here so it is quite surreal sometimes that I work here. I remember walking around as a wee 18-year-old thinking, “This is the coolest place ever!” And well, I still pretty much think that. From the architecture, to the culture, to the people, UT is unique and continues to inspire and amaze me. •

*Certified Research Administrator (CRA)  [http://www.cra-cert.org/](http://www.cra-cert.org/)
NIH Salary Cap - The salary rate is $196,700. 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 “contributed effort”. More than 20 PIs were advised by SPAA regarding management of their at-the-cap status this year. Questions? NIHcap@austin.utexas.edu http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) SPAA has handled weekly reporting on stimulus awards to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The Comptroller’s website on stimulus activity for the state of Texas is: 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

Research Administration Conference Attendance SPAA teammates are encouraged in continuous professional development. Melinda McGlaun just returned from NCURA’s FRA Workshop in August. Monica Cooke attended Effective Compliance Systems in Higher Education in June. Monica also attended the TWC Financial Conference with Chaz Gardinier, Amy Blake, and Melinda McGlaun in July. SPAA’s staying sharp!

Have you seen it yet? OSP SPAA has helpful content posted in askUS. Can’t find an answer there? Post a question and we’ll get you the answer.