SPAA: Working Like Dogs to Close Out Fiscal Year 2012-13
Sponsored Projects Award Administration
Newsletter -- Service

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

Hello, Sandra...
Sandra Neveling
Welcome to SPAA’s newest teammates! Sandra graduated from UT with a BA in History. She’s married with two dogs, and her husband is a chef. She loves our university’s spirit.

And Theresa!
Theresa Orendain
Theresa graduated from TX A&M with a BA in Sociology. Before joining SPAA, Sandra was in Student Financial Services. SPAA: http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/org_charts/spaa.html

Welch
Thank you to PIs and department staff who helped with the preparation of financial and progress reports for Welch Foundation grants this summer. Robert Prentiss prepared sixty-three financial reports and sixty amended budget requests. Henrike de Haas checked the documents, and Tanya Garcia collected the progress reports and shipped everything to the Welch Foundation. Christian Pfeiffer Flores helped clarify the finer points of Welch policy.

Welch financial reports require PI and OSP signatures. Since many PIs travel during the brief reporting window, it is always a challenge to obtain the required signatures by Welch’s deadline. The assistance provided by PIs and department staff is critical. This year SPAA received all of the financial reports in an especially timely manner, and thanks go to everyone who assisted. Special thanks to Danielle Nestler, Deanna Mueller, and Sylvia Jean in the Chemistry department for their willingness to help with difficult and unusual issues. Thank you!

Audits & Reviews
On behalf of our Researchers, in the months June through August SPAA handled:
- a desk review related to the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- the National Science Foundation (NSF) statistical analysis of grant fund expenditures as reported through the Federal Financial Report (FFR).

If contacted about an audit, please contact oa.jrichter@austin.utexas.edu.
Keeping Knowledgeable With Training

Life Cycle of a Sponsored Research Grant Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>PreAward/Post-/Both</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen, Erin M</td>
<td>(Both)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bandara, Dr. Hennaka</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlin, Mary E</td>
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<td>Carmichael, Tiffany</td>
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<td>Cormack, Jana</td>
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<td>Courtney, Charles R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis, Coreen W</td>
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<td>Garcia, Elizabeth A</td>
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<td>Greening, Sarah</td>
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<td>Howard, Matthew E</td>
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<td>Huebsch, Melissa</td>
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<td>Lopez, Vanessa</td>
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<td>Mueller, Deanna</td>
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<td>Nestler, Danielle Renee</td>
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<td>Prentiss, Robert A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rine, Margaret K</td>
<td>(Pre-)</td>
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<td>Scarborough, Megan</td>
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<td>Sharp, Adam</td>
<td>(Pre-)</td>
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<td>Smyrl, Vivian</td>
<td>(Both)</td>
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<td>Syed, Kamela</td>
<td>(Post-)</td>
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Departments Benefitting:

- Accounting, Office of
- Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life
- Biology
- Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Financial Information Sys
- Institute for Cellular & Molecular Biology
- Liberal Arts
- Long Institute of Latin American Studies
- Meadows Center & Vaughn Gross Center
- OIE
- OSP
- Pharmacy
- Ransom Humanities Research Center
- Waggoner Center for Alcohol & Addiction Research

Celebrations

Did You Know
Cute Dog Photos Can Improve Your Productivity?

It’s true according to researchers at Hiroshima University, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/10/01/want-to-increase-your-productivity-study-says-look-at-this-adorable-kitten/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2012/10/01/want-to-increase-your-productivity-study-says-look-at-this-adorable-kitten/)

Other studies have shown that even brief exposure to cute pets can lower blood pressure, decrease harmful stress hormones, and increase beneficial hormones associated with well being. [http://science.howstuffworks.com/life/pets-happiness1.htm](http://science.howstuffworks.com/life/pets-happiness1.htm)

The SPAA team has pooled together cute photos of dogs – family pets, friends’ pets, pets we dream of having one day. For your productivity and stress reduction, please enjoy these:

More On The Next Page ➔
These Dogs Are Special to SPAA
family pets, friends’ pets, & pets we dream of adopting
Meet Joy Hatch, Sr. Grants & Contracts Specialist in SPAA.

How many years have you been with OSP? I’ve worked at UT Austin for six years this November, all at OSP SPAA.

What motivates you in your work? I enjoy helping others. I’m proud to be a part of “helping make research happen.” Also, the excellent team of people I get to work with every day inspires me.

What are your hobbies? Most of my free time is now spent chasing after a 10-month old baby. In the past, I’ve enjoyed reading, learning guitar, crocheting, and rock climbing. I hope to spend time on these activities in the future, and share them with my daughter as she grows.

What do you wish UT’s PIs & Research Administrators knew about SPAA? We welcome questions! If you have any, please contact us, and ask away!

Where do you enjoy dining here on the 40 acres? I like being able to choose between the wide variety of options.
FEDERAL GRANT NEWS for Colleges and Universities in their July/August 2013 edition has an article titled, *With Comments In, Suggestions Offered, Next Step in Grants Overhaul is OMB’s*. It is available to employees of The University of Texas at Austin. Email aalways@austin.utexas.edu if you need the login and password.


Changes in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
The new Director of OMB is Sylvia Mathews Burwell, and the new Deputy Director is Brian Deese. 
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/organization_office

NCURA Quick Videos on Various Topics
http://www.youtube.com/user/NCURA1959

Professional Development
TXClass SP601 Effort Reporting Concepts 10/08
SP602 Hands-On Effort Reporting in ECS 10/10
https://utdirect.utexas.edu/txclass/index.WBX

NCURA Workshops
Dallas, Texas September 9-11, 2013
http://www.ncura.edu/content/calendar/

SRA International
New Orleans, Louisiana October 26-30
http://www.srainternational.org/sra03/index.cfm

Recovery Act (ARRA) Awards
Remember that most ARRA Award expenditures should be processed BEFORE 9/30/13. Check with OSP if you aren’t certain about your ARRA award.

★ CRA Certification! ★
http://www.cra-cert.org/