

OSP

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROJECTS

Helping Make Research Happen

## Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter

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Effort

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P

Interview

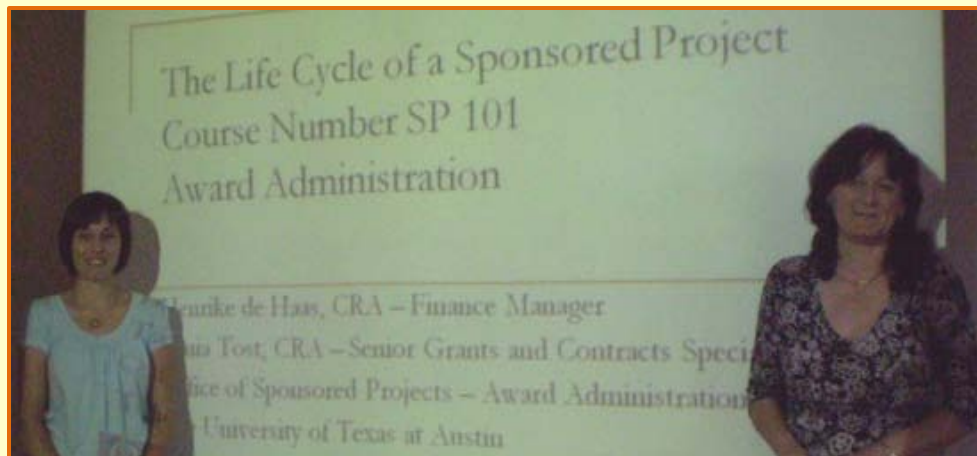
Photos

A

NIH, ARRA

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## You Shall Know The Truth...



**OSP** Research Information Services Program Coordinator, Elena Mota, with OSP SPAA Finance Manager, Henrike DeHaas (right), and Senior Grants & Contracts Specialist, Tania Tost (left), taught TXCLASS SP 101: The Life Cycle of a Sponsored Research Grant on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Professional development in the ever-changing field of research administration is one of the many services that OSP provides to the research community of The University of Texas at Austin.

# Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Service

## Effort Reporting

June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the effort reporting deadline. The Central Effort Coordinator, Amy Always, and the Associate and Assistant Directors, Jason Richter and David Dockwiller have been supporting the research community since April in preparing the semi-annual effort reports required by federal regulation.

The Central Effort Coordinator has answered over 215 emails to the [effort@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:effort@austin.utexas.edu) inbox, in addition to phone calls and face-to-face assistance. She is a resource to the campus for effort reporting questions.

SPAA's effort reporting resource website:

[http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/effort\\_reporting.html](http://www.utexas.edu/research/osp/effort_reporting.html)

**MVP of this Effort Cycle was Precertifier Sylvia Celedon**, Financial Analyst of the Population Center. She identified an elusive error reflected in ECS. She tracked it all the way back to the original transaction. Outstanding Work, Sylvia!

## Statistics

As of June 1, there are 165 PIs who have not yet final certified.



## Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Service

**Welch** On May 1, 2009 OSP and SPAA sent six representatives to the Welch Foundation meeting. It was held in the [Academic Room, MAI 212](#). Leaders from the Welch Foundation explained their strategy for continuing research funding in chemistry in the current state of the economy. This is the 54<sup>th</sup> year of funding research endeavors. The program predates NSF's research funding program. **The Welch Foundation's main goal is improving the human condition.** In 54 years the foundation has expended more than \$640 million in research funding. Each year 5% of the endowment must be spent and this is planned to continue despite economic downturn. One of the steps that the foundation will take in attempt to ensure future research funding will be to shorten new awards and extensions from the traditional three years, to one or two years. Should the economy rebound, the foundation may opt to automatically extend those awards to three-year awards. While the foundation typically prefers to extend all awards that apply for renewal, in order to protect funding for new awards the foundation has accepted renewals for less than 100% of the awards that applied. Invitations to renew were sent to the award recipients who had the most likely probability of being extended. **The progress reports of recipients' existing projects were a factor that the committee considered.** Welch Foundation leaders emphasized that regardless of economic downturn, every effort will be made to fulfill the existing Welch award promises.



## Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Service



**SPAA's Welch Account Contact, Angie York**, spoke with the Welch Foundation Grant Programs Coordinator after the presentation and advocated for the needs of the researchers of The University of Texas at Austin. The Coordinator, Carla Atmar, listened to Angie's suggestions about providing faculty researchers with additional electronic options for submitting their annual Welch reports. Carla replied that the Welch foundation will consider the suggestions and plan future improvements. Carla also added that the guidelines for Welch funding expenditures will remain the same at this time, and will not become more restrictive.

**Remember that June is the middle of the Welch reporting season.** Welch recipients have received emails from SPAA's Angie York in April, May, and will receive them again in June in preparation for the **Welch financial reporting deadline July 15<sup>th</sup>**. Welch reports require original signatures from their Principal Investigators (PIs). Angie is actively coordinating with our university's Welch recipients to plan the most convenient time for PIs to sign the reports that Angie is preparing for them this month.

Angie York is a great resource for questions about Welch financial reporting. [oa.ayork@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:oa.ayork@austin.utexas.edu)  
Info about the Welch Foundation Grants and Awards can be found here: <http://www.welch1.org/>

## Sponsored Projects Award Administration

## Newsletter -- People



### Meet Amy Blake, Sr. Admin. Assoc.

She supervises the 10 member administrative team that supports the SPAA Grants & Contracts Specialists by preparing the financial reporting and billing sent to all sponsoring agencies.

### What motivates you in your work?

A job well done. Also, I take great pleasure when someone is looking for guidance on an issue and I can help them resolve it.

### What do you wish UT Austin's PIs and Research Administrators knew about SPAA?

That we strive to have excellent customer service and when something is disallowed, we are only the messenger for our sponsoring agencies. Also, that we must always be thinking of compliance with regulations on the university's behalf.

## Spotlight On – SPAA's Amy Blake

Billing & Accounts Processing Team Lead



### Why do you prefer to work here at UT Austin, rather than another institution or organization?

I love the campus atmosphere and the camaraderie in SPAA is second to none! The management team was established eight years ago. Their style, consistency, and beliefs create a positive office environment. It makes a big difference to the team productivity and tone of the office. It is enjoyable to come to work every day and be appreciated! ♦

### What are your hobbies?

Reading, cooking, and entertaining family and friends.

### How many years have you been with SPAA?

I have been with Contracts & Grants (C & G)/SPAA for about 14 years. I did do a brief four month stint at UT System, but had an opportunity to return to campus within the C & G office. I didn't think twice about the chance to come back! Currently, I have the longest longevity within the C & G office...some say I am the C & G fossil!!!

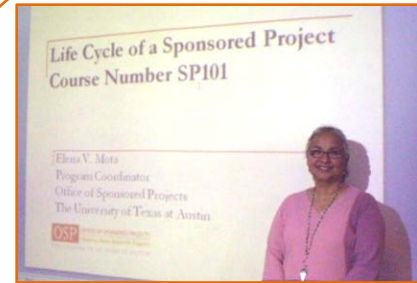
# Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- People



## Photo Gallery



Barry Stewart, SPAA  
Grants & Contracts Specialist III  
Recognized for 10 years of  
Service



Elena Mota, OSP RIS Program  
Coordinator



Melinda McGlaun, SPAA  
Grants & Contracts Specialist III  
Recognized for Excellence



Amy Always, SPAA  
Central Effort  
Coordinator  
Attending  
[NCURA Region V  
Spring Meeting](#)



Kristin Cress, SPAA, Grants & Contracts Specialist II with  
Reggie Crim, OSP Grants & Contracts Specialist  
Attending  
[NCURA Region V Spring Meeting](#)

## Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Awareness



**NIH Salary Cap** - Effective January 1, 2009 the salary rate has increased from \$191,300 to \$196,700. Proposal Tip: If a PI's salary is over the cap that does not preclude you from proposing, but does limit the amount of salary that can be paid from the grant. Your Grants & Contracts Specialist on OSP's proposal team can assist you with budget questions related to the NIH Cap. Effort Reporting Reminder: Salary in excess of the cap should be shown as cost share when certifying your effort.

Find the NIH cap amount here:

[http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap\\_summary.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm)

**Audits** On behalf of UT Austin's Researchers, in the months of March 2009 through May 2009, SPAA has handled audits from [Sandia](#) and the [National Science Foundation](#).

If your department is contacted about an audit, please contact SPAA ([oa.irichter@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:oa.irichter@austin.utexas.edu)). SPAA is available to assist with the audit process and can serve as your liaison with the audit entity.

**The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)** The ARRA eagle has landed. The first ARRA award recipient at our university is Dr. Eileen Fowles of the School of Nursing. Her sponsored project is entitled "Predictors of Dietary Quality in Low-income Pregnant Women". The sponsoring agency is NIH. SPAA's Tania Tost has established an NIH stimulus award budget group series 26-1680-xx.

Find out which agencies received ARRA funds here:

<http://www.recovery.gov/?q=content/investments-agency>

### Research Administrators' Certification Exam

In May, eleven Research Administrators from The University of Texas at Austin took the certification exam administered by the Research Administrator's Certification Council. Hoping to join the ranks of the CRAs at our university that have successfully obtained certification, study groups prepared diligently for 8 months. The hopefuls will learn of their results later this month.

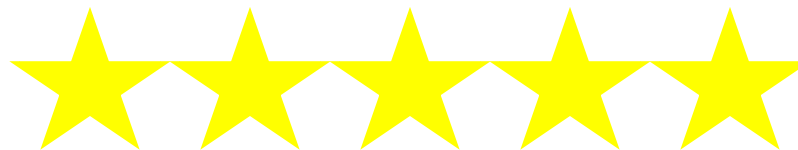
Find about the certification exam here: [www.cra-cert.org](http://www.cra-cert.org)



**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.

# Sponsored Projects Award Administration Newsletter -- Awareness



## TIMELINESS IS ESSENTIAL

### Celebrating the Service of Effort Precertifiers Who Helped Their PIs Certify Within 30 Days

#### Hope we named everyone...

Yolanda Aldaco, DDCE  
Kateri Aragon, Chem & Biochem  
Cecilia Arias-Boze, Fine Arts  
Cindy Bargmann, Admissions  
Sarah Bartlow, Chem & Biochem  
Sophia Bixby, Biomed Engineering  
Kathy Borowski, Wildflower Center  
Sharon Bugnand, Ctr Nano Molec Sci  
Joni Burks, Biomedical Engineering  
Kelly Campbell, Learning Technology Ctr  
Tommy Cantrell, McCombs Business  
Reynaldo Casanova, Ctr Petrol Geo Engin  
Cassandra Clarke, Elec Computer Engin  
Carol Cook, Institute Classical Archaeol  
Pamela Cook, TX Materials Institute  
Maeve Cooney, Chemical Engineering  
Stacia Deleon, Long Institute Latin Amer  
Nancy Diamond, Biomedical Engineering  
Jim Dougherty, UT Libraries  
Janice Duffy, Weinberg Theory Group  
Corina Elizondo, Law  
Linda Gianoly, Mathematics  
Diane Goodin, Educ Admin  
Aruni Gunasegaram, IC2  
Mary Gustafson, Special Educ

Phyllis Harmon, Nursing  
Janice Henderson, Journalism  
Ruth Hengst, ICES  
Robert Hoelscher, ICES  
Gloria Holder, Radio TV Film  
Christa Hopkins, Mechanical Engin  
Christy Humphrey, Biomedical Engin  
Paulette Jackson, Vaughn Gross Ctr  
Debra James, Waggoner Ctr  
Lourdes Jones, Comm Sci Disorders  
Selina Keilani, Middle East Studies  
Donna Larson, ICES  
Egidio Leitao, Social Work  
Michelle Leuzinger, Chem & Biochem  
Beverly Lewellen, Ransom Ctr  
Leticia Lira, Elec & Comp Engin  
Lizbeth Lynch, Mathematics  
Maria Majalca, Ctr Social Work Rsch  
Amy McMillan, Slavic Lang & Lit  
Dr. Dierdre Mendez, Ctr Int'l Business  
Amy Miller, Accounting  
Stacy Miller, Artificial Intelligence Lab  
Mary Moore, Ctr Agile Technology  
Shannon Moore, ICES,  
Julie Nance, UT Elementary  
Kamardine Nassor, Information

Angela Nelson, Chem & Biochem  
Dr. David O'Kelly, Nuclear Engin Lab  
Heidi Penix, Geology Foundation  
Lana Pettit, Ctr Social Work Rsch  
Benjamin Post, K-16 Education Ctr  
Deborah Prather, Comp Engin Rsch Ctr  
Anita Prewett, Ctr Social Work Rsch  
Jennifer Rodgers, Chem & Biochem  
Susan Rodriguez, ICES  
Bernard Rosenblatt, Construction Industry Inst  
Diane Ruetz, TX Archaeological Rsch Lab  
Valli L Salvo, Computer Sciences  
Homer Sandoval, Architecture  
Lou Scaruffi, ITS  
Kathleen Sebenoler, Environment Sci Inst  
Gerlinde Sehne, Microelectronics Rsch Ctr  
Mary Sims, Chem & Biochem  
Dijaira Smith, UIL  
Joann Smith, Microelectronics Rsch Ctr  
Joy Smyrson, Imaging Research Ctr  
Kathleen H Sparks, Chemical Engineering  
Sara Strandtman, Computer Sciences  
Kimberly Sybert, Neurobiology  
Chelsea Sypher, Middle East Studies  
Glenda Taylor, Vaughn Gross Center  
Cynthia Thompson, Ctr Learning & Memory  
Lizet Villagrana, Ctr Social Work Rsch  
Jennifer Wagner, Curriculum & Instruction  
Mary A Whitmore, TX Materials Inst  
Shannon Wilkerson, Mechanical Engineering  
Agnes Yu, Computer Sciences  
Vanessa Yu, Inst Computational Engin & Science