Principal Investigator Spotlight

Meet Dr. Pat McDowell
Professor
Geography Department

What is your current research program and what are you most interested in investigating?

Within fluvial geomorphology, I work on understanding local-scale controls that influence the form and processes of river channels and floodplains. Human impacts such as land use, livestock grazing, and channel engineering are one aspect of these controls, but I also look at floods, geologic controls, etc. I’m also interested in the effects of past and future climate changes on river channels. I study mainly alluvial rivers (as opposed to rivers in bedrock canyons) because they are the most responsive to human impacts and natural disturbances.

How did you become interested in this particular area?

As the concern about salmon habitat heated up in the 1990s, I thought this was an area to which I wanted to contribute. I initiated some research on livestock grazing impacts at that time, and it has just snowballed since then. Since the mid-1990s my research has really focused on Oregon rivers — there is a lot to be done here.

What would you say has been your greatest professional success to date?

I’m pleased that my work has been directly useful to managers involved in river restoration. Our society is throwing lots of money at river restoration, and much of past restoration has not been successful. For the sake of the money and the fish, we need to succeed. I try to understand how rivers operate, in ways that will improve approaches to river restoration. In addition to standard funding sources such as NSF, my work has been used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, and several Indian tribes in Oregon.

What drew you to work at the University of Oregon?

I’ve been here so long, it’s hard to recall the reasons! Seriously, as soon as I arrived in Oregon, I realized it is an ideal laboratory for physical geography. The diversity of geomorphic processes, soils, landscapes, and climate regimes is tremendous. Also, my department is (and has been since I arrived) a very supportive environment for both research and teaching. I have a great group of colleagues who are all very active, and we have built a strong department.
Director’s Corner

“Good Communications!”

“Effective communications starts with listening.”
- Robert Gately

Do you ever tell somebody something and by the time it gets back to you, the story is completely changed? Listen to this:

A school superintendent told the assistant superintendent to tell all the school principals the following announcement:

“Next Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Halley’s Comet will appear over this area. This is an event which occurs only once every 75 years. Call the school principals and have them assemble the teachers and classes on their athletic fields and explain this phenomenon to them. If it rains, cancel the day’s activities and have the classes meet in the auditorium to see a film about the comet.”

The assistant superintendent naturally said yes. He was to pass that exact same message, word-for-word, on to the school principals, but this is what the school principals heard:

The Quarterly Research Connection

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University of Oregon
Office of Research Services and Administration
Mail: 5219 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97404
Physical: 1600 Millrace Dr, Suite 106
Eugene, OR 97403
Phone (541) 346-5131
Fax (541) 346-5138
e-mail: Research_Services@orsa.uoregon.edu
web: http://orsa.uoregon.edu

Paula Roberts . . . . Assoc VP Research & Director of ORSA . . . . 6-3335
Kim Newell . . . . . . Executive Assistant . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6-3139
Aedra Reynolds . . Sr. Manager, Post-Award Admin. . . . . 6-0716
Dawn Wagner . . Sr. Manager, Pre-Award Admin. . . . . 6-3209
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Charles Powell . . Information Technology Consultant II . . . 6-2397
Sheryl Powell . . Grants Financial Manager . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6-5133
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Neva Piper . . . . Grants Financial Coordinator . . . . . . . . . 6-0527
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Kari Vandergrust . Research Services Coordinator . . . . . . . . 6-5013
Julie Buller . . . . Awards Coordinator . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 6-5149

1600 Millrace Dr - Riverfront Research Park Building

Continues on page 6
Recent New Awards

- Lynne Anderson-Inman $499,987 from the U.S. Department of Education for “The ESTRELLAS Project: Electronic Supported Text Research for English Language Learner Academic Success”
- Lynne Anderson-Inman and Carolyn Knox-Quinn $200,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for “Project SOAR: Strategies for Online Academic Reading”
- Scott Baker and Francis Fien $980,481 from the U.S. Department of Education for “Project ECRI: Enhancing Core Reading Instruction, CFDA 84.324, Special Education Research Grants, Systematic Interventions and Policies for Special Education”
- Ilya Bindeman $96,693 from the National Science Foundation for “CAREER: Stable Isotope Insights into Large-Volume Volcanic Eruptions”
- Todd Braje and Jon Erlandson $7,495 from the Western National Parks Association for “The Archaeology and Historical Ecology of Point Bennett, San Miguel Island, Channel Islands National Park”
- Michael Bullis $250,000 from the Kresge Foundation for “Capital Construction Challenge Grant”
- Deborah Carver and Karen Estlund $79,883 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services/ Oregon State Library for “Oregon Digital Newspaper Project”
- Katherine Cashman $55,016 from the National Science Foundation for “Collaborative Research: Strombolian Eruptions, Magma Degassing, and Hydrothermal Discharge at an Active Submarine Arc Volcano”
- Thomas Dishon and Elizabeth Stormshak $468,290 from the U.S. Department of Education/Oregon Research Institute for “Ecological Approach to Family Intervention and Treatment (Eco-FIT) Integrated with PBS: An Effectiveness Trial in Middle Schools”
- Chris Doe and Elizabeth Heckscher $145,272 from the American Heart Association for “Postdoctoral Fellowship (Heckscher): Developmental Origin of Neural Circuits in Drosophila”
- Chris Doe and Khoa Tran $49,544 from the American Heart Association for “Pre-doctoral Fellowship (Tran): Molecular and Genetic Dissection of Hunchback and Ikaros-mediated Gene Regulation”
- Rebecca Dorsey $127,991 from the National Science Foundation for “Collaborative Research: Timing and Controls on Pliocene-Pleistocene Erosion and Sedimentation in the Eastern Peninsular Ranges, Southern California”
- Michael Haley and Victoria De Rose $275,000 from the National Science Foundation for “Upgrade and Cyber-Access of Magnetic Resonance Facilities at the University of Oregon”
- James Hutchinson $150,000 from the Sony Corporation for “Observation of Surface Potential Distribution on Nanoparticles and Semiconductor Hybrid Systems by External Stimulation”
- James Hutchinson $250,000 from the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute for “Director, CAMCOR TEM Facility and ONAMI Signature Instrumentation Specialist”
- Colin Ives $30,000 from the Intel Corporation for “Development of the Course: The Machine in the Garden: Rethinking the 21st Century Urban Landscape”
- David Johnson $100,000 from the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute for “ONAMI Matching Funds for the Green Materials Center”
- David Johnson $250,000 from the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute for “ONAMI Matching Funds for the Green Materials Center”
- David Johnson $897 from the Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute for “Supplemental Funding for IGERT Workshop to Provide an Evening Social”
- John Keana $75,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy/ University of Nebraska for “Novel Silatrane Modified Surfaces for AFM Studies”
- Charles Kimmel and James Nichols $46,826 from the National Institutes of Health for “IND-NRSA: Kimmel/Nichols: Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology of Jaw Joint Morphogenesis”
- Andre LeDuc and Krista Mitchell $88,757 from the DHS/ FEMA/Oregon Emergency Management for “Clackamas County City Addendum Development and Updates”

Continues on next page
· Andre LeDuc and Krista Mitchell $103,588 from the DHS/FEMA/Oregon Emergency Management for “State of Oregon Enhanced Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update”
· Allen Malony $46,119 from the U.S. Department of Energy/University of California for “Performance Engineering Research Institute (PERI) - UO Partnership: Evaluation of Pioneering DOE Applications”
· Patricia McDowell $20,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for “Contribution of Watershed Restoration to Jobs Creation and Local Economies”
· Cassandra Moseley $20,000 from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Forest Service for “Forest and Watershed Restoration Industry: Calculating Economic Benefits in Oregon”
· Cassandra Moseley $53,400 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service for “Forest and Watershed Restoration Industry: Calculating Economic Benefits in Oregon”
· Cassandra Moseley $150,000 from the Ford Foundation for “Building a Community-Based Natural Resource Management Consortium”
· Cassandra Moseley and Max Nielsen-Pincus $60,000 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for “Contribution of Watershed Restoration to Jobs Creation and Local Economies”
· Helen Moss $30,677 from the DHHS/NIOSH/Oregon Health and Science University for “Community Interventions for In-home Careworkers to Prevent Workplace Violence”
· Hans Neis $46,000 from the City of Tigard for “Tigard Highway 99W Corridor Land Use and Urban Design Vision”
· Andrew Nelson $50,000 from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation for “Kauffman Junior Faculty Fellowship in Entrepreneurship Research”
· Robert Parker $55,857 from the Eugene Water and Electric Board for “Phase II and III Activities Evaluating Implications of Lane County Code on Water Quality on the McKenzie Basin”
· Robert Parker and Bethany Johnson $40,000 from the City of Canby for “City of Canby Parks Plan Update and Community Center Feasibility Assessment”
· Robert Parker and Bethany Johnson $8,900 from the Eugene Water and Electric Board for “Evaluating Implications of Lane County Code on Water Quality in the McKenzie Basin”
· Robert Parker and Bethany Johnson $8,500 from the McKenzie Watershed Council for “Restoration Monitoring Project: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed”
· Kirsten Rudestam $2,386 from the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council for “Restoration Monitoring Project: Coast Fork Watershed”
· Kirsten Rudestam $2,611 from the McKenzie Watershed Council for “Restoration Monitoring Project: McKenzie Watershed Council”
· Tze-Lan Sang $15,000 from the American Council of Learned Societies for “Documenting Taiwan on Films: Methods and Issues in Documentaries (International Workshop) at UO July 6-8, 2009”
· Jane Scheidecker and Kirsten Jones $10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts for “The Commissioning of a Major Choral-Orchestral Work by Swedish Composer Sven-David Sandstroem for the 2009 Oregon Bach Festival”
· Ellen Scott $100,794 from the Oregon Employment Department/Oregon State University for “Expanding Oregon’s Child Care Research Partnership”
· Megan Smith $96,000 from the Rural Development Initiatives, Inc. for “RARE Year 15: Community (2008-09): RDI CORE Place-ments in 4 Communities”
· Megan Smith $340,000 from the Various Oregon Agencies for “RARE YR 15 Cumulative Community Contracts”
· David Spivak $74,999 from the DOD/Office of Naval Research for “Geometric Networks: A Higher-dimensional Approach to Networks and Databases”
· Gerald Tindal $197,707 from the U.S. Department of Education for “Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities -- Steppingstones of Technology Innovation for Children with Disabilities CFDA 84.27A”
· Hill Walker $61,003 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/University of Missouri for “National Gateway to Self Determination”
Stimulus Act Proposals
(as of 5/18/2009)

- **Alison Ball** $293,869 from the National Institutes of Health for “Family Intervention of Youth AOD in Indian Communities”
- **John Berglund** $66,765 from the National Institutes of Health for “Molecular mechanisms of Myotonic Dystrophy”
- **Trudy Cameron** $99,634 from the National Institutes of Health for “We’re not in Kansas anymore: Severe weather events and migration”
- **Li-Shan Chou** $906,902 from the National Institutes of Health for “Vision-Based Motion Analysis for Falls Risk Detection”
- **William Cresko** $910,758 from the National Institutes of Health for “Developing theory and analytical tools to enhance the use of Next Generation Sequence data in biomedical studies”
- **Paul Dassonville** $477,409 from the National Institutes of Health for “Heterogeneity of Autism and the Use of Context in Perceptual and Social Judgments”
- **Victoria De Rose** $976,170 from the National Institutes of Health for “Novel Reagents for High-Throughput Analysis of RNA Processes”
- **Thomas Dishion** $342,998 from the National Institutes of Health for “Understanding and Preventing Early Adult Drug Abuse”
- **Christopher Doe** $105,830 from the National Institutes of Health for “Genetic and Molecular Studies of Neurogenesis”
- **Hans Dreyer** $108,000 from the National Institutes of Health for “Muscle Regrowth during Physical Rehabilitation and Amino Acid Supplementation”
- **Judith Eisen** $998,776 from the National Institutes of Health for “Mechanisms of enteric nervous system development and gastrointestinal innervation”
- **Scott Frey** $247,535 from the National Institutes of Health for “Neural Organization of Tool Use Actions in Humans”
- **Jessica Greene** $224,291 from the National Institutes of Health for “An Examination of the Effectiveness of Rewarding Medicaid Consumers’ Healthy Behaviors”
- **Karen Guillemin** $199,998 from the National Institutes of Health for “(Jon Muyskens funding) Molecular and genetic analysis of the helicobacter pylori virulence Factor Cag A (Jon Muyskens)”
- **Karen Guillemin** $18,346 from the National Institutes of Health for “Molecular and genetic analysis of the helicobacter pylori virulence Factor Cag A”
- **Karen Guillemin** $63,000 from the National Institutes of Health for “Molecular basis of host-microbiota signaling in the zebrafish gut”
- **Karen Guillemin** $416,204 from the National Institutes of Health for “REVISION Molecular basis of host-microbiota signaling in the zebrafish gut”
- **Karen Guillemin** $1,000,000 from the National Institutes of Health for “Characterization of Helicobacter pylori chemotaxis proteins as targets for novel antimicrobials”
- **John Halliwill** $619,885 from the National Institutes of Health for “Histamine-receptor dependent benefits of aerobic and resistance exercise”
- **Clifford Kentros** $769,242 from the National Institutes of Health for “NIH NINDS RC2 Sub Award w/Salk”
- **Charles Kimmel** $289,385 from the National Institutes of Health for “Signaling Hierarchies in Vertebrate Development”
- **Amy Lobben** $999,599 from the National Institutes of Health for “Exploiting the Power of GIS to Enhance Spatial Thinking in STEM Areas”
- **Shawn Lockery** $297,358 from the National Institutes of Health for “Neuronal and Theoretical Analysis of Spatial Orientation”
- **Shawn Lockery** $760,231 from the National Institutes of Health for “CHALLENGE Lockery ARRA”
- **Andrew Marcus** $901,802 from the National Institutes of Health for “Probing Conformational Transition Pathways of Protein-DNA Complexes by Polarization-Modulated Fourier Imaging Correlation Spectroscopy (PM-FICS)”
- **Ulrich Mayr** $184,474 from the National Institutes of Health for “Aging and Altruism: Towards a Neuroeconomic Model of Age-Related Changes in Giving”
- **Ulrich Mayr** $979,437 from the National Institutes of Health for “Competitive Preferences and Performance across the Adult Life Span”
- **Ulrich Mayr** $281,363 from the National Institutes of Health for “Aging and Altruism: Towards a Neuroeconomic Model of Age-Related Changes in Giving”
- **Helen Neville** $261,395 from the National Institutes of Health for “Development of Cerebral Specializations”
- **Helen Neville** $243,462 from the National Institutes of Health for “Neurocognitive Development in Typically Developing, At-Risk, and ESL Children”
- **Helen Neville** $99,864 from the National Institutes of Health for “Development of Cerebral Specializations-Equipment”

Continues on page 7
“By order of the Superintendent of Schools, next Thursday at 10:30 a.m., Halley’s Comet will appear on your athletic field. If it rains, cancel the day’s classes and report to the auditorium with your teachers and students where you will be shown films—a phenomenal event which occurs only once every 75 years.”

The principals were asked to pass this on to the teachers. This is what the teachers heard:

“By order of the phenomenal Superintendent of Schools, at 10:30 a.m., next Thursday, Halley’s Comet will appear in the auditorium. In case of rain on the athletic field, the Superintendent will give another order—something which occurs only once every 75 years.”

The teachers were asked to pass this message on to the students. This is what the students heard:

“Next Thursday at 10:30 a.m., the Superintendent of Schools will appear in our school auditorium with Halley’s Comet, something which occurs only once every 75 years. If it rains, the Superintendent of Schools will cancel the comet and have us all meet on our phenomenal athletic field.”

And then the students were asked to take this home to their parents. (Many of us have been on the receiving end of a message like this.) This is what the parents heard from the students:

When it rains next Thursday at 10:30 a.m., over the school athletic field, the phenomenal 75-year-old Superintendent of Schools will cancel all classes and will appear before the whole school in the auditorium accompanied by Bill Hailey and the Comets.”

Announcement

Dr. Robert A. Rohm
Personality Insights, Inc.

IT Corner

A little bit of help with Proposal Preparation and Adobe Acrobat

There is a lot of confusion concerning the do’s and don’ts of using Adobe Acrobat to complete Grant Application Packages. The primary reason is constant change in Adobe software and Grants.gov processing equipment.

Definative information can usually be found on the Grants.gov website. You may have to dig around for it, though.

Currently, all versions of Acrobat Reader and Acrobat Professional greater than 8.0 are compatible with Grants.gov, regardless of whether you are using a Mac or a PC. For security reasons, you should always have the most recent version available.

You may use any version of Acrobat Professional or clone software (such as TinyPDF) to create attachment documents (such as bio sketches and project descriptions). The file names must not be more than fifty characters in length, and should only include letters, numbers and the underscore “_” character. Do not use spaces or dashes “-” in the file name.

Steve Shapiro
Computer Services Manager

NSF Proposal Submission

In response to the notice of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for agencies to utilize alternative proposal submission and acceptance methods, NSF has issued the following directive:

Effective immediately, new funding opportunities issued by NSF will exclusively require the use of FastLane to prepare and submit proposals. In addition, NSF plans to revise existing funding opportunity documents to reflect this change and to remove all active application packages from Grants.gov APPLY. NSF will continue to post information about available funding opportunities to Grants.gov FIND.
• Patrick Phillips $203,760 from the National Institutes of Health for “Competitive Revision: Genomewide variation in age-related genetic pathways”
• John Postlethwait $332,999 from the National Institutes of Health/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for “TILLING the Zebrafish Genome: A Reverse Genetics Approach—subaward through Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center”
• John Postlethwait $436,870 from the National Institutes of Health for “Developmental Mechanisms for the Evolution of Bone Loss”
• John Postlethwait $192,266 from the National Institutes of Health for “Developmental Mechanisms for the Evolution of Bone Loss”
• Kathleen Scalise $998,813 from the National Institutes of Health for “STEM Ready: New Approaches through Model-based Assessment.”
• Margaret Sereno $244,702 from the National Institutes of Health for “New Methods to Improve Measurement and Understanding of Successful Navigation”
• Megan Smith $88,934 from the Corporation for National and Community Service/Oregon Commission of Voluntary Action and Service for “Clarification and resubmit - Oregon ARRA RARE”
• James Snodgrass $68,120 from the National Institutes of Health/Oregon Social Learning Center for “Study of Discrimination, Acculturation and Latino Immigrant Health”
• Jane Squires $935,402 from the National Institutes of Health for “Challenge grant: Tai Chi Training: Neural/Biomechanical Changes Underlying Balance Control in Elders”
• Marjorie Woollacott $966,245 from the National Institutes of Health for “Genetic Regulation of Inner Ear Formation”
• Monte Westerfield $944,253 from the National Institutes of Health for “ZIRC Cryopreservation Program” [Zebrafish International Resource Center]”
• Monte Westerfield $89,075 from the National Institutes of Health for “ZIRC Database [Zebrafish International Resource Center] “Database for Tracking Resource Center Activities’’”
• Marjorie Woollacott $372,453 from the National Institutes of Health for “Age Related Changes in Posture and Movement”
• Terry Takahashi $314,697 from the National Institutes of Health for “Masking in the Auditory System”
• Terry Takahashi $18,584 from the National Institutes of Health for “Masking in the Auditory System”
• Renee Van Norman $113,288 from the National Institutes of Health/Oregon Research Institute for “Experimental Evaluation of Emotion Coaching in the Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder”
• Peter von Hippel $241,337 from the National Institutes of Health for “R01 Glutamate Receptor Recruitment to New Synapses in vivo”
• Philip Washbourne $241,460 from the National Institutes of Health/Yale University for “UV-induced Telomere Instability in Skin Cancer”
• Philip Washbourne $55,754 from the National Institutes of Health for “Glutamate Receptor Recruitment to New Synapses in vivo”
• Monte Westerfield $177,498 from the National Institutes of Health for “ZIRC: Database [Zebrafish International Resource Center] “Database for Tracking Resource Center Activities’’”
• Monte Westerfield $89,075 from the National Institutes of Health for “ZIRC Database [Zebrafish International Resource Center] “Database for Tracking Resource Center Activities’’”
• Marjorie Woollacott $966,245 from the National Institutes of Health for “Genetic Regulation of Inner Ear Formation”
• Monte Westerfield $944,253 from the National Institutes of Health for “ZIRC Cryopreservation Program” [Zebrafish International Resource Center]”
• Monte Westerfield $89,075 from the National Institutes of Health for “ZIRC Database [Zebrafish International Resource Center] “Database for Tracking Resource Center Activities’’”
• Marjorie Woollacott $372,453 from the National Institutes of Health for “Age Related Changes in Posture and Movement”

What are your research goals for the future?

I’ve recently gotten involved in monitoring river restoration projects in the Middle Fork John Day River in northeastern Oregon, one of the last great wild salmon rivers east of the Cascades.

I hope this will continue for a number of years — we’ll need about 10 years to see if the restoration is working. I’m interested in focusing on the interactions between channel processes and vegetation growing at the edge of the channel — to what extent does vegetation control geomorphic processes?

In 2007 and 2008 I taught a summer field course connected to my research projects, and I hope to do that again soon. I like using my research to enhance undergraduate education.
**Proposal and Award Reporting Trends**

by Month for FY 2009 (FY09) Compared to FY 2008 (FY08)

First Quarter (July-September)
Second Quarter (October-December)
Third Quarter (January - March)

### Proposals:

First Quarter Comparison: Decrease in proposals submitted/Increase in funding requested

Second Quarter Comparison: Decrease in proposals submitted/Increase in funding requested

Third Quarter Comparison: Decrease in proposals submitted/Increase in funding requested

### Awards:

First Quarter Comparison: Increase in the number of awards received/Decrease in funding received

Second Quarter Comparison: Decrease in the number of awards and funding received

Third Quarter Comparison: Decrease in the number of awards and funding received

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*Fiscal year 2008 data is taken from the FY2007-08 Annual Report*
Research Administration Profile
Meet Beverly Morehouse

Beverly Morehouse, MBA
Sr. Sponsored Projects Administrator (Post-Award)
Office of Research Services and Administration

How long have you worked in Research Administration?
I have worked in Research Administration more than 15 years.

How did you get started in Research Administration?
I was commuting more than 30 miles to work one way daily working in Corporate America when a friend told me about an Accounting position where she worked. She was working at the University of North Texas Health Science Center and I applied for the position because I had a strong background in accounting. I interviewed for the position got the job along with “On the Job Training” (OJT) in research and the rest is history.

What do you enjoy most about Research Administration?
I enjoy the variety of challenges that each day brings regarding the various funding sources. I have experience with Grants and Contract Accounting and Post Award Administration so I can and have functioned in either capacity. I further enjoy the fact in Research Administration you never stop learning, there is always something new to grasp. I enjoy meeting new people also.

What are your Favorite Hobbies/Interests?
I am an avid softball player, I enjoy traveling and I like to read.

Problems with the federal government’s Grants.gov system are so severe that AAU and the Council on Governmental Relations are sending a letter to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Peter Orszag asking for a meeting to discuss a complete overhaul of the system.

Initiated as a unified, online grants application and submission portal, Grants.gov has proved unable to cope with the volume of grant submissions even under normal circumstances. That will only worsen with the heavy volume of grant solicitation submissions expected in response to the Economic Recovery Act.

The seriousness of the technical problems became clear last week at the annual meeting of the AAU Senior Research Officers, where it was reported that some AAU institutions have failed to meet grant submission deadlines because grant applications were delayed or lost by the Grant.gov system. The SROs approved a statement urging action and agreed to work with AAU staff to seek changes to the system.

Although OMB is working to improve Grants.gov and has told federal agency heads to identify alternative methods for accepting grant applications in the short term, some agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, have no back-up system. Clearly a longer-term alternative to Grants.gov is needed. Based on the discussion at the SRO meeting, we will urge OMB to move to a web-based system, similar to the FastLane interactive system used by the National Science Foundation.
COMPUTERS…..

To charge or not to charge that is the question:
Whether ‘tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrows of outrageous expense,
Or to take arms against a sea of regulations
And by opposing, end them.

Almost certainly the OMB doesn’t consider the dilemma it places researchers in akin to Shakespeare’s Hamlet but then the OMB bureaucrats are not researchers or research administrators. The dilemma is real and probably won’t get easier for us now with huge government deficits that will probably impact almost all Federal agencies and by trickle-down, effect us.

The government views computers in almost all cases as general purpose equipment. And the government employees most apt to review our costs, the dreaded auditors, all realize how – general purpose – computers are. Almost all auditors nowadays have a laptop they take with them to the field. They use it for e-mails. They use it for internet research. I’m sure they send jokes and birthday cards to each other. They understand the general nature of the computer. To convince them that we are using our computers (laptop or desktop) only for research purposes is a very hard sell. It isn’t impossible, but it is definitely getting rarer.

In order to justify a computer for charging to a Federal program, you need to clear a number of hurdles. First, the cost must benefit the award and be reasonable and necessary such that a prudent person could conclude it is an appropriate cost. Just because the investigator doesn’t have other funding and he or she needs a computer to do some of the analytic work doesn’t justify the expense to the award. This is the lowest of the hurdles and the one most investigators concentrate on, but the other two hurdles are just as important.

Second, the cost must be allocable to the award. This usually means that the computer is going to be used exclusively on the program, or if it is to be shared with another program, that the multiple usages can be easily documented using reasonable methods that approximate the benefits received by the multiple users. Arbitrary percentages of use are not acceptable. Being allocable is almost impossible to document if the computer is connected to the internet or available to a number of users since there are so many possible uses that can’t be prevented or documented. Even a desktop in a Biosafety Level 4 (highest) lab, if connected to the internet, could be used for many non-program tasks. Indeed, you might expect it would be used for non-program tasks so the people in the lab wouldn’t have to leave the lab and get out of their hazard suits just to use the internet for personal or non-program uses.

Third, the computer must be consumed by the program. A good example would be a computer purchased with a five year life that is bought in the first years of a ten year project. On the other hand, if the computer has a life of five years and the program was only for one year, the program would have been charged with five years expense for the one year of use. This is neither reasonable, nor is the cost allocated equitably. In addition, there is the issue of the use of the computer after the program ends. If, for example, the computer is used for departmental purposes, we have an inconsistency. The computer was initially charged as a direct cost but for 80% of its life it is being used to support the department, not the program. This is a violation of the consistency in costing principle. One way to avoid that issue is to sell the computer at fair market value at the end of the year and credit the proceeds to the program. This isn’t very practical nor is it easy to monitor.

So what are we to do? “To sleep, perchance to dream – ay, there’s the rub.”

Laptop Disallowance in Recent Federal Audit

Rest in Peace laptops. As a result of a recent audit at Duke University, the charging of laptop computers has come under scrutiny. In the Duke audit, one of the disallowed costs was a laptop costing $3,364 plus F&A of $1,817 totaling $5,181. The sum represented 13.3% of the disallowed costs. Because it was a statistical audit, the costs were extrapolated to the population as a whole. As a result, the laptop ultimately represented $221,260 of the overall disallowance of $1,661,011. Here is what the audit report said:

“Some examples of items from our sample that we consider unallowable are:

The University charged an NIH-funded project $3,364 for a laptop computer and asserted that the computer was used solely for project data and allowed the employee ‘the opportunity to work from home or wherever she may be located at anytime of the day.’ We noted, however, that the involved employee was budgeted to devote only 5 percent of her University

Continues on next page
time to the project charged for her computer.”

Clearly the auditor would not accept the assertion that the computer was used solely for project data. In fact, it is difficult to imagine someone lugging around a laptop, even the newer lighter models, just to use it 5% of the time. It is therefore likely that the person was using it for more than 5% of time and for non-award purposes; or the laptop wasn’t really needed in the first place. Whatever the case may be, the auditor didn’t accept the justification.

So what’s next? A possibility is for the auditor to ask to see a laptop and then open it and see what programs and data are on it. If there is an internet browser, an e-mail program like outlook, and lots of e-mails, you will get total disallowance unless each e-mail and contact is specifically related to the project to which the laptop was charged. Additionally, if you have programs unrelated to the project on the laptop, they could be construed as being for non-award use and disallowed. The burden of proof in this situation is on the user not the auditor; a case of guilty until proven innocent.

Emory University, Research Administration News Feb 2009

Upcoming Funding Deadlines

- NIH R01 – Renewal, Resubmission, Revision
  July 5, 2009
- NIH K Series – Renewal, Resubmission and Revision
  July 12, 2009
- NIH R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36 – Renewal, Resubmission, Revision
  July 16, 2009
- NIH R41, R42, R43, R44 – New, Renewal and Resubmission, Revision
  August 5, 2009
- NIH F Series Fellowships – New, Renewal and Resubmission - August 8, 2009
- NIH F31 Diversity Fellowships – New, Renewal and Resubmission - August 13, 2009
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Fnd Advanced Postdoctoral Fellowship - July 1, 2009
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Fnd Postdoctoral Fellowship - July 1, 2009
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Fnd Innovative Grant
  July 1, 2009
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Fnd Research Awards
  July 15, 2009
- Muscular Dystrophy Research Grant
  July 15, 2009
- Muscular Dystrophy Development Grant
  July 15, 2009
- NSF Geophysics
  June 5, 2009
- NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
  June 5, 2009
- NSF NSF Earth Sciences Postdoctoral fellowships (EAR-PF) July 1, 2009
- NSF Ecosystem Science
  July 9, 2009
- NSF Behavioral Systems
  July 12, 2009
- NSF Cognitive Neuroscience
  July 14, 2009
- NSF Linguistics
  July 15, 2009
- NSF SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants
  July 15, 2009/August 1, 2009
- NSF Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program - July 23, 2009
- NSF CISE Computing Research Infrastructure (CRI)
  August 5, 2009
- NSF Cultural Anthropology
  August 15, 2009
- NSF Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP)
  August 18, 2009
- NSF Math and Science Partnership (MSP)
  August 20, 2009
- NSF Physical Anthropology
  August 20, 2009
- NSF Research in Disabilities Education (RDE)
  August 25, 2009
- NSF Computer and Network Systems (CNS): Core Programs
  August 30, 2009
UO POLICY BRINGS CHANGES TO E-PCS

Starting May 1, 2009, UO Principal Investigators will indicate, with a click of the mouse on new funding proposals, individuals he or she considers responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of the sponsored research or program which they are submitting via E-PCS.

This change is part of the implementation of the UO policy, Financial Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Management for Investigators with Externally Sponsored Programs, unanimously endorsed by the UO Senate on April 8. This policy was written to meet federal requirements regarding financial conflicts of interest and disclosure by “investigators.”

All responsible “investigators,” as indicated by the Principal Investigator on the Key Personnel tab of the E-PCS, are required to submit a Financial Conflict of Interest Annual Disclosure Form to the UO Office for Responsible Conduct of Research.

Find the policy, forms, and contact information at: http://orcr.uoregon.edu.

Upcoming Research Administration Conferences, Meetings and Webinars

- May 27–29, 2009 NCURA: Fundamentals of Sponsored Project Administration Workshop, Chicago, IL
- May 27–29, 2009 NCURA: Fundamentals of Sponsored Project Administration II Workshop, Chicago, IL
- June 9, 2009 8:30 – 12:30 NCURA: F&A Rates for the Non-Accountant, Knight Library Studio A
- July 14, 2009 10:45 – 12:00 DGA Meeting, Gumwood Room, EMU
- August 3-5, 2009 NCURA: Fundamentals of Sponsored Project Administration Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- August 3-5, 2009 NCURA: Fundamentals of Sponsored Project Administration II Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- August 3-5, 2009 Financial Research Administration Workshop, Philadelphia, PA
- August 11, 2009 10:45 – 12:00 DGA Meeting, Gumwood Room, EMU

Contact ORSA for more information on these and other educational opportunities

COS Corner

Quarterly COS tip:

Funding Opportunities with Deadlines in the Next Six Weeks

Be sure you check out the COS search option, available with just one click, based on deadlines! When you are on the COS Funding Opportunities homepage (http://fundingopps.cos.com), you’ll see that under the View Funding Opportunities heading, there’s a link for Funding Opportunities with Deadlines in the Next Six Weeks. When you click on that, you’ll get a list of all records with deadlines in the next six weeks.

This is dynamic, so every day’s results are updated based on the deadline criterion. Once you run the search, you can easily refine it to include other parameters of your choosing.

This saves you and your faculty time, as with one click you can identify all opportunities with deadlines in the immediate future.

Questions about COS?
Contact UO’s COS Liaison, Kari Vandergust, at kariv@uoregon.edu
Department Grant Administrator (DGA) Profile

Dee Dee Kintz  
Grants & Contracts Technician  
Center for Applied Second Language Studies (CASLES)

How did you first get into working with grants & how long have you been a DGA at UO? I started my career as a DGA in 2001, here at the University of Oregon. I was a bookkeeper/office manager before starting at the UO, in the private sector. I started at the UO as an accounting technician, and promoted to grants and contracts technician in 2005.

Have you worked in any other departments besides the one you're currently in? Previous to working at the Center for Applied Second Language Studies, I worked as an accounting technician in the Anthropology department. The grants administration included some sponsored projects with the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, through summer research projects, as well as faculty research awards, and graduate dissertation grants.

As a grants administrator, one of the primary roles is the provision of day-to-day financial administration on sponsored projects. The DGA must also actively seek to stay up-to-date on changing policies and procedures. I was fortunate enough to receive travel awards through ORSA and the VP of Research, and I attend the DGA roundtable sessions held monthly to aid my knowledge in this regard. Serving as liaison between the primary investigator and the contracting offices is also a substantial part of the job of a DGA.

What is your favorite part about being a DGA? My favorite inspirational quote is by Margaret Mead; *Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.* My involvement in the research world, although at the periphery, allows me to be involved in important projects that will lead to better educated global citizens. We have quite a diverse staff, faculty and student workforce at CASLS. I really enjoy the interactions with persons from other cultures and backgrounds.

What do you see as the most challenging part of your job? The most challenging aspect of being a DGA in a research center is juggling all of the different and changing institutional policies and procedures that apply to daily administration. A DGA must be a generalist, meaning they must have a smattering of knowledge in an abundance of arenas. We must follow procedural direction from Human Resources, ORSA and the Vice President for Research, Purchasing and Contracting, Travel/Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, the graduate school, and Academic Affairs. Additionally, the federal or private sector administration of a particular project will change according to funding agency and vehicle (i.e. grants versus contracts.)

Tell about your most rewarding experience as a DGA? As a DGA in Anthropology, I administered graduate dissertation grants. There was one year where three of our graduate students were hired into faculty positions. That was a great feeling, to have helped these graduate students maneuver the grants processes, and turn their valuable research into a stepping stone in their careers. Of course the graduate researchers’ faculty advisor gets most of the credit, but it was very rewarding for me as a DGA as well.

What has been the funniest thing to happen to you while on the job? I don’t really know if it was funny as much as interesting, but in Anthropology I once ordered a saber tooth tiger. It was a molded reproduction, but how many people can claim that they have done that?! Also, some of the English language idioms become situationally funny when working with international staff. I once commented about learning to ride bare-backed, when my co-worker exclaimed “You rode a bear’s back?”

Anything else we should know about you? I’d like to send a request out to the campus community to remember that we are colleagues here at the University of Oregon. We are, all of us, under the pressures of this economy and increased workloads with decreased staffing levels. Don’t forget to give the same consideration to your co-workers that you would like to receive from them.
## BRAINTEASER

Identify the following Federal Sponsor Divisions and correctly match the division with its parent agency


One of the abbreviations belongs to a UO department that is closely affiliated to ORSA. There may be more than one correct answer to some abbreviations.

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Submit answers to Research_Services@orsa.uoregon.edu by June 30.

All correct answers will be entered in a raffle for a gift card.

Congratulations to last edition’s winner Catherine Coyle
Office of Responsible Conduct for Research