

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE:

Election
Results 2

Applause!
Applause! 2

Upcoming
Seminars 3
& Events

Chair's
Corner 3

Who's
Who? 4

NCURA
Volunteers 4

NCURA Region IV

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MID-AMERICA

SUMMER 2005

Dive In! to Research Administration

SRA Midwest Section and NCURA Region IV members and guests took the plunge in Chicago with over 470 attendees. The joint spring meeting was organized by **Frances DeVos** (SRA) and **Heather Offhaus** (NCURA).

On Sunday evening, the **Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University** rolled out the red carpet to welcome everyone. They hosted a five-star reception and dinner, capped by a tour of their newly finished research building. Special thanks to organizers Steven Rosen, Tim Volpe, Sharon Markman, and Janis Linn.

Dr. Jeanette Thomas, biology professor and internationally recognized mammalogist, took us to her underwater world as the keynote speaker. Dr. Thomas—Western Illinois University's 2005 Distinguished Faculty—researches the effects of human-generated noise on marine mammals.

Newcomers were welcomed with an orientation presented by Membership Co-Chairs **René Hearns** (SRA) and **Jackie Hinton** (NCURA). Following

the nautical theme, newcomers were encouraged to explore the bountiful seas of SRA and NCURA.

Attendees said that **Dave Mineo**, Chief Grants Management Officer and **William Etti**, Grants Management Specialist (NIH/DHHS) should win an award for the most presentations. Thanks to you both!

Those who attended dinner groups had tough choices to make. Applause to **Crystal Taylor-Nevils** for providing an enticing list of Chicago restaurants.

Special thanks also to Hospitality Co-Chairs **Debbie Meltzer** (NCURA) and **Kathy DeWitt**, (SRA). Participants were so enthusiastic, that the Hospitality Suite had to be moved to a larger room!

Attendees also enjoyed an amazing evening at the **Shedd Aquarium**. We observed Beluga Whales; a tidal pool teaming with sea urchins and other magical creatures; and watched a diver hand-feed fish in the Caribbean Reef.

Successful meetings don't just

happen. Thanks to the talents of member volunteers, we made new friends, shared fun stories, and learned a little more about the field of grants administration.



Meeting Planning Team

We returned to our offices ready to *dive in* because our experiences raised energy levels and gave us a renewed sense of how important our work really is. That's what the best professional meetings achieve.

Thanks again to Frances and Heather for their leadership in planning and implementing the meeting. Thanks also to the workshop, concurrent session, and roundtable discussion leaders as well as those myriad of behind-the-scenes volunteers. Chicago—you're our kind of town!

—*Jackie Hinton, Region IV Newsletter Editor, Southwest Missouri State University.*



Region IV Board Members



Chair Elect
Diane Barrett

Spring Meeting Election Results

Chair Elect

Diane Barrett, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Treasurer

Robert M. Aull, Indiana University Medical Center

Members at Large

Tamara Hill, University of Cincinnati

Crystal Taylor-Nevils, University of Chicago

NCURA Board of Directors, Region IV

Jim Casey, Cardinal Stritch University (effective 1/1/06)

Returning Board Members

Chair

Heather Offhaus, Medical School, University of Michigan

Past Chair

Pam Vargas, Air Force Institute of Technology

Secretary

Kathleen Engstrom, University of Illinois at Chicago

Other Board Member

Glenda Luecke, Washington University, St Louis

Members at Large

Beth Seaton, Western Illinois University.

Jerry Pogatshnik, Eastern Kentucky University

NCURA Board of Directors, Region IV

Don Boydston, Rush Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center (through 12/31/05)

Applause! Applause!

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

—Dr. Albert Schweitzer

In addition to good food, great breakout sessions and fantastic networking, Region IV members were recognized for their contributions to Research Administration and the NCURA community.

Two members were honored with the **Distinguished Service Award (DSA)**—given each year to individuals who make continuing and long-term contributions to research administration. **Jim Maus**, Genome Sequencing Center at Washington University's School of Medicine in St. Louis, and **Deborah Galloway**, Executive Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, University of Cincinnati were recognized in Chicago.

With over 20 years experience, **Jim** has worked in central Sponsored Programs, departmental administration, Sponsored Projects Accounting, and the Genome Center. He has served Region IV as Chair and as a member of the Program, Nominating, Awards, and Executive committees. Marjorie Piechowski, a past DSA recipient, summed Jim up with these words: "During his career

in research administration I have watched Jim grow in confidence and knowledge, never once exhibiting unkindness or impatience toward anyone...he is a very decent and good human being, a pleasure to call friend and colleague." Robert Aull, Board Member-At-Large, added "He is well deserving of this honor, one that I and others feel is long overdue."

Deborah has served Region IV in a variety of capacities, including Treasurer and Chair. She supervises a staff of over 15 and manages an external funding level of more than \$185 million at the University of Cincinnati. Kathleen Taggart, Past Chair of Region IV, said "Deborah has been one of the hardest working volunteers and leaders for Region IV. We have been so fortunate to have someone of her experience and quality to be so dedicated to our Region. We also are so fortunate to have Deborah serve in our region as a colleague, mentor, and friend."

The Meritorious Contribution Award is awarded to an individual or group of individuals who have developed and implemented an innovative

program to enhance the research environment on their campus. This year, we honored a team of departmental administrators and sponsored program administrators from Purdue University that spearheaded the Accounting Information Management System (AIMS) Enhancement Project. Team members included **Christy Sprinkles**, **Mary Bell**, **Edie Doland**, **Julie Jang**, **Rob Lehman**, **Trent Terry** and **Susan Whaley**. The AIMS project improved the Accounting Information Management System, implemented in 1997, to better meet the needs of faculty and research staff. The new system went live in January 2005. AIMS has successfully empowered Purdue users to manage their program funds more effectively. Associate Professor Alexander Wei stated "Of all the clerical programs that I have been exposed to in the past 5 years, this one is by far the most helpful!"

Applause! Applause! to each of you. Your service to NCURA and to the Region are irreplaceable.

—*Erin Nash, Chair, Communications Committee, Ohio University*



Beth Seaton, Awards Chair and Jim and Amy Maus.

Upcoming Workshops and Meetings

NCURA Workshops

Details at: www.ncura.edu

1. Export Controls & Embargoes Workshop

In collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Export Control Services Practice, NCURA announces an intensive day and a half seminar.

Chicago, IL - July 11-12

Boston, MA - July 18-19

San Francisco, CA - July 25-26

2. Online Tutorial: primer on Subawards under Federal Assistance Awards

A 7-week course that focuses on

subcontracting programmatic effort under federal grants and other financial assistance awards.

July 11 - August 27, 2005

3. Fundamentals Workshop Denver, CO—August 3-5

4. Videoworkshop Series Best Practices in Research Compliance: Update on Policies and Regulations.
See details on NCURA website.

September 13, 2005

5. Online Education Program

What Am I Signing Anyway?

Proposal Review from an Institutional Point of View.

December 2, 2005

Upcoming Professional Meetings

2005 NCURA 47th Annual Meeting

**Washington, D.C.
October 30-
November 2**

2006 NCURA Region IV Spring Meeting

**Grand Rapids, MI
April 22-May 2**



"You going?" "Oh yea." "Me, too!"
"Do you think we'll see Nemo?"



Hello, Region IV,

Welcome to what I call the wonderful “in-between” time at work. Some folks see Spring as the time of renewal. In our office, we use the time from July 1 to September 15 as that equivalent. No onslaught of proposals to worry about, the sky has turned—and stayed—blue, and finally there is time to think again! So in that “in-between” time, I am finally writing—and the pressure is high to motivate (or at least not be overly trite), entertain, and be relevant about...

The Year of the Volunteer

At first glance the title sounds fairly trite, but that is only because it rhymes. It is the best phrase to sum up my gratitude to those that poured so much sweat into the spring Chicago meeting (do you know some are still doing follow-up and loose ends even now?) as well as the direction and focus that I would like to take in my term as region chair.

Thank you, thank you, **thank you** for the help in Chicago. I can't say

Chair's Corner

that enough. Everyone—not just those on the official Chicago program committee. If you attended the spring meeting (good chance you did since we had over 470 attendees this year), you likely helped someone. And in doing that you were a volunteer. There is no possible way to recognize each and every person. But, I appreciate those that gave directions to sessions, pointed out where the breaks were, and helped keep the general morale up when we were stuffed to the gills in the meeting rooms!

In the coming year, I look forward to working with the Board on ways that folks who step forward and say “I want to help...” can get plugged in. It’s an issue that’s been on the table before, but we have not perfected the art in the last few years. (And know that in saying that, I served as membership chair for two of those years and felt that I hadn’t adequately addressed it.) NCURA National also recognizes the issue and is sponsoring a weekend workshop on the same topic at the end of July. The time is

ripe to talk about it and try to start some specific work in the area.

Now for your challenge—what would the Region IV Chair’s article be without some gauntlet being thrown? I encourage you to identify each month, one opportunity—big or small—in the NCURA organization, or in your own work environment, where you can volunteer and contribute. Consider it a target to stretch yourself in the field of research administration or collegially within the profession. It doesn’t have to be anything monumental or innovative, but it may be! It could be taking a brand new administrator that you know to lunch just so they know they have an ally. It may be leading a training course in an area that needs some attention, or volunteering a new idea and direction in Region IV. (If you need any help fleshing out that last one, drop me a line! I’m always looking for folks who think creatively about what they would like to do.)

(Article continues on page 4)

“Volunteers work without pay—not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”

Anonymous

(Chair's Corner continued from page 3)

I suppose I should at least acknowledge that taking this challenge won't always pay off. Not everyone responds well to what you offer. Take for instance this article. I want to thank the newsletter volunteers for their patience with me. This is my primary volunteer/stretch opportunity for the month. They volunteered to put this publication together and I am sure I extended their boundaries past reasonable with my (lack of) timeline to finish the article. In this case, one volunteer held up another three or four. You see how it can be a bit defeating at times. That being said...it is still worth it!

If you'd like to share what your ideas for opportunities are, I'd love to hear about everything. Just email me. I am convinced that is where the best ideas start and blossom. And "volunteering" to share your idea can count as your next month's opportunity to boot.

Thanks to each person in the Region that has done *anything* this year within the profession. I look forward to hearing your responses to the challenge, and to working with you and your ideas in the future.

Heather Offhaus, Chair, Region IV, University of Michigan (hmills@umich.edu)

<http://146.163.5.85/ncura4/>

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NCURA Volunteers Give & Get More

I don't think you know my friend, George Harper, but then again perhaps you do. Although he was raised in a small rural community in Kansas, he runs into people he knows just about anywhere he travels. He's not a famous athlete or a well-known scholar. In fact, he never went to college and spent most of his career working in a foundry. But he's mentored countless young people as a coach, referee, and church school teacher.

George was the first African-American mayor in our town and you may see him chairing the Kiwanis' Halloween parade, setting up displays for the annual Art Fair, or serving on numerous community boards.

George's works has been recognized—from pats on the back to banquets held in his honor—but he didn't volunteer for recognition. George just likes to help people.

How involved are we in our NCURA community? Do we volunteer for

committee work? Attend conferences? Volunteer for the Board?

Those of us who work in small offices often feel isolated but there are many ways for us to connect with other grants administrators. Take a look at opportunities for you to connect:

- Write an article for NCURA's scholarly journal—Research Management Review (RMR). **Bill Sharp** is the new editor and wants articles that will aid our understanding of research administration. Contact Bill at: wsharp@ku.edu
- Volunteer for a committee. **Heather Offhaus**, Region IV Chair, is looking for volunteers for help for the Membership and Awards committees. Contact Heather at: hmills@umich.edu
- Contact **Pam Vargas**, Region IV's Past Chair, to serve on the Nominating Committee. She's

looking for volunteers to help identify new leaders for the region. Contact Pam at: pamncura@yahoo.com

- Make a difference in the Grand Rapids Spring meeting. Chair Elect, **Diane Barrett**, is looking for Program Committee volunteers. Contact Diane at: barrett@rsp.wisc.edu
- Attend NCURA's Annual Meeting—Promoting and Supporting Research—in Washington, D.C. from October 30 through November 2, 2005.

Abraham Lincoln said, "Don't worry when you are not recognized, but strive to be worthy of recognition." My friend George would say, "I just like helping people and that's enough for me." What will you say?

—*Jackie Hinton, Newsletter Editor, Southwest Missouri State University.*