



► CONGRATULATIONS FROM RACC CHAIR, KATHLEEN TAGGART AND VICE-CHAIR PAMELA TAZIK.....1



► MUSINGS FROM PAM WHITLOCK, REFLECTIONS ON THE FUTURE FOR CRAS!....2



► KUDOS TO NEWLY MINTED AND RE-CERTIFIED CRAS...3

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CRAIN *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CERTIFIED RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

Helping you achieve your professional goals

This is a very exciting time at the Research Administrators Certification Council (RACC). First of all, we would like to congratulate all our new Certified Research Administrators (CRA) from the May exam cycle. This achievement speaks volumes about the breadth and depth of your understanding of the complexities of research administration on a broad array of topics. Please visit the RACC website for helpful tips and strategies for earning contact hours for recertification.

We will hold our Annual Board Meeting in Seattle on October 17, which concludes an extremely busy year. A number of committees are actively reviewing such things as developing alternative modes of delivering the Body of Knowledge review sessions, exploring options for delivery of certification in subspecialty areas, and looking at ways to engage all CRAs in RACC activities and projects.

Our organization is growing with each passing exam cycle. As we add to our ranks we want the organization to benefit from the rich and talented membership that we have. We will be calling on CRAs for future involvement in upcoming RACC projects. Please let one of us know that you have an interest in volunteering your time in future projects. As always, don't hesitate to contact us anytime with your questions and suggestions.

Regards,

Kathleen Diaz Taggart, CRA, RACC Chair
Associate Vice President for Research and Compliance, Creighton University
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**Pamela Tazik, CRA
RACC Vice Chair**
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*Next CRA Exam period is
Dec. 5-19, 2009.*

*Upcoming 2009 review sessions:
October 16, SRA Int'l.; Washington State Conv. & Trade Ctr., Seattle, WA,
October 25, NCURA Annual Meeting: Marriott Wardman Hotel, Washington, DC;
November 20, Univ. of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii*

ROLE DELINEATION STUDY

As part of its validation process for the CRA examination, the RACC Board of Directors conducted a role delineation study last year which compiled information about the demographics, job tasks, and knowledge areas needed to work in the profession of research and sponsored programs administration. Many of our CRAs participated by completing the questionnaire. The results can now be found on our website (<http://www.cra-cert.org>) by clicking on the link from the home page which says "Research Administrators Role Delineation Study."

Kathryn A. Watkins-Wendell, Immediate Past Chair





Musings from Pam Whitlock
*Reflections on the future
for CRAs*

Q First of all give us an idea of what you've been up to since retirement. Have you been able to fulfill your reasons for retirement?

A Retirement has been enjoyable. I'm still active in the profession as vice-chair of NCURA's Nominating and Leadership Development Committee. As part of that role, I was part of the leadership team for the Leadership Development Institute retreat the first week after retirement. I'm also fortunate to be a member of this year's NCURA annual meeting program committee, so preparing my presentations and ensuring my speakers are kept informed has occupied me somewhat.

On the more personal side, I've been polishing my tennis game a few times a week and working in my vegetable garden. I'm slowly working my way through a long list of "honey-do's" that I've assigned myself around the house, catching up from the past few very busy years. Our children have been to visit us and are all now in North Carolina which enables more contact.

My reasons for retirement were simple – enjoy my husband and family more, relax some, and continue to be involved in the profession. I'm doing all of those and hope to do some consulting with other universities in the near future.

Q Describe any unanticipated blessings or benefits of retiring at this particular time. What are some of the most enjoyable aspects of retirement?

I'm re-learning how to relax and slow down. Early mornings with coffee on the deck remind me of all my blessings and to be thankful. For me, the time was right – I'd accomplished things beyond what I ever thought possible and the next generation is ready to step forward. I'm ready to share my expertise with others. I was able to begin implementation of several projects at UNCW before my retirement – RAMSeS (an electronic proposal and routing system and database); automated imaging and a solid set of policies and procedures. Now I can look back and wonder how it all got accomplished – by a very capable and committed staff, of course.

Q After a long career as a research administrator, has your personal identity altered during retirement?

A I'm much more relaxed and take time to stop and smell the roses! My cats love getting more attention (and my husband doesn't mind either)! I find I still need to work on patience and letting go a little on the control thing though.

Q You were instrumental in the development of certification for research administrators as former Chair of the Research Administrators Certification Council. What advice would you offer to the new RA? Those at mid-to-late stages of their careers?

A For new RA's I think the single most important thing to do is ensure you remain a generalist. Through the recent years, we've seen organizations grow and RA's begin to form silos and niches. To fully understand the profession and its intricacies, you have to know at least a little about every part of the body of knowledge.

For more experienced peers, I'd say make sure you have some fun, never take yourself so seriously you can't laugh. Smiles do make a big difference in building a team and working through a staff organizational line. Also, take a few minutes occasionally to reflect back and give yourself positive feedback on your accomplishments. If you are comfortable in your "skin", you'll be better prepared to lead the next generation of research administrators

to professionalism.

Q As former President of the National Council of University Research Administrators you have witnessed the evolution of research administration over many decades. Please forecast what you see in the coming months and years.

A On the compliance side, I see a huge increase in the accountability being demanded from all sponsors and a movement to conservatism across partnerships. The trust we had in each other will no longer be sufficient – there will be increasing documentation, certifications, and paperwork required to meet sponsor requirements. This will force universities and institutions to re-invent their software, reporting capabilities, and databases to meet those requirements. The research administrator of tomorrow will have to be a technology and management information systems "guru".

The next few years will continue to be interesting. There will be a masters degree in research administration within the year (NCURA made grants to support feasibility studies and is currently moving toward grants to establish programs at recipient institutions), leading to a greater recognition of our profession. On the downside, I do see more people becoming specialists at one small area of research administration. I hope we can continue to build generalists – the CRA is one vehicle that supports this.

That said, the potential to go to extremes can be tempered if the Federal Demonstration Partnership is able to continue building the respect, trust, and partnership between universities and the federal government.

Overall, I think the profession will continue to grow and gain recognition, our professional organizations will remain critical to ensure its members have the resources to remain current and knowledgeable, and new software and systems will be utilized to meet sponsor requirements.

Pam Whitlock is former Director, Sponsored Programs at UNC-Wilmington, former Chair RACC, and a former President of NCURA.

Renee Vaughan, Editor

**NEWLY CERTIFIED CRAs
MAY 2009**

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GLEN BENNETT
MARIE BLACKWELL
MINDY B. BOUDREAUX
JANET M. BOWNE
LEESA BROWN
ALYSSA BUNN
JULIE C. CAMPOS
NICOLAS M. COBURN
KATHLEEN COOK
KRISTIN E. CRESS
STEVE CROFT
MEAGAN E. CRON
SVEN DAVIDSON
DONNA DONAHO
SHERIE L. DONAHUE
DIANA L. DUBINSKY, CPA
ANNE N. FEUERBORN
MICHAEL A. FINDEISEN
CELESTE FLAHERTY
MARY-ELLEN FORTINI, PH.D.
LENA FULLEM
CONNIE R. GARDIOLA
KIRSTEN GARNER
HEATHER S. GARRINGER
ANNA N. GONZALEZ
DR ERIKA GONZALEZ-LIMA
NICOLETTE W. GOODFELLOW
SUSAN GOSSMAN
MARY K. GRAU
DEBORAH GRUPP PATRUTZ
DAN HECTOR
AMALIE A. HELMS
LEIGH C. HOFFNER
KAI JACKSON
HEIDI C. JANZENE
JESSICA M. KIEPER
TARYN KELLY KNAPP
CATHERINE KOTOL
VICTORIA A. LARE
MATTHEW A. LARSON
PATRICIA A. LEIB
KATHERINE LONG
REGINA E. MALDVE, PH.D.
VICKI L. MARVIN
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PATRICIA WILSON
ANGELINA YORK
TANYA DEKOVA YOUNG

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BEAVER, PATRICIA
BERG, JESSICA M.
BERNOS, EVE E.
BRADY, DIANNE S.
BROADDUS, MARY G.
CARR, SR., PATRICK J.
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GONZALES, RENEE K.
GRAY, RENITA L.
GUILLOTTE, TAMMY
HAGAN, RHONDA C.
HAMILTON, SALLY A.
HEARNS, RENE C.
HEMRICK, LAURA R.
HICKMAN, JD, MARY D.

HILL, ARTIS
HOFFERT JR., WILLIAM L.
KRELL, GLENN C.
LAMAR, KIMBERLY
LAMOND, SANDRA W.
MARTINEZ, RUBEN
MATHISEN, MICHAEL A.
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MESSER, LORI
MOELLER, LISA A.
NEWSOM, BETTY G.
NIELSEN-LINK, AIMEE
PAGE, KATHRYN ANNE
RITCHIE, JEFFREY
ROSEN-BOYD, BUFF E.
RUA, COLLEEN Y.
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SINGH, HARPAL
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TUNNEY, JAMES M.
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**ADDRESS AND E-MAIL
CHANGES**

Please remember if you move or change your email address to notify the RACC.

Communication to our CRAs is primarily by way of email, so you'll miss out on newsletters and other announcements if you don't let us know how to reach you. Just drop a note to racc@ptcnyc.com and we'll make sure your database listing is current.

Joan Campbell, CAE

**SRA & NCURA Meetings
RACC Exhibit Booth**

Please visit the RACC Booth during the SRA Seattle (October 17-21) and NCURA DC (October 21-24) meetings to pick up your CRA badge ribbon. While there sign-up on the Volunteer Roster.

Kudos – CRAs on the Move

Congratulations to **Pat Buennemeyer, CRA** for the SRA Excellence Award!

Congratulations to **Renee Vaughan, CRA** for the SRA Symposium Poster Award, 2nd place!

Special Thanks
*The RACC Newsletter Assistance
Ad Hoc Committee!*

**CRA
DESIGNATION**
Experience and
Discipline



CRA IN FOCUS is a newsletter of the Research Administrators Certification Council for those designated as Certified Research Administrators.

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The Research Administrators Certification Council was formed in 1993 and is an independent non-profit organization. The Council is comprised of active research administrators whose role is to certify that an individual, through experience and testing has the fundamental knowledge necessary to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator.

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