

Academic Professional – Individual

Del Kranz is an Associate Director in the Office of Technology Management where her primary responsibility is operational management and oversight for a number of areas; paralegal, patent, and financial and information systems, compliance and legal agreements.

She has taken on the roles of interim leadership and helped to onboard new directors. She mentors and trains Technology Managers and actively supports their continuing education and professional development. Del is proactive in supporting staff development. The excellence of the OTM team is a product of her diligence and encouragement. Del continues to serve as a supervisor and role model for Technology Managers and other academic professional staff in the office. Her attention to detail is unsurpassed.

Del's contributions have been significant. She is a recognized expert on intellectual property. People across the University seek out Del when they have questions or problems on copyrights, patent language, sponsored research, intellectual property terms, master agreements, grants and consortium proposals or unique questions regarding intellectual property.

Del was the lead negotiator for the University on intellectual terms for the BP grant, the Singapore A*Star/University of Illinois Partnership (AUIP) and also for the Singapore Advanced Digital Science Center (DSC) program.

Beth Ladd is a Functional Area Coordinator with AITS/Decision Support where she is a subject matter expert on finance data and business intelligence applications including Business Objects, Crystal Reports, SAS and dashboards.

Beth played an absolutely vital role in conceptualizing, designing, implementing, marketing, and supporting a new class of business intelligence products aimed at decision makers in academic colleges and departments. These products support reporting and analysis of sponsored research data for faculty activity data and have been used by a number of different colleges to analyze how their resources are being deployed and to evaluate productivity.

This is what one college administrator said about Beth: “the CFA (Consolidated Faculty Analysis tool) has been invaluable as a simple tool to pull together all of the elements (teaching load, contact hours, research funding, advising load, etc.) for analysis. Before this tool, getting all the necessary data proved to be too overwhelming! This is one example of the many ways your effort has contributed to the college's management of its resources.”

Beth continues to develop her knowledge and expertise through her own initiative and to share her expertise with her colleagues at the university as well as being a speaker for formal presentations at national conferences.



Academic Professional – Supervisor/Manager

Brent Rasmus is an Associate Director in University Accounting Services where he is regarded as a resident expert in public higher education accounting and financial management. He provides technical advice and interpretation of state and University accounting policies and procedures. Brent oversees the University's year-end closing process and facilitates the cross functional year-end coordination team.

This past year Brent was a key resource for the external auditors and became one of their main “go to” people. He was recognized in this role because he provided accurate, reliable and timely service to them. Through exemplary work with the external auditors, he demonstrates one of the strategic goals of OBFS, outstanding customer service.

Brent has developed many new processes that save countless hours of time and has made numerous suggestions which have lead the unit to solve many problems and operate more efficiently. For example, Brent realized that an employee was struggling with a work process in a particular application, so he developed a much easier, more efficient way to accomplish the same thing. This has saved the employee a lot of valuable time, as well as frustration, without any loss of quality.

Brent leads by example. He is an excellent role model for employees in University Accounting as well as within University Administration. He always makes the effort to teach and assist his staff, to nurture and develop their performance.

Civil Service – Individual

Alexander (Alex) Esparza is an IT Technical Associate in the Office of Technology Management, Chicago. In this role Alex's primary responsibilities range from training and formal presentations on systems and technology issues, network and system administration including desktop support, system security, as well as access and software installation. He is also responsible for inventorying licenses and reporting.

Alex is being honored today because of his:

- Dedication to do whatever it takes to get the job done, working late evenings, weekends, and holidays to coordinate system upgrades for existing technology.
- Initiative and creativity which he exhibited through the creation of a service center.
- Participation on a committee to identify duplicate reports and eliminate them. He also took the lead in implementing *Sales Force* a customer relationship management system for the Chicago OTM office.
- Finally, Alex stepped in and led a project to update the Chicago OTM's core database when the project lead became ill.

Alex is committed to the University beyond his formal role as an IT Technical Associate. He has served on search committees, volunteers as a resource on several list serves and participates in the Chancellor's committee on the Status of Latinos at the UIC campus.

Jackie Huls is an Administrative Aid in University Human Resources. In that role, she performs more duties than we have time to describe this afternoon, but among them are the daily office management, assistance and coordination for the assistant vice president as well as numerous Academic Professionals in the University Human Resources organization. This includes supporting the leadership team, budget oversight, reconciliation and reporting, organizing meetings, calendars, coordinating documents and correspondence and acting as a representative for UHR. One of her key roles is to be the archivist and historian for the organization's official documents. This has become a significantly important role as this unit has undergone significant structural changes over the last five years.

Jackie Huls is one of those quiet and steady individuals that does an excellent job but doesn't draw attention to herself. Through the midst of change, Jackie Huls has been one of the key individuals that have kept the UHR organization stable. From 2005 to 2009, Jackie worked for four different Associate and Assistant Vice Presidents, each bringing their own unique management style and organizational changes to UHR. Jackie played a pivotal role in keeping the unit running on an even keel while decisions were made to centralize, decentralize, and restructure.

Through her can-do attitude she finds ways to get things done by leveraging her knowledge and experience for the benefit of University HR and the University of Illinois.



Civil Service – Individual

Heidi Rockwood is an Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Technology and Economic Development where she manages the office and serves as a resource for the directors in the organization.

Heidi is proactive, self-motivated and is attuned to the entire operation so as to assure that potential problems never have an opportunity to materialize. She displays a savvy and intuitive understanding of University Policy that allows her to serve as a resource so that those she works with and for can act quickly and confidently.

Heidi has been described as having an uncanny ability to anticipate others' needs when assisting them. She also uses her talent to empower all of those with whom she works. She is interested in helping others develop professionally and even has begun to informally mentor a clerical employee in the Chicago OTM office.

Here is a quote from an Assistant Director of OTM: "Heidi proactively approached me to ask if she could assist with a *data analysis* undertaking. Even though this project was not part of her responsibilities, she consistently displays an eagerness to assist and support mission critical activities – her commitment never ceases to amaze me. Working with Heidi on this project has been a true delight because of her style, her commitment to excellence and her willingness to do whatever it takes to be successful. We are very fortunate to have Heidi as a member of the VPTED team."



Team Award

Electronic Fact Sheet Project Team

In 2008, a proposal was submitted through the ITPC process for approval to develop and implement an automated collection and tracking system to assist with the year-end closing for all accounts beginning with the number 3 (over 3,300 of them). ITPC approved the project, called “Electronic Fact Sheet (EFS)”, for FY09.

Prior to the implementation of the EFS system, data was submitted in paper form through the mail or through email to University Accounting. The initial response for this information by the deadline was typically 50%. Collecting the remainder of the information utilized countless resources as staff then had to contact departmental business administrators via phone or email, but even this did not get all of the data required. These efforts raised the response to approximately 70%, still leaving 30% of the funds unaccounted for at the year-end closing.

The Electronic Fact Sheet system for all campuses was implemented in time for the FY09 year-end closing. Over 200 people participated in webinars to learn how to use the EFS. In the first year of use, the initial response or submission rate went from 50% in FY08 to 98.4% (or 3,262 funds) in FY09.

As a result of this system, data collection and tracking is easier and much more efficient. There has been a reduction in overtime devoted to the data collection and staff formerly assigned to handle and coordinate late responses is now dedicated to processing the information and are free to work on other priorities.

The OBFS Team members Team responsible for this good work are:

Stephanie J. Adams
Jason Bane
Madelle Becker
Chris Bland
Sherril L. Faith
Russell K. Fletcher
Ryan M. Hall
Linda McCaffrey
Richard Rebot
Leslie Sherman
Denise M. Stanley
Roger O. Wade
Jodi A. Wright