



# Online FERPA Waiver Program Goes Live

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. With limited exceptions, student education records cannot be released without the prior written consent of the student who the record is about. This includes releasing information to parents, employers or other individuals with relationships to that student. You may hear an argument from a parent that “I pay the bills” or “my child is a dependent for tax purposes, so you have to give me the information!” FERPA regulations leave it to the discretion of the educational institution to decide what its policy on the release of records to parents of dependent students will be. It is UCONN’s policy and practice NOT to disclose education records to parents of dependent students without the prior written consent of the student.

Many students *do* want their parents and/or other individuals to have access to all or certain types of information from their

education records. Many more students want their parents to be able to speak with certain offices on campus, such as the Bursar to pay their fee bills. In order to simplify the process of acquiring prior written consent, the University has implemented a new process called the “*Online FERPA Waiver*.” The Online FERPA Waiver program went live on May 28, 2009. Under this program, all students are required to decide the first time they log into the Student Administration System (PeopleSoft) who, if anyone, they would like to designate, and which offices they would like their designees to be able to speak with about their education records maintained by that department. The Online FERPA Waiver program applies to records maintained by the following offices: Registrar, Financial Aid, Bursar, Residential Life, One Card Office, Graduate School, Continuing Studies, and Community Standards. For all other offices, including faculty and advisors, students must follow the University’s

paper-form procedure of providing permission to speak with that office about their student records. For more information about the Online FERPA Waiver program, please visit [http://www.registrar.uconn.edu/ferpa\\_faq.html](http://www.registrar.uconn.edu/ferpa_faq.html).

More information on FERPA at UCONN can be found on the Registrar’s website at <http://www.registrar.uconn.edu/ferpa.html>. If you have questions about FERPA, or if your office would like additional training on how to best comply with FERPA’s requirements, please contact Rachel Krinsky Rudnick, Assistant Director of Compliance/Privacy at 486-5256 or [rachel.krinsky@uconn.edu](mailto:rachel.krinsky@uconn.edu)

*Article by R. Krinsky Rudnick*



# University Accountability Officer

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) – the federal stimulus act – requires strict oversight, accountability and transparency in order to ensure that ARRA funds are used for the purposes intended. Governor Rell issued Executive Order #25 stating that each agency must appoint an Accountability Officer. Dr. K. Michael (Mike) Walker, Chief Audit and Compliance

Officer, has been appointed the Accountability Officer for the University of Connecticut and University of Connecticut Health Center. Dr. Walker is responsible for reporting the University’s ARRA status to the State Accountability Officer. The Office of Audit Compliance and Ethics has set up an ARRA website, <http://www.audit.uconn.edu/arra.htm> for general ARRA information and links to the federal and

state websites. Updates concerning ARRA will be posted on this website. Please contact Dr. Walker at 860-486-0031 with any ARRA questions or concerns. ARRA funds provide a great research potential for the University and it is critical we comply with all requirements, not only for these funds but for future federal funding as well.

*Article by Marie Liskom*

# Meet the Audit Staff

Prior issues of the Compliance Courier presented articles on the Chief Audit and Compliance Officer and the Compliance staff. This issue presents the Audit Staff of the OACE, all experienced professionals with extensive knowledge in the areas of operations, finance, information technology and construction.

**Cheryl Chiaputti**—Cheryl is the Director of Audit Services for the Storrs and Health Center campuses. Cheryl is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with over 23 years of experience.

**Carrie Gray**—Carrie serves as the University's IT Auditor with certifications as a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), and Certified GIAC Systems and Network Auditor (GSNA).

**Katherine Goss**—Katherine is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who was in public practice in Vermont for eight years prior to joining the OACE in 2005.

**David Hook**—David recently joined the Storrs staff as the University's Construction Auditor. David previously worked at the Health Center campus as an Auditor.

**Kaye Johnson**—Kaye is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who also holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut.

**Elaine Zincavage**—Elaine is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who also holds an M.A. in Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

**Karen Violette**—Karen has worked at the University in the Audit area for over 25 years and is the Secretary to the Joint Audit and Compliance Committee (JACC).

*Article by Kimberly Fearney*



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## Summer Compliance Tip: Update your Policies and Procedures

Summer is a great time to spend updating policies and procedures. Examples of what to look at include: checking web links, updating contact information, statutory changes and any other changes to address concerns that may have come up during the academic year.

OACE would like to once again remind departments that all policies should be posted on the E-Policy website. If you have policies that have not been posted, please contact your E-Policy Editor or Kimberly Fearney in OACE for help.