

2017 Spotlight Award Winners



Alex Perez

*Property Management
Office within Office of
Research Administration*

Alex's creativity and leadership resulted in rapid and effective operational changes in how sales and re-purposing of furniture was accomplished. His team processed over 22,800 excess assets, collected 125 tons of electronic waste for recycling, and performed data destruction on approximately 2K computing devices. They also sought out new options for donating or selling furniture at minimal cost to well-deserving organizations in order to still minimize landfill. Kudos to Alex and the team for their accomplishments.

Lisa Ciambrone

*Research Financial Policy
and Compliance Office
with Office of Research
Administration*



(No Picture Available)

Lisa did an outstanding job leading the RFCS department-wide scanning project. This project was for scanning approx. 200,000 pages of RFCS official documents into searchable PDF format and storage in online document library. This was in preparation for RFCS' move to the Galvez modular and drive towards eventual paperless offices at Redwood City.

Lisa took on the leadership role in this project and went above and beyond her normal job duties to execute the project flawlessly. In addition, Lisa led the RFCS Oracle R12.2 Upgrade UAT testing project throughout 2017.



Monica Opoku

*Global Business Services
with Financial
Management Services*

Monica epitomizes FMS's balancing of compliance with customer service and support. She brings her technical knowledge in the finance and accounting domain, together with her consulting experience, to deliver a high level of service to our Stanford global clients. Her follow up is impeccable, and she never lets the ball drop even when she is navigating politically challenging or otherwise complex problems. Monica works tirelessly to navigate on behalf of clients, both through the University's processes and in-country to make sure that programs and projects can execute on their objectives as compliantly and efficiently as possible. She is well respected among co-global service providers, and colleagues know that Monica will deliver on what she promises.

Ali Oskoui

*Business Architecture
Support & Enablement
within Financial
Management Services*



Ali is recognized as an exceptional team player with a "can do" attitude and is known for his strong dedication and reliability in delivering high quality solutions. Ali demonstrates an outstanding ability to understand business needs, which coupled with excellent technical skills, results in an unparalleled ability to solve the unsolvable. Over the last year, he has been able to deliver on a number of critical projects including the Gift Securities transition to FMS, upgrading the University's Ground, Rent and Water application, and is on track to complete the Alternative Investment Daily Transaction Reconciliation module in June, just to name a few of his accomplishments.



Jennifer Freitas

*Business Affairs Human
Resources*

Jennifer has an infectious and positive approach to life which she brings to her work on the HR team. She approaches each opportunity or challenge with a smile. The quality of her work is exceptional and is always something the HR team can be proud to show our leaders and BA staff. She is highly collaborative and has been sought out by the Stanford HR community to be part of many university wide projects. She demonstrates the values of the HR team with her integrity, courage and passion. Her diligence, attention to detail and tenacity for accuracy are all qualities Jen brings to her role on a daily basis. We are lucky to have her on the Business Affairs HR team.

Sonya Pais

*Enterprise Risk
Management within the
Office of Chief Risk Officer*



Sonya has done an outstanding job of coordinating ERM activities both within OCRO and with departments across Stanford. She effectively facilitates meetings with all levels of leadership, from Managers to Deans and Vice Presidents. She coordinates closely with the Senior Associate Vice President of OCRO in developing presentations for the Cabinet and the Board of Trustees. She is always very collaborative and supportive of all who are involved with ERM activities and Sonya strongly reflects OCRO's values of Integrity, clear and effective Communication, Accountability, Personal Development, Teamwork, and Commitment to Quality. She is an asset to the team and to Stanford.



Vesna Siracevska

*Shared Services
Operations within
University IT*

Vesna has been a critical team player in the success of the Service Management Initiative. She played a key role in driving University IT's Service Management process definitions, which were foundational to the ServiceNow implementation. Additionally, Vesna played double duty on the ServiceNow implementation in that she worked to on-board fifteen Campus IT Partners while simultaneously supporting the users already on the production system. Vesna, as a true Business Analyst at heart, is always finding ways to continuously improve processes. Last, but certainly not least, Vesna's attitude and team spirit are exemplary. She is a 5 star employee and the project team is lucky to have her on it.

Peter Kwok

*Administrative Systems
Project Management
Office within University IT*



Peter's detailed, diligent planning and management was key to the successful Oracle 12.2.6 upgrade. This effort involved coordination with more than 25 business owners and encompassed every single financial and asset management related ERP module deployed at Stanford. In addition, Peter managed the Associated Students of Stanford (ASSU) project to replace their accounting system and their student facing portal working closely with the ASSU leadership and members. As if this wasn't enough, Peter also managed to find time to complete ITLP this year as well as manage two additional Oracle Fusion cloud deployment projects for Global Business in FMS and for the GSB.



Matthew Ricks

*IT Facilities Management
and Business Continuity
Management Group
within University IT*

Stephane Thieff

*Stanford Research
Computing Group within
University IT*



Kilian Cavalotti

*Stanford Research
Computing Group within
University IT*



Matthew brings a unique combination of process focus, analytical detail, and functional knowledge with a focus on collaborative input to understand the heart of the question at hand and to identify the best approach to address university priorities. He is broadly respected for his technical insights and deep knowledge of how to get things done at Stanford as well as his steady and calm leadership even in the most challenging of circumstances. He has contributed significantly to the Business Continuity Disaster Recovery initiative and to the Redwood City project over the last year. As the point person for the Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Business Initiative, he has developed a multi-year strategy to improve the resiliency of Business Affairs services. He is a huge asset to Business Affairs and to Stanford.

Stephane and Kilian demonstrated outstanding initiative and technical acumen in providing the Stanford research community with a “cheap and deep” storage platform called “Oak”. Recognizing the gulf that existed between the cost and scalability of local storage services that were available to our researchers and the demand for affordable large-scale storage, Stephane and Kilian set out to architect a platform and service that would be affordable (\$50 per TB per year maximum cost), scalable (essentially limitless ... up to hundreds of petabytes), flexible (to accommodate accessibility from a variety of end-user operating environments), and supportable. After vetting their initial design, they finalized the plan and began the software development that would be required to make the design “work”. That development work was largely done at night and on weekends, over many months. Oak is an amazing solution...” states Professor Russ Poldrack, the Albert Ray Lang Professor of Psychology and Professor, by courtesy, of Computer Science.
