

GAO Management News

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Oratory Contest: Five Students Share Their Views on “Crisis in Black Education”

Each February, GAO celebrates African American History Month with a large variety of events. The 27th GAO Student Essay Oratory Contest, which concluded GAO's celebration of African American History Month, is typically a highlight of the month. On February 28, five students presented their essays based on this year's African American History Month theme, "Crisis in Black Education." The purpose of the competition, now in its 27th year, is to encourage the development, writing and presentation skills essential to academic and professional success. Since 1989, 128 students have participated as finalists in the program, which is open to Washington, D.C. high schoolers.

Pamela Hall of FAIS was the emcee and it is her first year serving as the Oratory Contest Coordinator. Contestants were asked to research and write a 700 to 1,000 word essay. The entrants were judged on the quality of their written essays as well as their oral presentation. After a preliminary round of judging, the five finalists, one from Woodrow Wilson High School, one from Thurgood Marshall Academy PCHS, and three from H.D. Benjamin Banneker Academic High School presented their essays before a live audience of GAO employees, family members, school faculty and friends.

First place winner, Aaron King was from Woodrow Wilson High School. King began with a quote from Carter G. Woodson, who wrote “The Mis-Education of the Negro” which was first published in 1933. “If you can control a man's thinking, you do not have to worry about his action.” King said modern problems with black education include that most black students are placed in lower quality early child care and he discussed the school to prison pipeline. He said he finds that “We suffer from lack of finding connection with teachers.” King is interested in a career in film and journalism.



Left: Aaron King, Woodrow Wilson High School, took first place in the oratory competition.

Second place went to Destiny Jackson from Benjamin Banneker High School. Jackson, who is interested in a future in finance, said she felt oppression by her own peers and their acceptance of mediocrity.



Destiny Jackson, Benjamin Banneker High School.



Kelsi Gross from Benjamin Banneker High School

Kelsi Gross from Benjamin Banneker High School took third place. She said she witnessed “mis-education” in the 5th grade when she shifted to a predominantly white school from a predominately black school. “I have to separate myself from my community to get an education,” she said. Gross is interested in robotics and chess and said she is unsure about her future career.

Honorable Mention went to Talia Ford, Thurgood Marshall Academy PCHS and Jose Castellon, Benjamin Banneker High School. Ford seeks a future as a lawyer or judge, or senator. Ford said she felt that she’s been blind to the problems of black students in public high schools, citing that 69% of African American students graduate, compared to her school where 100% of the students graduate. Castellon, an immigrant from El Salvador, said he felt that the crisis was his, too. “It’s our crisis. Yes, our crisis. Not his, not yours, not the black man’s crisis, but our crisis,” he said. Castellon is interested in a career in Constitutional law.



Talia Ford, Thurgood Marshall Academy



Jose Castellon, Benjamin Banneker High School

The finalist round was judged by Comptroller General Gene Dodaro; Clifton Douglas, SI, Chief Judge; Chief Human Capital Officer Bill White; James Christian-Blockwood, SPEL; Lois Hanshaw, OGC; Phyllis Anderson, FMA; and Latesha Love, FAIS.

After the event, Hall stated, “I am pleased with the outcome of my first year as the Oratory Contest Coordinator. Congratulations to the overall winner, Aaron King and the other winners, Destiny, Kelsi, Talia and Jose. All of the participants did a great job. Keep up the good work.”

If you missed it, the entire event may be viewed on [GAO-TV](#).

Atlanta and Seattle Field Offices Celebrate Black History Month

Atlanta staff celebrated Black History Month by hosting a presentation February 14 by Brittany Collins of the Atlanta-based, non-profit consulting firm “Purpose Built Communities,” in which she discussed her organization’s efforts to revitalize distressed, low-income neighborhoods holistically through educational, housing, and wellness interventions. The event was broadcast on [GAOTV](#) and is available on demand.

The Atlanta Field Office also organized an essay contest for fifth-grade students of Kipp Strive Academy, who were asked to write about educational paths toward their desired careers and about educational role models.

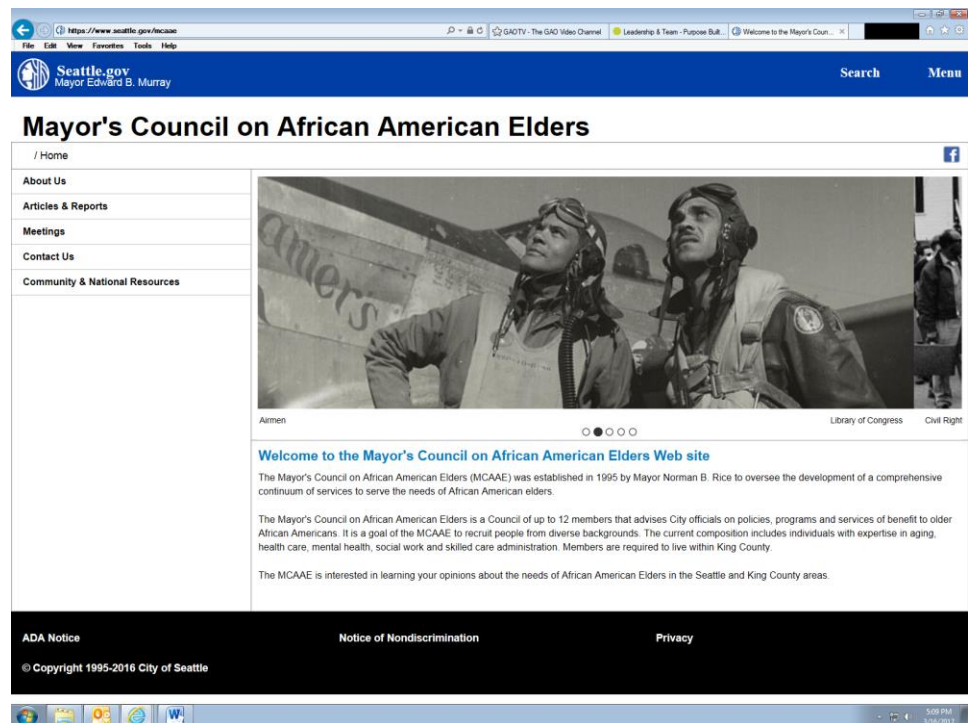
In addition, the office organized a “music lounge” in its break room featuring music of African-American musicians; an interactive board where staff posted about volunteer opportunities in the Atlanta area; and a catered “soul food” lunch for staff.

Finally, Atlanta’s NRE core group also arranged for Dr. Fatemeh Shafiei, chair of the Department of Political Science at Spelman College in Atlanta, to give a presentation to NRE staff agency-wide on environmental justice education issues on February 28.



Atlanta Field Office staff listen to Brittany Collins presentation about her organization “Purpose Built Communities.” She discussed her organization’s efforts to revitalize distressed, low-income neighborhoods holistically through educational, housing, and wellness interventions. The event was broadcast on [GAOTV](#) for the entire agency to watch.

The **Seattle** office hosted Mattie Taplin, the Chair of the [City of Seattle Mayor's Council on African American Elders \(MCAAE\)](#), as part of activities to celebrate Black History Month. Taplin spoke about current policy initiatives the Council is working on, as well as future needs in the community. The session was very well attended and generated good questions and discussion.



From Here and There

Arrivals and Departures

Welcome to recently hired GAO employees:
IT: John W. Bailey

Good luck to recently retired GAO employees:
ASM: Paul Francis
DCM: Laura Durland
EWIS: Clarita Mrena
GC: Craig Winslow

Goodbye and best wishes to employees leaving GAO:
ARM: Douglas Sloane
FMCI: Kathleen Boggs
FO: Randolph Thompson (San Francisco)
IT: Justin Palk

Leave Donations Sought for CAO and EWIS Individuals

CAO is seeking donations of annual leave on behalf of **Natosha Mahoney**.
EWIS is seeking donations of annual leave on behalf of **Alexandra Squitieri**.

Anyone wishing to donate leave must complete [GAO Form 174](#) and submit it to Cheryl Bellinger, HCO, Rm 1174. For additional information concerning donations to Ms. Mahoney or Ms. Squitieri, please contact Cheryl Bellinger, HCO, (202) 512-7459.

A list of other GAO employees eligible to receive leave donations can be found on the Intranet under "[Leave Share Program](#)."

Mark Your Calendar

CFC Awards Ceremony

The CFC Awards Ceremony will be held March 21, at 11am in the HQ auditorium. Thanks to the generous donations of GAO HQ staff, a total of \$537,763 was donated during the 2016 campaign.

Employees are invited to attend the CFC Awards Ceremony to celebrate our 2016 HQ campaign success, recognize the hard work of our 180+ strong Community of Team Captains and Keyworkers, and acknowledge the generosity of all our staff. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony in the McCarl Room on the 7th floor. See the GAO [Notice](#) for details.

In Memoriam

Paul Joseph "Doggman" Bollea, 64, of Fairfax Station, Virginia, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday,



March 8. Paul grew up in North Dartmouth, Massachusetts and graduated from Southeastern Massachusetts University with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1975. After graduation, Paul moved to the Washington D.C. area where he started his 35 year career as a civil servant with the Government Accountability Office before retiring in 2010.

Upon retirement, Paul found his true vocation as a puppy whisperer. He loved his second career as a puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes for the Blind and proudly raised four Labrador Retrievers that went on to serve others in need. He was happy to share that his last protégée graduated as the "class valedictorian" and he was currently raising another puppy.

Paul is survived by his best friend and wife of nearly 35 years, Leslee; his children, Chelsea and Drew (Lindsay); pup Davis; sisters, Gerry (Rich) and Jane, as well as many loving nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and friends. He was also looking forward to the impending arrival of his first grandchild and was proud to know that the Bollea name would live on.

Paul managed his health challenges for over 12 years. Despite many setbacks, Paul dealt with his illness with grace and humor, and was an inspiration to all. The family would like to say a special thank you to the doctors, nurses, therapists, and caregivers for their love and support. The family would also like to extend their gratitude to their second family of neighbors, friends near and far, and all the members of Team Doggman for their helping hands and friendship over the years.

Services were held March 12 and 13 in Burke, VA. Memorial contributions in Paul's memory can be made to the Guiding Eyes for the Blind Puppy Program and The V Foundation for Cancer Research.

Job Market

GAO is seeking applicants for the following position. Detailed information may be found at [USAjobs](#).

[Communications Analyst \(Written\)](#), CS-1001-02/02, closes 3/24

[Executive Candidate Assessment and Development Program](#), PE-0347-03/03, closes 4/3

Recent Reports, Testimony, and Legal Products

Public GAO products--reports, testimony, and legal decisions and opinions--are available on GAO's [website](#) as they are released. In addition, you may sign up for [daily e-mail alerts](#) about issued products. You may also subscribe to Twitter alerts for [reports](#) and [legal products](#). Use the [search engine](#) to locate older products.

Reports

Antibiotics: FDA Has Encouraged Development, but Needs to Clarify the Role of Draft Guidance and Develop Qualified Infectious Disease Product Guidance.

[GAO-17-189](#), January 31

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Regulatory Fee-Setting Calculations Need Greater Transparency.

[GAO-17-232](#), February 2

Federal Real Property: Government-wide Building-Disposal Data Generally Reliable, but Opportunities for Further Improvements Exist.

[GAO-17-321](#), March 2

Contractor Whistleblower Protections Pilot Program: Improvements Needed to Ensure Effective Implementation.

[GAO-17-227](#), March 2

Foreign Assistance: Agencies Can Improve the Quality and Dissemination of Program Evaluations.

[GAO-17-316](#), March 3

VA Construction: Improved Processes Needed to Monitor Contract Modifications, Develop Schedules, and Estimate Costs.

[GAO-17-70](#), March 7

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: Changes Planned to Budget Structure and Justification.

[GAO-17-294](#), March 8

Workplace Safety and Health: Information on OSHA Training for Workers on Workplace Hazards.

[GAO-17-178](#), February 7

Radioactive Sources: Opportunities Exist for Federal Agencies to Strengthen Transportation Security.

[GAO-17-58](#), February 7

Contracting Data Analysis: Assessment of Government-wide Trends.

[GAO-17-244SP](#), March 9

Department of Defense: Medical Conditions and Care for End-of-Service Military Working Dogs.

[GAO-17-358](#), March 10

Government Procurement: United States Reported Opening More Opportunities to Foreign Firms Than Other Countries, but Better Data Are Needed.

[GAO-17-168](#), February 9

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority: Improved Planning of Future Rehabilitation Projects Could Prevent Limitations Identified with SafeTrack.

[GAO-17-348](#), March 14

Electricity: Status of Residential Deployment of Solar and Other Technologies and Potential Benefits and Challenges.

[GAO-17-142](#), February 13

Health Information Technology: HHS Should Assess the Effectiveness of Its Efforts to Enhance Patient Access to and Use of Electronic Health Information.

[GAO-17-305](#), March 15

Congressional Testimony

HUBZone Program: An Overview of GAO's Previous Work, by William Shear, FMCI, before the Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee, House Small Business Committee.

[GAO-17-456T](#), March 2

Veterans' Health Care: Preliminary Observations on the Timeliness of Veterans' Access to Choice Program Care, by Randall Williamson, HC, before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

[GAO-17-397T](#), March 7

Immigrant Investor Program: Proposed Investments in Targeted Employment Areas, by Rebecca Gambler, HSJ, before the House Judiciary Committee.

[GAO-17-487T](#), March 8

2016 Filing Season: IRS Improved Telephone Service but Needs to Better Assist Identity Theft Victims and Prevent Release of Fraudulent Refunds. A statement of Jessica Lucas-Judy, SI for the Subcommittees on Government Operations and Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives.

[GAO-17-492T](#), March 8

Department of Energy: Excess Uranium Transfers, by Allison Bawden, NRE, before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

[GAO-17-472T](#), March 8

Veterans Health Care: Limited Progress Made to Address Concerns That Led to High-Risk Designation, by Debra Draper, HC, before the Senate Committee On Veterans' Affairs.

[GAO-17-473T](#), March 15

Legal Decisions and Opinions

Bid Protest Decisions

[CSR, Inc.](#), B-413973, B-413973.2, January 13.

[Tribalco, LLC](#), B-414120, B-414120.2, February 21.

[Alphaport, Inc.](#), B-414086, B-414086.2, February 10.

[Bart & Associates, Inc.](#), B-414234, B-414234.2, February 24.

[EBSCO Industries, Inc.](#), B-414150, March 2.

[Harmonia Holdings Group, LLC](#), B-413464, B-413464.2, November 4.
[Raytheon Company](#), B-414062.3, February 21.
[Construction Services Group, Inc.](#), B-412343.3, February 27.
[ManTech TSG-1, Joint Venture](#), B-411253.7, B-411253.8, March 1.
[Express Medical Transporters, Inc.—Reconsideration](#), B-412692.2, March 6.
[L-3 Brashear](#), B-413138.4, December 27.
[Mountaineers Fire Crew, Inc.; ASP Fire, LLC; Diamond Road Maintenance Inc. \(d/b/a Diamond Fire\)](#), B-413520.5, B-413520.7, B-413520.8, B-413520.10, B-413520.11, February 27.
[Remote Diagnostic Technologies, LLC](#), B-413375.4, B-413375.5, February 28.
[American Access, Inc.](#), B-414137, B-414137.2, February 28.
[Engility Corporation](#), B-413120.3, B-413120.4, B-413120.5, B-413120.6, February 14.
[SupplyCore, Inc.](#), B-411648.2, B-411648.3, February 21.
[The Dalton Gang, Inc.; All Points Logistics, Inc.](#), B-412382.5, B-412382.6, B-412382.8, March 1.
[Interactive Technology Solutions, LLC](#), B-413665.2, B-413665.3, March 1.
[Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company—Costs](#), B-413444.3, March 3.
[Office Design Group—Reconsideration](#), B-413166.7, March 9.
[Analytic Strategies LLC; Gemini Industries, Inc.—Reconsideration](#), B-413758.4, B-413758.5, March 9.

Office of the Inspector General

Property Management: Opportunities Exist to Improve Personal Property Accountability and Visibility
[OIG-17-4](#), March 2017

Speakers' Platform

GAO's Physical Infrastructure team hosted a meeting of the Federal Real Property Association on February 21st. Over 65 real property officials and professionals attended the luncheon meeting where Dave Wise, Tina Paek, Keith Cunningham, Cathy Kim, Amelia Shachoy, Mike Armes, and Omari Norman (GC) presented PI's recent work in real property management.

Penny Berrier, ASM, and Marie Mak, ASM, presented the findings of "Rare Earth Materials: Developing a Comprehensive Approach Could Help DOD Better Manage National Security Risks in the Supply Chain ([GAO-16-161](#), Feb 11, 2016) at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy Strategic Materials seminar in Washington, DC, February 28.

Kristen Kociolek, Christie Pugnetti, Mary Ann Hardy, and Rebecca Riklin, FMA, presented "GAO's Yellow Book Exposure Draft: What Changes Are Ahead?" for a National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers' (NASACT) webinar, March 1.

Gerald Dillingham, PI, and Malika Rice, PI, presented "Working with the Government Accountability Office" to the Federal Aviation Administration's Senior Leadership Development Program "Working with Congress" in Washington, D.C., March 7.

Sara Pelton, EWIS, presented findings from Federal Disaster Assistance: FEMA's Progress in Aiding Individuals with Disabilities Could Be Further Enhanced ([GAO-17-200](#), February 7) at a meeting of the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies in Washington, D.C., March 10.

Gerald Dillingham, PI and Vashun Cole, PI, presented the "U.S. Government Accountability Office and Aviation Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul Issues" at the Aeronautical Repair Station Association's Legislative Day and Annual Repair Symposium, in Arlington, VA., March 15-17.

On the Air

Comptroller General Gene Dodaro discussed the High Risk List ([GAO-17-317](#), February 15) with Federal News Radio, March 1.

Marie Mak, ASM, discussed the contractor whistleblower protections pilot program ([GAO-17-227](#), March 2) with Federal News Radio, March 6.

Dave Wise, PI, spoke with Federal News Radio about VA construction ([GAO-17-70](#), March 7), March 15.

Award



Senior Social Science Analyst Valerie Caracelli, ARM, was awarded the Robert Ingle Service Award by the American Evaluation Association (AEA). AEA newsletter profiled Caracelli:

“Valerie Caracelli has been a professional evaluator for over 30 years. Much of her career has been at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), where she works in the Applied Research and Methods Team, in the Center for Evaluation Methods and Issues. In addition to conducting congressionally requested studies with Stephanie Shipman, she consults with other GAO Teams on evaluation design issues and assists in examining the quality of evaluation studies.

*She has been a member of the American Evaluation Association since its founding. With Jennifer Greene, her scholarly interests in mixed methods resulted in several articles that framed mixed methods evaluation designs (see for example, their co-edited volume, *Advances in Mixed-Method Evaluation* (NDE, no. 74). She has served as chair of the Evaluation Use TIG, now known as the Use and Influence of Evaluation TIG, and maintains active engagement. In 2000, she and Hallie Preskill conducted a survey of evaluators about evaluation use. This led to a *New Directions for Evaluation* volume (NDE-no. 88), “The Expanding Scope of Evaluation Use.”*

According to Nancy Kingsbury, ARM, this award was named after the late Robert Ingle who was a founding member of AEA and was its long time conference chair. “The award was created to recognize service to the organization as well as the field of evaluation. Val has been a long-time stalwart in the AEA local affiliate, “Washington Evaluators,” said Kingsbury.

This is not the first Robert Ingle award to come to a GAOer. Kingsbury was presented with the first Ingle award from AEA in 1987 for her service as its Secretary Treasurer (and Secretary Treasurer for the predecessor organization, the Evaluation Research Society.) AEA was created in 1986 in a merger of ERS with an organization called Evaluation Network.

About Management News

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