

# OCFO QUARTERLY

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



## A WORD FROM THE CFO

Colleagues,

Like many of you, this time of year makes me reflect on what I'm thankful for. I'm incredibly thankful for my family and for my health. I'm also proud and thankful to lead a team that, over the past year and a half, has responded to a constantly changing environment with agility and resilience.

Last April, I announced our organizational priorities. The priorities — critical thinking, innovation, and the relentless pursuit of value — align with our overarching goal to “reinvent ourselves and our organization to relentlessly pursue value across GSA and the federal government.” I'm grateful for the commitment to these priorities that was on display throughout the past fiscal year and into this quarter. Here are a few highlights:

- Growth in **critical thinking** — and applying critical thinking to solving complex problems. The Analytics Community of Practice, which was launched earlier this year, has given employees across the organization the tools they need to increase their data literacy and make more informed decisions. Through workshops and webinars, demos and a very successful datathon, the CoP has provided the organization with both learning and engagement opportunities, and fostered cross-functional relationship building across OCFO.
- Continued progress in **innovation**, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Early on, our RPA Program developed and deployed solutions that helped ensure the health and safety of GSA employees and employees governmentwide. The RPA team also hit a major milestone this past fiscal year, reaching its 100th automation. In less than 3 years, we've seen RPA grow from an idea to a successful 100-day pilot and, now, into a government-leading program. It's a testament to what can happen when bias towards action meets determination.
- And, finally, that our **relentless pursuit of value** is demonstrated in the cross-cutting projects our office has been involved in. From the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and the 2021 Agency Financial Report to the work being done to reshape the audit and to meet the new administration's priorities, our office has demonstrated why OCFO is a trusted strategic partner.

To each of you who has contributed to these efforts and others: thank you. OCFO's success is the result of the work of each and every one of you. As we get closer to the end of the year, I hope that you all are taking some time to reflect on what you have accomplished and what you're grateful for while also preparing for another successful year ahead.

Regards,

Gerard

## IN THIS ISSUE

[THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S CORNER](#)  
.....

[OCFO RECOGNITION ROUND-UP](#)  
.....

2-LETTER OFFICE UPDATES:

[BA](#) | [BB](#) | [BG](#) | [BI](#) | [BR](#)  
.....

[STAFF SHOUT OUTS](#)  
.....

[HAIL & FAREWELL](#)  
.....

[MY TOWN](#)  
.....

## THE CHIEF OF STAFF'S CORNER



While a student at the illustrious, blue turfed Boise State University, like many students I participated in the ritual of dating. One, somewhat comedic, experience comes to mind. I invited BSU's starting point guard on the women's basketball team out for an evening. I'm pointing out her athletic affiliation to emphasize her competitive nature. After a forgettable dinner (saying that because I really can't remember where we went) we returned to her apartment, where she invited me in. After losing a couple of games of backgammon, a dialogue that went something like this ensued:

Her: You didn't seem very good at this game.

Me: I'm winning the game I'm playing.

Her: What's that?

Me: Spending time with you.

I've always thought that was a very good (if not perfect) reply but, ultimately, that was our first *and* last date.

Elon Musk once said "I think it's very important to have a feedback loop." Perhaps a better feedback loop would have helped me on that fateful night, oh so long ago.

In our last newsletter, I complimented you all for your participation in the Employee Viewpoint Survey (EVS). This year, the EVS began November 1 and ends December 3. Additionally, Administrator Carnahan recently announced the governmentwide [Employee Voice](#) initiative, a three-question survey you'll receive via email every couple of months. I invite you to let your voice be heard by participating in these feedback cycles.

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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS FALL'S WEEK IN REVIEW POLLS

After a year-long hiatus, the Week in Review polls have returned to captivate and entertain. In case you've missed out on the fun, here are a few recent questions and their top responses:

### Fall Activities

*What do you love most about fall?*

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Fall holidays

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Fall festivals and pumpkin spice

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Cooler weather and changing leaves

### Dream Superpower

*If you could have any superpower, what would it be?*

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Mind reading

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Time travel

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Teleportation

### Halloween Movies

*What's your favorite classic Halloween movie?*

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Halloween

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Beetlejuice

1<sup>st</sup> Place: It's the Great

Pumpkin, Charlie Brown and Hocus Pocus

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To take part in the Week in Review polls, check out the Week in Review newsletter. There you'll find OCFO and GSA-wide announcements, job postings, OCFO activities, and more! Visit the [Week in Review archive](#) for past issues and share your feedback and suggestions in the [Week in Review survey](#).

## OCFO RECOGNITION ROUND-UP

*This quarter, our OCFO colleagues shared their expertise with others through external speaking engagements, including keynotes, panel discussions, interviews, and podcasts. Several of our OCFO colleagues were also recognized for their work through external awards. Here are a few highlights:*

### Office of Budget Awards Contract for New Budget System



Fiscal year 2021 concluded with a very exciting accomplishment for BB — the Office of Administrative Services awarded a contract to build a new budget system and bring state-of-the-art technology to

GSA. A lot of hard work went into making this award possible and many folks across OCFO deserve recognition for their contributions. Thanks to all those who participated in the budget system pilots, which helped refine the requirements, and to those who helped BB manage the competitive acquisition process. The BB team now turns to implementation and will be hard at work during FY 2022 building and testing the new software — OneStream. Stay tuned for more!

### Office of Financial Management Colleagues Among FAS Commissioner’s Spotlight Award Winners

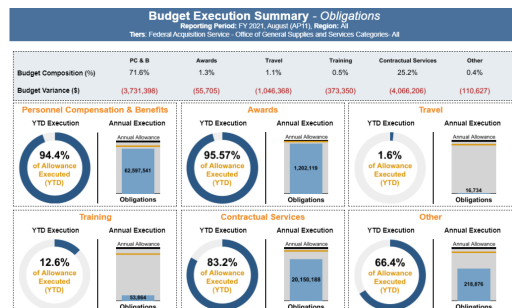
Several members of the FAS Financial Services Division (BGF) were honored with a [FAS Commissioner’s Spotlight Award](#) for their “extraordinary efforts to launch ASSIST 2.0.”

This cross-agency team — which included OCFO Financial Services Division members Dennis McNamara, Donna McGonagle, Jonathan Bauer, Kathleen Fabrizio-Contrabasso, Lauren Franklin, Francie McCabe, Michael Montenegro, Keith O’Hara, Brittany Piotrowski, and John Willet — fulfilled a multi-year vision: shut down and converge four legacy systems into one system, ASSIST 2.0. There was little room for error in this high-impact, high-visibility undertaking: 80% of FAS revenue flows through ASSIST. The team successfully migrated almost 1,500 GSA users, over

11,500 customer users, and approximately 25,100 vendor users to the new system, as well as almost \$32 billion in active contract funding for 20-plus contracting activities into the converged system. The ASSIST team leveraged expertise from across GSA to ensure the new system enhanced efficiencies for all users, including a single, consistent workflow. The team’s change management focus, forward-looking approach, appropriate resourcing, ongoing evaluation, and strong communications planning made a complicated transition as seamless as possible and helped facilitate a successful deployment.

### Office of Analytics, Performance & Improvement Rolls Out FAS Financial Dashboard

OCFO launched a FAS Financial Dashboard and analytics environment in July that is expected to save 8,000 to 10,000 hours next year for OCFO and FAS analysts in streamlined reporting and timely data access. In just the past 3 months, the dashboard has been accessed by 176 FAS and OCFO staff, which is a testament to the quality and usefulness of the tool. Given the success of the FAS Financial Dashboard, we are now building one for the Working Capital Fund -- stay tuned!



OCFO was also awarded \$3 million over the next 2 years to modernize GSA’s financial data environment.

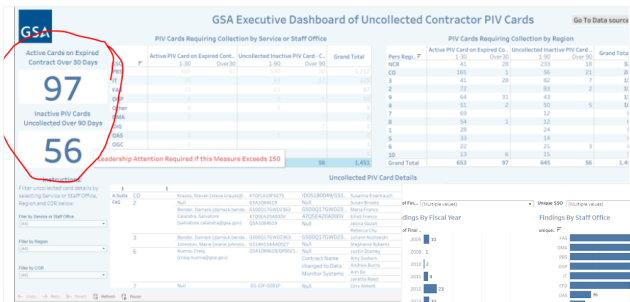
# OFFICE UPDATES

## THE OFFICE OF AUDIT MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### Dashboards Increase Accountability

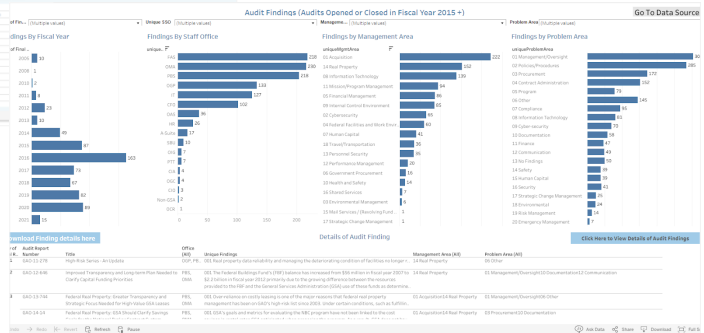
The Office of Audit Management and Accountability (BA) publishes dashboards on [GSA's D2D](#) to help eliminate repeat audit issues and strengthen internal controls. Some of these dashboards are listed below and are available on the newly created OCFO Office of Audit Management and Accountability D2D site.

The Executive PIV Dashboard (*left*) focuses leadership attention on the two most important measures to assess if the PIV process is working as intended and identifies exceptions by Service and Staff Office, region, and even the



contracting officer's representative assigned to take action. If either of the numbers on the left-hand side exceed 150, then BA asks for leadership intervention, otherwise the programs manage the process.

The Audit Finding Dashboard (*right*) provides easy access to audit findings by fiscal year, Service or Staff Office, management area, and program area, and shines a light on issues identified by the OIG and GAO. This dashboard is shared with the Program Audit Workgroup in preparation for upcoming audit engagements and to inform internal control program reviews and assessments.



If you have a business need to access either dashboard, please [contact Zongxu Li](#).

### Bottie the ICATS Bot is Alive and Kicking

BA also received a new addition to the team late last fiscal year. Born on September 30, 2021, the Internal Control Audit Tracking System (ICATS) BOT 2.0, affectionately known as "Bottie," works within our production application. Equipped with his email address, [bottie\\_icatsbot@gsa.gov](mailto:bottie_icatsbot@gsa.gov), and access to ICATS, partners send documentation for upload into ICATS, following the [subject line and document naming convention guidelines](#). Bottie reads the emails sent to him, compares the subject line in the email to his parameters, and uploads the email and any attachments into the appropriate ICATS audit record.

Without the use of AI, the efforts to breathe life into Bottie included ensuring distinct and significant pathways for each audit type, module, subject line, and document type. One reason for this intricacy is to ensure correct document upload occurring in the correct area of the audit record. Another equally important reason is that ICATS operations utilize the document type as the primary trigger to release information throughout the agency.

And the final reason is to ensure the messages dispatched from ICATS contain the correct attachments and information; while, utilizing these triggers to correctly move the audit records through the various statuses. The document type controls prevent the wrong documentation from mistakenly being shared.

Please join us in welcoming our latest addition, Bottie!

# OFFICE UPDATES

## THE OFFICE OF BUDGET

### FY 2023 Budget Formulation

BB completed a very successful FY 2023 OMB budget submission in September. Through regular coordination with GSA leadership, we were able to deliver the budget to OMB on time with the overall strategy and vision intact. We received positive feedback from the A-Suite, internal partners, and OMB. GSA's FY 2023 budget request focuses on the inclusion of several important administration priorities, including diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; climate change; cybersecurity; economic recovery; ending the coronavirus pandemic; and more.

### Managing Under the Continuing Resolution

Congress recently passed H.R. 5305, which provides continuing appropriations for the period October 1, 2021, through December 3, 2021. As of October 1, 2021, OMB has automatically apportioned to each applicable Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol the pro-rata share of the rate for operations. This amount is calculated by multiplying the rate for operations provided by the CR by the percentage of the year covered by the CR, rounded to the nearest hundredth. The CR covers 64 days out of 365 days, or 17.53 percent of the year. The Office of Budget has issued guidance for operating under the CR and requested programs to develop spend plans accordingly.

### Supplemental Funding Approaches



Congress continues to work on supplemental funding bills and frequently requests technical

assistance from GSA to meet its goals in support of accomplishing the administration's goals. The focus remains on border stations, major repairs and alterations, electric vehicles, and green buildings. The Office of Budget works closely with OCIA, OGC,

programs, and OMB, as needed, to ensure ongoing support to meet tight deadlines. BB also participates in briefings and discussions to help present GSA's position.

### BB Partnership Series: Public Buildings Service



Each newsletter, the Office of Budget highlights a key partnership that has greatly supported us in achieving our/the agency's mission. This quarter, we are highlighting our partnership with the Public Buildings Service (PBS). PBS manages over 370 million rentable square feet of workspace for federal employees, and has seen many challenges and opportunities during the pandemic. The Office of Budget and PBS worked together to secure \$275 million in funding under the CARES Act to manage the pandemic and provide much needed services across the portfolio.

Over the past few months, Budget and PBS have worked together tirelessly to request resources and defend budget needs to OMB and Congress through the budget cycle and proposed Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework. Through these efforts, GSA received a favorable OMB passback for the FY 2022 Congressional Justification for the Federal Buildings Fund (FBF), achieving a net positive \$364 million request.

This quarter, Budget, PBS Financial Services, and PBS partnered on drafting an updated FY23 budget narrative for OMB to address the new Administration's priorities. We look forward to continuing our partnership efforts to gain further support for the FBF and the critical work that PBS does to serve the government.

# OFFICE UPDATES

## THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### RPA Team Reaches New Milestone



This fiscal year, the RPA Program has delivered 31 automations — an average of more than two new automations per month — bringing its total to 101 deployed agency-wide. These automations increase capacity and deliver efficiency to employees across the agency, including within GSA's Public Buildings Service, the OHRM, and OCFO.

Beyond the program's success delivering automations that support GSA's unique mission, the team has also actively supported RPA adoption across the federal government. Through the GSA-led governmentwide RPA Community of Practice, the GSA RPA team has provided leadership, content support, and mentorship opportunities to agencies in all stages of program maturity.

The GSA RPA team has made significant achievements in fiscal year 2021 in supporting GSA's mission by delivering tools that are focused on addressing process-based capacity challenges and incorporating greater efficiencies in targeted business processes. They exceeded all production goals, increased the transactional capacity of many GSA organizations, streamlined processes, and established the GSA as one of the RPA leaders in the federal government.

### Partnering with FASAB

The Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB) issues accounting guidance for federal agencies. Members of BG regularly attend board meetings and serve on task forces for FASAB. Recently, BGP provided even greater support by sending Christi Dewhirst on an extended detail to draft the implementation guidance and omnibus amendments for the new lease standard. These documents will provide much-needed clarity and examples that will enhance implementation of this complex new standard. The board and FASAB staff were extremely appreciative of Christi's assistance.

### Improvements to Paid Parental Leave Tracking

On July 26, GSA Payroll — with OHRM, GSA IT, and IBM (HR Links) — implemented a permanent solution to create, track, and maintain paid parental leave (PPL) balances in accordance with OPM's interim regulations.

Once the permanent solution was available, GSA Payroll worked with OHRM and selected HR Links time administrators from across GSA to process amendments, moving employees from temporary PPL codes to the new PPL solution. This required amending absences for over 200 GSA employees and took some considerable effort!

PPL provides up to 12 weeks of paid leave to covered federal employees in connection with the birth or placement (for adoption or foster care) of a child occurring on or after October 1, 2020. PPL is substituted for unpaid FMLA leave and is available during the 12-month period following the birth or placement. For more information on PPL, you may reference OPM's [Key Features of the Paid Parental Leave Law and Interim Regulations](#).

If you have questions about PPL or are interested in using it, please contact your [employee relations specialist](#).

# OFFICE UPDATES

## THE OFFICE OF ANALYTICS, PERFORMANCE & IMPROVEMENT

### Build a Stronger Workforce with the OCFO Training and Resource Library

In May, BI launched the OCFO Financial Management Training initiative. Based on feedback from employees, this effort provides resources on a full range of functions and activities performed within the organization, including:

- Planning and budgeting;
- Management and operations;
- Systems, interfaces, and Processes;
- Data and business intelligence; and
- Reporting and analytics.

Section	Title	Level	Type	Updated
Systems, Interfaces and Processes	<a href="#">Pegasys Overview</a>	1	Self-Paced Slides	6/03/2021
Data and Business Intelligence	<a href="#">Introduction to Business Intelligence</a>	1	Self-Paced Slides	6/03/2021
Reporting and Analytics	<a href="#">Gartner - The Financial Challenger</a>	1	Self-Paced Slides	6/03/2021
Reporting and Analytics	<a href="#">OCFO Presentation Skills Training</a>	1	Self-Paced Slides	6/03/2021
Planning and Budgeting	<a href="#">GSA Budget Lifecycle Overview</a>	1	Self-Paced Slides	6/03/2021
Planning and Budgeting	<a href="#">GSA Funds Overview</a>	1	Self-Paced Slides	6/03/2021
Management and Operations	<a href="#">GSA Purchase Card Reconciliation</a>	1	On-Demand Video	6/03/2021
Management and Operations	<a href="#">Agency Funded Shell - Pricing Deviations</a>	2	Self-Paced Slides	6/22/2021

The training enables new users to quickly learn about the OCFO organization, while giving established employees quick access to tools and resources to carry out their daily tasks.

The [OCFO Training and Resource Library](#) was established on GSA InSite to host the training information. To date, there are 20 courses available within the Resource Catalog. The courses vary by topic and training level. They are also presented in a variety of formats including self-paced presentations, on-demand videos, and user guides. Since going live in May 2021, 278 individual employees have stopped by the library with nearly 700 pageviews.

Beginning in FY 2022, a virtual training calendar will be added to the library. This was based on the recent success of the Business Objects – Did You Know training class which saw 200 employees attend the August session. In addition to providing participants with helpful tips for using the platform, the team was able to help shape future classes by way of online polling. As a result, there will be 6–8 initial virtual training offerings provided by the Data Delivery & Management Division (BIC) in the first half of the fiscal year. These virtual courses will focus on financial data, business intelligence platforms (PBS BI and Business Objects), Pegasys coding tips, and more.

### Draft FY 2022–2026 GSA Strategic Plan and FY 2023 Annual Performance Plan

Over the past few months, the BIS team has been facilitating a collaborative strategic planning process to develop the FY 2022–2026 GSA Strategic Plan and FY 2023 Annual Performance Plan (APP). During this process, the BIS team has worked closely with key stakeholders to develop a new strategic framework that will guide GSA’s mission for the next 5 years. The BIS team then coordinated “deep dive” sessions for each of the four strategic goals with the A-Suite, HSSOs, and other critical contributors from across the agency. Following these sessions, the team worked with goal owners to develop a performance framework to drive progress within each goal. During the process, multiple new, forward-leaning initiatives and performance measures have been established to propel mission success for GSA. The draft Strategic Plan and APP were shared with OMB on September 30 and will be published in early 2022.

# OFFICE UPDATES

## THE OFFICE OF PBS FINANCIAL SERVICES

### BR/BG ULO Review Improvement Team Launched

A cross-divisional team, consisting of members from BGP and the BR Zonal Financial Management Divisions, has been formed to review and analyze existing unliquidated obligation (ULO) review criteria and data to identify improvement opportunities. Reviews are conducted on a quarterly basis for orders with open balances meeting predetermined criteria to categorize them as high-risk.

The process to confirm the open balances that are determined valid often requires additional time from multiple business lines (such as Acquisitions, BR, or BGP). The team will review the overall effectiveness of each criterion for identifying high-risk items and will propose adjustments to the review to make it more efficient. The team's goal is to minimize time reviewing orders that are not truly high-risk items, while also ensuring the reviews continue to serve as a mitigating control to provide reasonable assurance of the accuracy of the financial statements.



Team members are: Mike Stroud (BGP), Amy Lillard (BGP), Lynnie Wu (BGP), Douglas Hinton (BGP), Linda Sarro (BR1F), Jan Miller (BR2F), Joshua Grannan (BR2F), Tiffany Ko (BR3F), Ranita Carter (BR4F), and Kim Rodriguez (BR4R).

### Zone 3 Supports Special Programs Division's RWA Funds Management and Transition to New RWA Fee Model

The Special Programs Division (SPD) manages and executes national reimbursable work authorization (RWA) projects and programs consistently across GSA regions, providing a full range of acquisition services and solutions such as architect-engineering services IDIQs for the U.S., its territories, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. The SPD manages customer funds and reports to the customers as required.

During FY21, SPD transitioned internal RWA funds management to the Zone 3 BR RWA budget analyst experts under Teresa Nowak, who continue to work closely with SPD experts to provide the full host of RWA funds management services and help implement the new RWA fee model. This allows SPD to fully utilize existing, reliable RWA systems to assess and bill fees to SPD customers, eliminating the need for manual cost transfers and special handling of otherwise routine financial transactions.

This partnership is a win for all parties involved, streamlining the handling of SPD RWAs, and reducing administrative burden and costs. It has been a great partnership success!

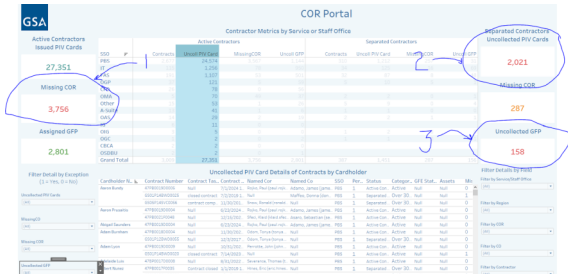


# STAFF SHOUT OUTS

## THE OFFICE OF AUDIT MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Shout out to **Zongxu Li** (CSDE1) for the data science expertise he provided to BA to enable the development of the COR Portal in Tableau and D2D. This portal provides contracting officer’s representatives (CORs) easy access to contractor information (some previously unavailable) to simplify:

- Certifying that contractors have a current and correct COR assigned in GCIMS,
- Deactivating and collecting PIV access cards, and
- Accounting for, and collecting, government-furnished IT equipment.



Shout out to **Tanisha Nicholson** (BA)! Tanisha effectively held sessions and trained over 300 partners concerning the submission process for Bottie the ICATS Bot. She impressed the importance of the subject line and attachment naming conventions for effective functions of this process. Additionally, despite a heavy workload with the end of the fiscal year's incoming documentation reviews and processing, Tanisha managed to assist the team with validating bot results that enabled the team to complete Bottie’s development on September 30, 2021. Her intricate and systematic testing of the ICATS 2.0 Bot operations helped the team to avoid delays. As the lead for this project, I must impress that Tanisha's attention to detail, tireless efforts, and dedication to excellence assisted the project's success. Well done, Tanisha, and thank you for your support!

## THE OFFICE OF BUDGET

The Office of Budget awarded a contract for a new budget system at the very end of FY 2021. Thanks to **all the BB, BI, and BR** employees who contributed to the pilot efforts and helped determine GSA's requirements for this new system.

Now we have the fun task of building out GSA's requirements into the new system.

Shout out to the **FAS Budget team**, who really stepped up in FY 2021 after experiencing a multitude of staffing changes, the onboarding of new FAS and GSA leadership, and the passing of supplemental funding bills. Various members of the team volunteered to take on additional responsibilities in order to continue to provide high-quality support to FAS and provide value in multiple areas.

Shout out to **Francisco Wong Vidal** (BBF) and **Sara Twyman** (BBF) who both spent time acting as the Budget Execution Branch Chief, and then continued to handle those duties after their temporary details had ended. They have really become leaders in the division, covering a large number of high impact responsibilities on top of their normal workloads.

Shout out to **Jeremy Downs** (BBF) for all his great work supporting FAS with audit requests. Jeremy was new to FAS Budget but was able to serve as the lead for coordinating FAS responses to various audit inquiries and requests for deliverables.

Shout out to **Leigh Keller** (BBF) and **Siri Nankin** (BBF), who have consistently volunteered to support new initiatives and projects such as the FAS Financial Dashboard, the new budget system, and covering additional FAS programs.

Congratulations to **Natasha Booth** (BBF), who is due to give birth in mid-October! Natasha has been proactive about identifying and training her temporary replacement for when she is out on leave, and is continuing to perform her duties until the very last minute.

Shout out to the **BBP Capital team** for its ongoing work with PBS on implementing Kahua, the new PBS project management tool.

Shout out to **Michelle O'Brien** (BBP) for going above and beyond to help prepare the FY 2023 Building Operations Budget Request presentation for OMB.

Shout out to the **BBP Building Operations team** for collaborating with PBS and BR on their efforts to develop and finalize a new PC&B tool to better manage the PBS hiring budget. This allowed PBS to transition to the new tool, and save labor hours and IT support costs.

Shout out to the **Rental of Space team** for their dedication to compiling and answering questions for OMB on various

# STAFF SHOUT OUTS

BA53 topics.

Shout out to **Aamir Khan** (CSDE1), who is a new ELPer completing his first GSA rotation in the Office of Budget, PBS Division. We are excited to work with him on various projects and immerse him into BB.

## THE OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Shout out to **Shirlene Fauchier** (BR3B)! GSA recently awarded a contract to EnviZi to give GSA an integrated utilities bill paying and energy reporting solution. This is a project that has been under development for at least 2 years. Shirlene was one of the five voting members on the technical evaluation board for this solicitation. Shirlene’s attention to detail and knowledge of regional utility operations was instrumental in evaluating very detailed, lengthy, and technical proposals to meet the cross-organizational (OCFO and PBS) requirements for processing accurate and timely utility invoices, energy reporting, and analysis demands, and to fulfill GSA’s advance metering obligations and reporting. Shirlene’s dedication to the evaluation board for this contract was critical in meeting all compressed acquisition timelines. Thank you for a great job, Shirlene!

## THE OFFICE OF ANALYTICS, PERFORMANCE & IMPROVEMENT

Congratulations to **Hal Hendrick** (BIS), **Gleason Rowe** (BIS), **Monica Jahed** (BIS), **Avery Collins** (CSDE1), **Katie Rooney** (CSGB), and **Sarah Kim** (CSDE1) for their outstanding work in the development of the draft FY 2022–2026 GSA Strategic Plan and FY 2023 Annual Performance Plan. Working across business units, the team facilitated multiple deep dive sessions with agency leadership, supporting a new performance framework that will guide GSA’s operations for the next 4 years.

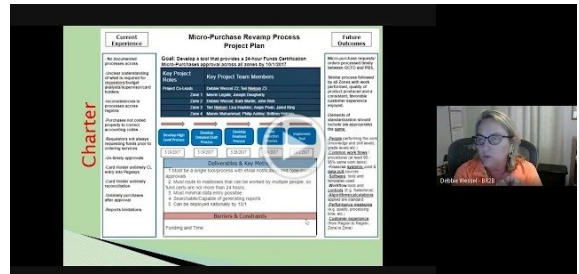
## THE OFFICE OF PBS FINANCIAL SERVICES

Shout out and a *huge* thank you to **Nina Lampron** (BR3L), **James Nastasi** (BR2L), **Thelma Davis** (BR4L), **Alice Hollidge** (BR4L), and **Gopal Regmi** (BR4L), who volunteered to be part of this year’s Leasing and Revenue Division team responsible for reviewing our internal controls. They did an amazing job examining the financial integrity of over 300

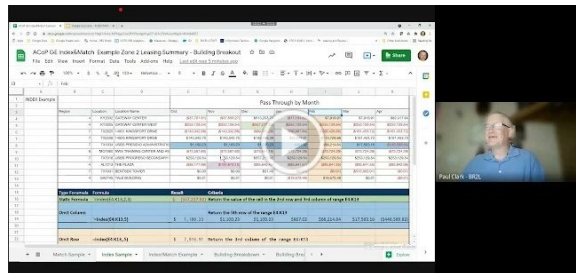
lease-related actions, which determined that the controls were appropriate and working properly. Realizing the need for a baseline for future reviews, the team developed written standard operating procedures and created and recorded training detailing the methodology for each specific analysis.

To ensure national consistency within the regions, the team partnered with the PBS Budget Division -- (**Ken Smallwood, Cheryl Williams, and Virginia Lopez, all BBP**) -- to provide mandatory refresher training for the Rental of Space (ROS) Community concerning ROS and leasing-related policies, as well as sharing regional best practices. Hats off to this team!

**Kudos, Debbie Wessel** (BR2B)! Debbie shared BR’s micro-purchase process and sheets during the July 13 Analytics Community of Practice (A-CoP) showcase! Debbie helped more than 100 OCFO team members across the organization understand the business problems BR faced and the application of critical thinking used to successfully develop an effective solution. Check out the [session recording](#) and Debbie’s [presentation](#)!



**Great job, Paul Clark** (BR2L)! Paul led the July 20 OCFO Google Essentials A-CoP session and shared tips, tricks, and best practices for performing the match & index functions. Paul helped over 85 OCFO team members across the organization who joined the A-CoP event understand both functions, the differences, and close similarities to the VLOOKUP function. Check out the [session recording](#) and Paul’s [presentation](#)!



# HAIL & FAREWELL



Hail to **Bobbie Robinson!** Bobbie was born and raised in Washington, D.C., but now calls sunny Florida home. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from the University of Maryland. Bobbie started with GSA in 2015 as an auditor with the OIG and, in 2017, joined the PBS National Capital Region - White House Service Center as a program analyst.

Prior to working for GSA, Bobbie worked as an auditor with the DC Superior Courts, the Air Force Audit Agency, and several consulting firms. Bobbie joined OCFO as a permanent member of the BA team in August 2021. In her position with the Office of Audit Management and Accountability, she is a program analyst managing the FAS audit portfolio. Her portfolio includes GAO, OIG performance, and contract audits. In her spare time she loves to spend time with her husband and two children, read, travel, and spend time with family and friends. We are excited to have Bobbie in our division, and look forward to her talent and experience contributing to our efforts.



Hail to **Zongxu Li!** Zongxu is in the Enterprise Emerging Leaders Progra program and Joins BA for his first rotation in the program. Zongxu is a U.S. Army and Army National Guard veteran. Zongxu maintained and analyzed supply chain and logistics data in support of various missions. His additional expertise includes: ETL — or extracting, transforming, and loading data — development, with specialization in data visualization; several programming languages; data mining; program and project management; and Google Analytics.

Zongxu holds a master of science degree in business analytics from Southern Methodist University and a MBA from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a big fan of practicing Chinese traditional martial arts, or any combat martial arts. Traveling and fishing are two hobbies he is looking forward to doing more of after the COVID-19 pandemic. We are super excited to have him on our team!



Hail to **Aamir Khan!** Aamir recently joined GSA as part of the Enterprise Emerging Leaders Program. His first rotation started in August with the PBS Budget Division. Aamir has extensive experience in the field of finance and strategy. After completing his bachelor's degree in business administration from American University, he worked with Morgan Stanley for 3 years as a financial advisor. Later on, he moved to India to pursue an opportunity to manage a medical device distribution company. On completion of this assignment, he relocated to the U.S. and went back to American University to complete a master's degree in international affairs. His hobbies include playing tennis, reading, and traveling.



Hail to **Simon Casselle!** Simon recently joined the Office of Budget after completing the Emerging Leaders Program. During his time as in the program, Simon had the opportunity to complete rotations in the BB front office, as well as the PBS front office. Simon received a B.A. in political science with a minor in history from The George Washington University. In his spare time, Simon enjoys playing sports, traveling, and coordinating his fantasy baseball league.



Hail to **Franklin Little**, who recently returned to the FAS Budget Division! Frank graduated from North Carolina State University in 2007 and began his federal career in GSA's Financial Management Specialist (FMS) program. As an FMS intern, he rotated through PBS, FAS, and OCFO. Frank worked as a financial analyst in the Office of Travel & Transportation and in the OCFO FAS Budget Division for 6 years. In 2018, Frank left GSA and took a position at the Marine Corps as a senior budget analyst, working on their military personnel appropriation. After gaining invaluable experience working for DOD, Frank is happy to be back in support of GSA's mission.



Hail to **Rollin Deas**, who joins BGF Financial Operations and Controls Branch! Rollin graduated from La Salle University in 2011, having majored in political science. After graduating, he worked for 8 years with the WB Mason Company. While working at WB Mason, Rollin went back to school to earn a Master's in public administration from Villanova University in 2017, graduating in May of 2020. He is a runner and hiker, having competed in track and field in high school and college. Rollin runs road races a few times a year, and tries to get as many hikes in as time allows throughout the course of a year. Welcome Rollin to the FSD!



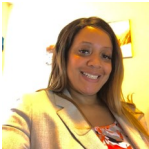
Hail to **Tesia Sneed**, who joins BGF Reimbursable Agreements Branch! Tesia is originally from Birmingham, Alabama. She went to college at Fort Valley State University in Georgia, where she earned her bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. Tesia recently earned her MBA from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Tesia enjoys spending time with her family and friends and catering. We welcome her to her new home in Texas and within RAB.

# HAIL & FAREWELL



Hail to **Keith Davis**! Keith is a budget analyst in the Zone 3 Reimbursable and Capital Projects Division effective August 2. Keith was born in Hollywood, California, and moved to Washington State his senior year of high school. He joined the Air Force in 1984 as a finance specialist and separated in 1994. Keith then went on to join the Washington Air National Guard in 1996 and retired from the Guard in 2005. Keith was deployed twice to Afghanistan.

Keith loves to ski, fish, golf, and pretty much anything else that is outdoors. He has been a ski and martial arts instructor, and has his blackbelt in Kenpo. Keith went back to school and earned both his bachelor's degree and MBA in financial management from the University of Phoenix and the City University of Seattle. His most current hobbies include building and refurbishing guitars, learning how to play, and working on his Jeep.



Hail to **Rachel Evans**! Rachel began her career with the federal government in 1996. She served in the U.S. Navy for almost 12 years, working in administration. Rachel joined the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2008 as an investigative assistant. While at DEA, she earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at the University of Phoenix in 2012. She began working in the finance department at DEA in 2013.

Rachel is excited to work for GSA as a budget analyst in Zone 3 Building Operations Division. One of her goals is to learn as much as possible from the veteran budget analysts. She has two children, Gabriel (21) and Layla (13). Her hobbies include reading and traveling to new places.



Hail to **Cindy Holtzclaw**, who joins BR Zone 2's Consolidated Processing Group! Cindy grew up in North Carolina. Her husband, Michael, is retired USAF. The military brought the family to Georgia, where they've lived for 21 years. Cindy and her husband have three children (pictured). Taylor is 24 and works at the US Patent & Trademark Office. Ella & Elijah are twins and will be 13 in January. They keep Cindy busy with horse riding, swim team, music and art lessons, and school work! The family has two dogs and a leased horse and really love the mountains! Prior to joining GSA, Cindy's previous federal experience is 20 years with the Dept of Defense, working multiple financial programs.

Hail to **Zhao Qingchun**! Zhao is a financial management analyst in the Zone 2 Revenue, Leasing and FFO Division. Here's [a video of Zhao introducing himself](#) to the organization!

Welcome to **Jackson Perron** and **Eric Harvey**, who also recently joined the Office of Budget.



Farewell to **Nathan Pho**! Nathan is leaving GSA for a position as a senior data analytics specialist with the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Nathan joined OCFO in May 2020 after serving as an IT Data Analyst at DHS. During his time at GSA, Nathan has made critical contributions to the COVID-19 incident tracking system, the GSA Enterprise Dashboard, and our overall ability to move and use agency data. We will miss him and wish him all the best!

Farewell to **Carla Quade**! Carla joined OCFO's BGF Reimbursable Agreements Branch on March 1 and is leaving to join AAS FEDSIM. Carla's enthusiasm and engagement meant she was a quick study and consistently sought to expand her experience and knowledge. We will miss her here in the Reimbursable Agreements Branch, and are glad she will remain within GSA. Good luck in your new position, Carla!

Farewell to **Amanda McKensie**! Amanda retired on August 28, 2021, from BR Zone 1's Financial Management Division after 36 years of federal service with GSA. Amanda's exceptional skill with the Pegasys financial system was held in high regard. Amanda was on the team that originally converted GSA's financial application from NEAR to Pegasys and helped deliver nationwide training to PBS. When she retired, Amanda was the Zone 1 Pegasys Functional Coordinator for Regions 3 and 5.

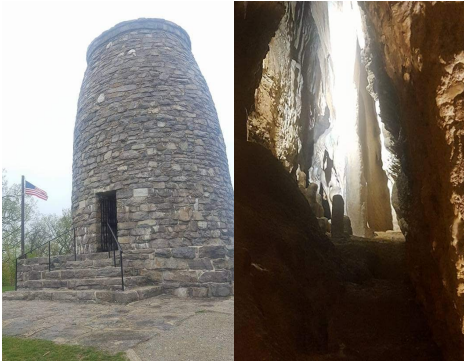
Farewell to **Phil Lamboro**! Phil retired from the PBS Analytics Division on October 22, 2021, after 17 years of federal service. Phil was critical to the success of the PBS rent projection and analysis programs following the development of OA Tool. His expertise will be missed!

Farewell and best wishes to **Carmel Benton**! Carmel will be leaving GSA on October 22 to join Health and Human Services (HHS).

# WELCOME TO MY TOWN

## WESTERN MARYLAND

VERONICA BUTLER - DATA DELIVERY & MANAGEMENT DIVISION (BIC)



**Crystal Grottoes Caverns**

biking and hiking. There are great historical sites to visit and hidden treasures — if one is willing to hike through wooded terrain. Some great locations to explore are Washington Monument and Liberty Dam.

I am originally from St. Louis Missouri, home of The Gateway Arch and the St. Louis Cardinals.

I currently reside in Western Maryland, where the area is mostly rural compared to other counties in Maryland. Western Maryland has a host of trails for walking, running,



**The caverns are a great place to visit if you enjoy spelunking!**

## SEVERNA PARK, MARYLAND

STEVE VARNUM - OFFICE OF PBS FINANCIAL SERVICES (BR)

Severna Park is situated between the state capital of Annapolis, Maryland, and the major shipping port of Baltimore, on a peninsula that juts into the Chesapeake Bay. A family-oriented town, Severna

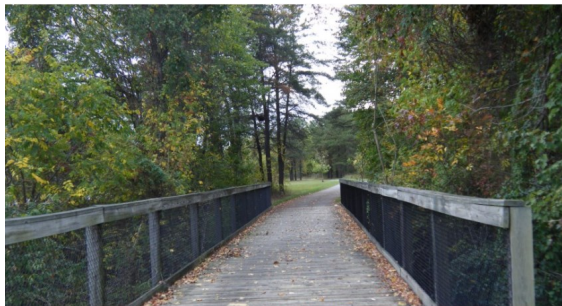


**Weekends are spent on the water!**

Park is known for being situated between the Magothy and Severn rivers, which

provide easy access to the Bay for recreational boating and sailing.

Family recreation is a central theme for families that reside in the community. The Baltimore and Annapolis Trail (B&A Trail) was built over an old rail line that used to span from Baltimore to Annapolis. It is now a popular hiking/biking/running trail that cuts right through town.



**Welcome to Severna Park!**