

# OCFO NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023 ISSUE

Q3 FY 2023

## A NOTE FROM THE CFO



One year ago this month, I stepped into one of the most rewarding roles of my career. In the time since joining GSA and becoming CFO, I've learned so much about this organization and the people that make it one of the best places to work in government.

I met quite a few of you during my site visits to the Chicago, Kansas City, and Fort Worth offices, and was awed by your passion and dedication. Whether it was your excitement about creating a newsletter for your Zone, your collaboration toward improving our internal control environment, your commitment to working with agency partners to plan a new payroll system, or your ability to acclimate to a new organization, it was inspiring to witness how you carry out the mission and feel your energy up close.

As I said in my very first newsletter, cohesiveness as an organization is what will set us apart. OCFO supports this agency in every aspect of its operations — strategic planning, performance measures, budget request, financial reporting, budget execution, and audit oversight. And our ability to support each other's initiatives, share our best practices with each other, and learn from one another makes us stronger as an organization. It also allows us to be the true *mission enablers* — supporting our agency by providing our partners the guidance and expertise they have come to expect from us.

As an organization, we are continuously evolving — whether it's to keep up with technology, meet the needs of our partners and customers, or comply with new mandates — and that's a necessary component of our growth and success. As I enter my second year as CFO, I look forward to building upon the progress we've made and continuing this journey with you.

—Nimisha



**Pictured, in Ft. Worth:** Walter Green (BR4F), Christine Reinfelds (BRF1), John Rich (BR2F), Tomeika Manuel (BR1F), Alicia De Flores (BR1), Christian Hazen (B), me, Mike Veres (BR3F), Lori Howard (BR4F), Steve Varnum (BR), Tamira Mitchell (BR3F), and Brenda Cadette Montague (BR4F).

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## CHIEF OF STAFF'S CORNER



Welcome to the latest edition of the Chief of Staff's Corner. Since joining OCFO in January, I've had the opportunity to meet many of you in person — in Washington, D.C., Kansas

City, Missouri, and Fort Worth, Texas, and virtually through the new employee meet and greets, OCFO town halls, and in the dozens of weekly meetings used to advance the goals of the OCFO, GSA, and the American people.

These interactions have reinforced to me the commitment that OCFO has placed on

a people-first approach to delivering on our mission and on a bias towards action. They have exposed me to some of the impressive work that goes on each day, and also the work designed to solve long-standing problems. On any given day, our team is hard at work creating dashboards to aid senior leadership teams in making strategic decisions, modernizing and integrating payroll and HR services, analyzing fee structures for the real estate services that PBS offers, and other mission support and process improvement activities that are too numerous to list.

July 20th marks the 54th anniversary of the first moon landing in 1969. The significant achievements of the Apollo space program can't be overstated and have

undoubtedly led to some memorable quotes from its astronauts. I'd like to leave you with a lesser-known quote from Jim Lovell, the commander of Apollo 13 ("[Houston, we've had a problem](#)"), which succinctly captures the OCFO's bias towards action: "There are people who make things happen, there are people who watch things happen, and there are people who wonder what happened. To be successful, you need to be a person who makes things happen. Be thankful for problems."

If you're interested in hearing more about the OCFO projects mentioned above, please join us for the OCFO town hall next week!

—Christian Hazen

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CAROLINA MORGAN



*Carolina Morgan is a financial management analyst for BGF and has been with GSA for 11 years. She lives in Missoula, Montana, with her husband, Greg, and their two German Shepherds, Apollo and Athena.*

### 1. What advice would you give a new OCFO employee?

Don't be afraid to ask for help: I'm sure your new coworkers are more than happy to answer questions about how stuff at GSA and OCFO works!

### 2. What's your favorite part of your job?

I love my 10-second commute! Having the ability to work from home has helped me achieve work/life balance and thrive as an employee.

### 3. What's something that people don't know about you?

It's been a little over a year since my husband brought home a couple of chickens, and now we have five!

### 4. What hobbies do you have outside of work?

I am an outdoorswoman! Depending on the season, you can find me gardening, hiking, birding, camping, kayaking, tubing, fishing, backpacking, hunting, skiing, or

snowshoeing. When I can't go outside because of the weather, I practice yoga (sometimes hot yoga) or read a good book. I have a couple of chapters left, but I'm almost done reading "American Buffalo" by Steven Rinella.

### 5. What's the most interesting place you've been?

The Upper Missouri River Breaks. It might not be a national park, and might not seem interesting to most, but when you are out there, it's like you've traveled a million years back in time. The closest town is two hours away on a dirt road; the grassy plains seem to roll on forever; the coulees are a sanctuary for the abundant wildlife; and if you are lucky, you'll hear elk bugling as the sun rises.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: TERESA CARDINAL



*Teresa Cardinal is a supervisory accountant for the Financial Services Division of Pegasys Financial Services. She lives in the Dallas/Fort*

*Worth area of Texas.*

### 1. What advice would you give a new OCFO employee?

The quickest way to build your knowledge base is to build relationships and ask lots of questions. As far as your career in general, it is *critical* that you invest in TSP and get the matching dollars, and continue to add

as your salary increases. Each raise does not mean you should update your lifestyle but instead, remember your future security depends on what you choose now. Salary increases and investments are a balancing act — enjoy some now but invest for later.

### 2. How have you grown in your career since joining OCFO?

More appreciation, sensitivity, and asking lots of questions along the way. No one becomes better without others.

### 3. What's something that people don't know about you?

I had a muscle car in high school. It was a 1970 Chevelle Super Sport. My brother put a 454 engine in it. The boys drooled! Black with white stripes. I did have an accident

showing my girlfriend how fast it would go. But no tickets! The car was repaired, but I sold it due to the gas guzzling nature of the vehicle. Today, I drive a Tesla and I know, in the short run, it would beat the Chevelle!

### 4. What was your first job?

At 16, I worked for Kmart in the cash cage. I reconciled all the cash from 12 registers and prepared deposits for armored car pickup from a 6x4-inch window.

### 5. What's your favorite quote?

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."  
—Abraham Lincoln

## SHOUT OUTS

- Shout out to **Debra Waterfield** (BAA) and **Les Painter** (BA) for converting the Audit Management contact lists from Microsoft Word to an Excel spreadsheet. The new format makes it easier to complete agency notifications, and will also assist future RPA projects. Thank you, Debra and Les.
- Shout out to **Sal Talamo** (BGR) for an outstanding job presenting his CFO Data Science Cohort [capstone project](#) and [program takeaways](#) to the CFO Council [Workforce Modernization](#) executive steering committee. Sal's project applied machine learning and data science tools to improve contract administration. This capstone project was the culmination of a one-year program ([piloted](#) by the CFO Council) to assess the effectiveness of using a massive open online course format to upskill federal financial managers in data science.
- Shout out to **Anirudh Naredia** (BAI) for applying his knowledge of SQL to help BA develop automated reports in ICATS. These reports eliminate multiple manual searches and provide real-time updates of audit status and performance.
- Shout out to the Office of Budget Engagement Team — **Stefan Grabas** (BBW), **Carolyn Jordan** (BBF), **Victoria Lay** (BBW), **Gigi Peel** (BBP), and **Fausta Aceves** (BBW) — for their work encouraging members of the Office of Budget to participate in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey.
- Shout out to **Steven Mauser** (BGF) for his tremendous efforts in collaborating with the HSPD-12 program to achieve no unkeyed HSPD-12 bills going from \$6 million in FY20 to \$0 today.
- Shout out to **Andrew Kressin** (CSDE1)! During Andrew's EELP rotation with the Process Optimization & Intelligent Automation Division, he taught the division — and others across GSA — about accessibility in relation to BGR's work and mission requirements; identified gaps; and discovered innovative ways automation can help ensure work is accessible to all. Andrew personally developed internal program automations for the BGR team that helped with the internal control of ensuring customers were communicated with in a timely manner through email notifications. As someone who uses a screen reader to work, Andrew identified gaps for people with screen readers. Andrew found solutions to accessibility gaps and the software team resolved this issue going forward for others, becoming an impromptu and partial "accessibility consultant" along the way.
- Shout out to **Lina Trubenstein** (BG2BB) for always having a helpful attitude and being willing to take on new things! Lina volunteered to be one of the leads for G-Invoicing transactions and takes the lead with creating SRs, resolving issues, and doing training on new processes. She also helped with the testing review for the GSAFleet.gov modernization project, on top of keeping up with her regular duties for Fleet billings and debt accounts. Thank you, Lina!
- Shout out to **Dawn Cook** (BG2ECB) and **Tina Morrison** (BG2EC), with the Pegasys Financial Services Financial Operations & Disbursements Branch, for going above and beyond to support an overseas employee who had a medical emergency and had to be medevacked back stateside. They coordinated with key GSA stakeholders and with the Department of State to ensure the proper procedures were followed. They understood the urgency at hand in relocating the employee's family to their stateside home and worked late nights, mornings, and weekends to get the job done.
- Big shout out to **De-Borah Mack** (BIS) who has played an integral role in the success of agency-wide diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) efforts. Working with GSA's senior advisor for equity, Andrea O'Neal, De-Borah helped develop an agency-wide DEIA SES self-assessment that has just been released. The assessment is designed to promote DEIA practices and DEIA maturity within the agency.
- A big thank you to **Mike Wano** (BIC), who worked tirelessly to complete the FY23 Data Delivery and Management

*(Continued on page 5)*

## SHOUT OUTS

- Internal Controls Review & Risk Assessment. He represented BI and worked with Ebonie Smith from BG to select key controls, provide risk assessment and a corrective action plan for each.
- Shout out to **Grace Jeon** (BIC) for working closely with BB on the implementation of BAPA-OneStream. Grace coordinated with the GSA IT Business Objects team to ensure all data requirements for the FAS statement of operations and GSA status of funds would be mapped correctly to the new budget system.
- Shout out to **Michael Kelty** (BIA) for completing the GSA IT data science training program! Michael took 16 courses on topics ranging from SQL and Python to deep learning algorithms. The program culminated in a capstone project where he built a Tableau dashboard visualizing customer survey response data from federal high-impact service providers. Not only did Michael enhance his own abilities, but he's bringing great new skills and resources to OCFO!
- Shout out to the Building Operations Division's internal control review team for completing the FY23 program review. Great work, everyone. Thank you to: **Erzsebet Ujvary** (BR1B), **Kimberly Fielding** (BR1B), **Bobby Moore** (BR2B), **Barb Martin**, **Duane Hinkle** (BR3B), and **Fatimo Atekoja** (BR4B).
- Shout out to **Christine Reinfelds** (BR1F) for her help with assisting the BR internal control reviews.
- Shout out to **Chris Miller** (BR1L) for stepping in on short notice to help the CO Rent Estimate team with the FY25 RentEst cycle. His knowledge and expertise enabled him to contribute quickly and help us deliver the final outputs to OMB on schedule. We appreciate you, Chris!
- Shout out to **Jessica Simmons** (BR1L) and **Anna Kiryk** (BR1L) for sharing job knowledge and providing Leased FFO training to the Building Operations Division.
- Shout out to **Rachel Wesley** (BR1B) for her successful completion of the Executive Leadership Program through the Graduate School. Rachel completed the nine-month program while starting a new position as BR1B branch chief. Congratulations, Rachel!
- Congratulations to **Erzsebet Ujvary** (BR1B) for completing the Harvard Kennedy School's Executive Education Leadership Decision Making program.

## OFFICE UPDATE: AUDIT MANAGEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY

In May, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued [GAO -23-106474, Open Recommendations: General Services Administration](#). The letter discusses recommendations that GAO has made to the General Services Administration that warrant priority attention. In the letter, GAO highlighted GSA's recommendation implementation rate of 100 percent — 33 percent higher than the government-wide implementation rate. The full report and information about current open priority recommendations can be found on the [GAO website](#).

### GAO's Priority Open Recommendations

*Our most important recommendations to help the federal government save money and improve operations*

**In this report: Our 2023 update for**

**General Services Administration**



## OFFICE UPDATE: BUDGET

As we enter the summer, the budget formulation process is heating up and we are entering a new era of appropriations. On June 3, 2023, the president signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 to suspend the debt ceiling through January 2025. As part of that law, Congress rescinded much of the unused supplemental appropriations that had been enacted as part of the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan. The only funds that GSA had that were rescinded was \$173,000 of unobligated Federal Citizen Services Fund CARES Act appropriations. The other significant part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 was that it included a high-level budget deal on the level of appropriations in FY 2024 and FY 2025. The total level of non-defense spending in FY 2024 will be held flat at the FY 2023 enacted levels and then FY 2025 levels will grow by 1 percent of that. GSA received significant increases in several of its appropriations in FY 2023, and these levels will usher in a new era of constrained appropriations for the next two years.

This budget deal will help inform the conversations that the Office of Budget has as we finalize our FY 2025 Budget request to OMB over the next two months. We'll need to work closely with GSA leadership to build the strongest justifications possible for any budget increases and make trade-offs between competing priorities that align with the new budgetary realities. We've had initial briefings with GSA's programs about their FY 2025 requests and are preparing for meetings with the administrator to finalize the FY 2025 budget request in late July. Once we lock down the numbers in July, we'll be partnering with GSA's programs to finalize the budget narratives that justify the resources we're requesting so that GSA can submit its budget request to OMB in September.

### PARTNERSHIP SERIES: GSA'S HISTORIC OUTLEASING PROGRAM

The PBS Budget Division works very closely with the Office of PBS Financial Services and the PBS Center for Historic Buildings to support GSA's Historic Outleasing Program. Since 1976, GSA has worked to preserve historic buildings with projects funded through outleasing income. This income is then allocated to preservation and conservation projects (usually in public and ceremonial spaces), maximizing historic features while modernizing at the same time. The OCFO works hand in hand with the center on the committee and to facilitate the financial management of the funds and has maintained a 99-percent obligation rate since 2020.

## OFFICE UPDATE: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

### Shout Out to YOU from the Process Optimization & Automation Division!

Thank you to our OCFO colleagues for your continued support in optimizing and automating our business processes. Since we restarted the Eliminate, Optimize, and Automate (EOA) initiative in the beginning of FY23, BGR has received more than 100 ideas for EOA and have helped resolve 47 percent of those ideas. Please keep the great ideas coming (and have a great summer)!

### Brand New Automations This Quarter

BGR has built some exciting new bots that went live this quarter! Our developer, Patrick Willers, worked with Angela Long, from the PBS Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) Acquisition Process Solutions Division (APS), to automate the processing of abandoned purchase requests (PR) in the EASi system by routing for approval a

PR Cancel Approved Base PR Amendment. Read more about the [Abandoned PRs Clean Up bot](#).

Our developer, Mark Grgurich, built an automation for OCFO's FAS Financial Services Division that reduces the amount of time financial managers spend on data entry tasks related to funds acceptance for assisted acquisitions and increases the accuracy of financial data extracted from funding packages and entered into ASSIST. Read more about our [ASSIST Funds Acceptance bot](#).

Developer Elaine Nghiem worked with the Office of Facility Management, Facility Risk Management Division (PMG) to create the IRIS Asbestos Module automation, which helps to ensure that PBS meets asbestos documentation requirements in IRIS for its building portfolio. Read more about the [IRIS Asbestos Module bot](#).

### Payroll Modernization is Coming

OCFO, in partnership with OHRM and GSA IT, awarded a contract to modernize GSA's payroll system. Be on the lookout for more information on the improvements this payroll modernization effort will bring to GSA and the 30 external agencies we serve as a federal shared services provider.

Also, please remember to regularly review your leave and earning statements (LES), which you can find on [Employee Express](#). You're responsible for reviewing your LES to ensure the correct locality adjustments, taxes, and deductions are being applied to your pay.

## OFFICE UPDATE: ANALYTICS, PERFORMANCE & IMPROVEMENT

### Data Delivery and Management (BIC) Drives Fleet Systems Transformation

BIC is actively contributing to the GSAFleet.gov modernization project, successfully completing a data migration dry run in preparation for go-live on July 17th. The team is working with GSA IT to provide all necessary vehicle agreement and purchase orders as FAS moves from legacy systems to the modern GSAFleet.gov platform.

BIC is also collaborating across OCFO to clean up missing data elements to meet the deadline for GTAS and DATA Act reporting. OMB and the Treasury Department require capturing Budget Object Class (BOC) in Pegasys as Sub-Object Class data per the DATA Act starting on October 1, 2023. Since 2022, BIC has been working with BG, BG2, and CGI to provide a data solution to populate the most appropriate BOC for over 130,000 beginning balances that were missing codes. The team is in the final phase of the project, preparing to do a dry run of the annual close in July.

### Strategy, Risk, and Performance Management (BIS) Holds SSOs Accountable for Performance

In May, the BIS team facilitated Quarterly Performance Reviews (QPRs) between the Office of the Administrator and leadership teams from FAS, PBS, TTS, and OGP. QPRs are data-driven reviews that enable the A-suite and SSO leaders to review progress on strategic priorities and key initiatives, and to discuss challenges, risks, and opportunities.

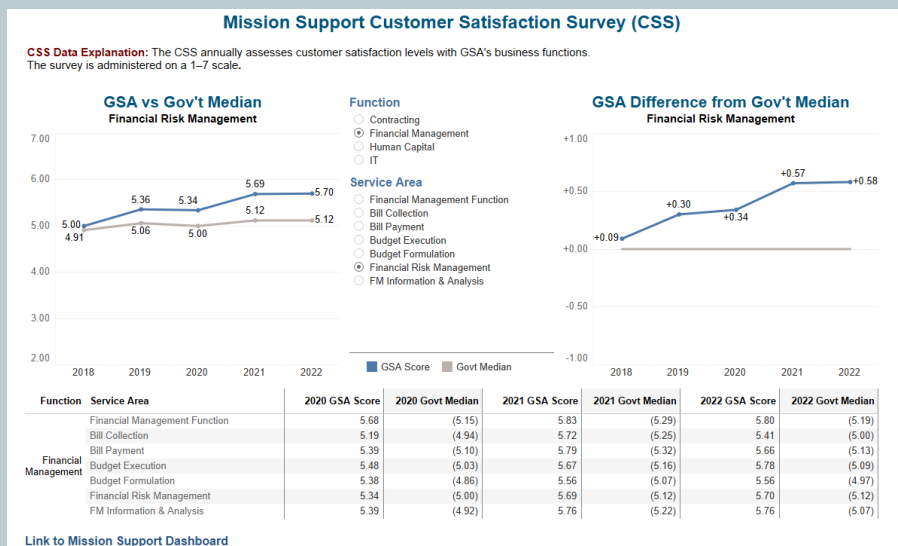
This round of QPR meetings was focused on reviewing mid-year performance results and preparing for this summer's

Annual Strategic Review Meeting with OMB. Key themes from the discussions included opportunities for GSA to: optimize the federal real estate footprint and reduce agency costs; further leverage customer feedback to improve acquisition tools and digital resources; and more effectively support agencies through GSA services, such as policymaking and program evaluations. These dialogues inform the OMB Strategic Review Meeting and drive opportunities to strengthen collaboration between GSA and OMB to advance these goals. Additional information and results on all enterprise performance measures can be found in the [GSA Enterprise Dashboard](#).

### Analytics and Decision Support Division (BIA) Gathers for Team Onsite

The BIA team held an onsite at 1800F to welcome two new team members: Larry Young and Michael Kelty. The team talked about [Super Chickens](#), broke bread, drafted elevator pitches, and discussed goals and projects for the remainder of FY23. The team is excited about all of the opportunities ahead!

## HIGHLIGHT: COLLABORATION BRINGS A NEW DASHBOARD INTO VIEW



The BIA team, in collaboration with BBW and partners in OHRM, OCE, and OGP, has consolidated performance and resource data on CXO offices into a single view for the new Deputy Administrator's Dashboard. The dashboard — published to a restricted audience in May — provides both office-specific and cross-office views of budget, workforce, and satisfaction survey response data to support the deputy administrator in her oversight of the CXO functions. New capabilities and data sets will be released through ongoing iterations to ensure this dashboard meets the needs of GSA's decision makers.



## OFFICE UPDATE: PBS FINANCIAL SERVICES

### Hybrid Collaboration in Q3

The Centralized Processing Group recently held its annual team meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas, on May 9–11. The sessions were filled with training, policy, and procedure development, as well as planning new automation opportunities.

### Financial Management Leadership Meeting in Ft. Worth, TX (Region 7)

During the week of May 22nd, the Financial Management Division held a leadership meeting in Fort Worth, TX, with all four zones. Attendees discussed current processes, upcoming bot changes, and future goals. Additionally, the team got to meet with many members of the Pegasys Financial Services team and the BGP team, including Mike Stroud, Amy Lillard, and Deborah Sanders. CFO Nimisha Agarwal, OCFO chief of staff Christian Hazen, BR director Steve Varnum, and zone directors Alicia De Flores (BR1), Julie Pfohl (BR2), and Cecilia Keeley (BR3) were in attendance.

### BR Zone 1 Leadership Visit to Region 2

The next stop on the Zone 1 leadership visit was to the Region 2 office at the World Trade Center in Manhattan. The team held in-person meetings with PBS leadership, PBS customers, and local OCFO staff. The agenda also included a collaborative zonal training session with all four regions.

### Zone 3 Building Operations Team Meets in Denver

During the week of June 12th, the Building Operations Division held an in-person meeting in Lakewood, Colorado, with regions 8, 9 and 10. This would be the first in-person meeting since May 2019. We discussed employee engagement, current processes, upcoming G-Invoicing changes, and FY24 budgetary outlook. In addition, the team got to meet with many members of the Public Buildings Service, including Regional Commissioner Tanisha Palermo and G.W. Emge, who serves as the deputy regional commissioner and director of design and construction. We were also delighted to have Chris Ellers from the PBS Budget Division join us.

Also meeting in the same week was the BR Apps Development team. Since being established in October of 2018, the team has never met face to face. Currently, the team consists of associates

from Illinois, Texas, Colorado, and Florida. The main purpose and intent of the development team meeting in Denver was to develop FY24 Budget Execution Status Tool products for the building operations community, as well as national initiatives with the Office of Budget.

It was great connecting in person with some new faces and reconnecting with those we haven't seen since 2018.

### Z3 RWA & Capital Projects Division Leadership Meeting

During the week of June 5th, the Zone 3 RCAP leadership team met in person in Region 10 Tacoma, Washington to discuss a variety of RWA and capital program topics, focusing on identifying pain points, challenges, and opportunities. The team developed draft action plans and topics for further development, including a wide-range of training opportunities for both PBS and OCFO colleagues in the zone. The group took a tour of the historic [Tacoma Union Station](#), which was just recently federalized after GSA executed the purchase option last summer. This beautiful courthouse is home to the [beautiful glass artwork](#) of Dale Chihuly, a Tacoma native and world-renowned glass artist. Additionally, the Region 9 and Region 10 Administrator, Sukhee Kang, and Region 10 PBS Regional Commissioner, Lisa Pearson, stopped in to meet the group and share some thoughts. It was an amazing meeting and the team really enjoyed their time together in person. They left the meeting with renewed energy and enthusiasm for the months and years to come.

### HIGHLIGHT: A TRAINING PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS

On June 20th, the Consolidated Processing Group's branch manager, Natalie Cotter, and team lead, Neil Clark, expanded their partnership with the NCR Office of Acquisition to deliver a deeper dive into LoGO contracts training to staff. The training was extremely successful and greatly appreciated!

*(Continued on page 10)*

## OFFICE UPDATE: PBS FINANCIAL SERVICES



**Pictured above, in Manhattan:** Michael McHugh (BR1F), Vivian Smith (BR1F), Monique Smith (BR1R), Sha Rhonda Foster (BR1R), Suzanne Beaton (BR1R), Alicia De Flores (BR1), Romina Jimenez-Noeckel (BR1), Rachel Wesley (BR1), Wendy Dolberry (BR1), Erzsebet Ujvary (BR1), Raymond Coward (BR1B), Rudolf Agnite (BR1F), Walea Walker-Valentin (BR1F), Lamona Gamble (BR1B), Denise Rosado (BR1B), Tomeika Manuel (BR1F), Kyle Oliver (BR1R), Janina Lloyd (BR1B), Evelyn Yang (BR1R), Jesse Ozuna (BR1L), Annmarie Johnson (BR1B), Christine Reinfelds (BR1F).



**Pictured above (left to right) in Denver:** **Row 1:** Rachel Evans, Danielle Bradley, Jennifer Liebert, Neriza Sabido, Germaine Wong, Joan Choy, Angie Poon, and Jay Wong. **Row 2:** Chris Brown, Tiffany Crownhart, Teri Nielson, Lisa Directo, Remona Aden, Lisa Hopkins, Shirlene Fauchier, William Welch, and Chris Grigsby. **Row 3:** Leslie Moya, Patricia Brooks, Robert McCarty-O'hairt, Duane Hinkle, Shateria Thompson, Jared King, Keith Brown, and Bobby Moore (all BR3B).

**Pictured right (left to right):** Sheila Kurtnick, Lara Tedder (BR2C), Lupe Rodriguez (BR2F-C), Shar'ron Alberty (BR2F-C), Troy Arnold (BR2F-C), Natalie Cotter (BR2C), Neil Clark (BR2C), Yolanda Bethly (BR2C-C), and Cindy Holtzclaw (BR2R). Keisha Miller (BR2C), Annette Jackson (BR2C), and Ivy Wallace (BR-C) joined remotely.



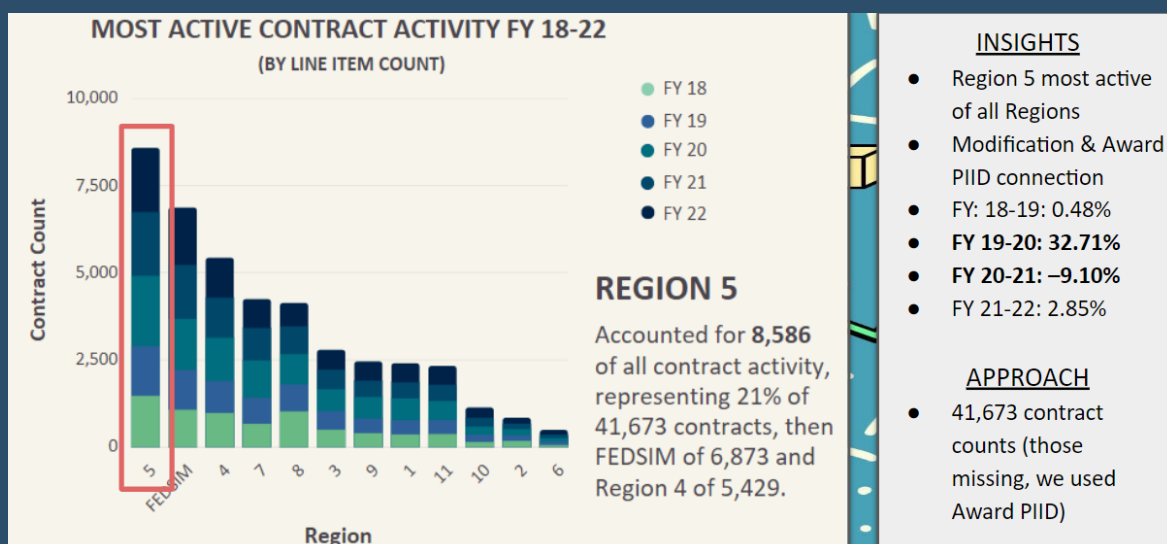
**Pictured above right (clockwise from bottom left) in Tacoma:** Cecilia Keeley (BR3), Lisa Wilson (BR3R), Elizabeth Jessee (BR3B), Teresa Nowak (BR3R), Christy Coffey (BR3R), Nicole Winn (BR3R), Laura Dreyfous (BR3R), Michelle Claudy (BR3R), and Sarah Reinbold (BR3R).

## ANALYTICS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE UPDATE

### Datathon 4.0 Results

Datathon 4.0 kicked off in February and closed out in April. Participation included over 40 personnel from across GSA. Each team was given a set of Assisted Acquisition Award data and tasked with determining trends and recommending where GSA Leadership could focus attention to grow the Assisted Acquisition portfolio. Each team did an amazing job dissecting the data and presenting their analysis. Congratulations to the winning team: Cole Blakely, Lindsay Mead, Hilary Busbee, Michael Kelty, Lizzie Voss, and Kimberly Tran-Malan.

A slide from the winning Datathon 4.0 team's presentation. To view the presentations and slide decks for Datathon 4.0, please visit the [Datathon 4.0 page](#) on the Hub.



If you would like to view the presentations and slide decks for Datathon 4.0, please visit the [Datathon 4.0 page](#) on the Hub.

### Process Mapping with Brian (Three-Part Series)

Brian Mooers, Director of the Process Optimization Branch (BGR), delivered a 3 part series on process mapping. In Part 1, he gave us an overview of process mapping. In Part 2, he zeroed in on the tool for process mapping (Google Drawing) and in Part 3, Brian conducted a hands-on session with the participants where they could follow him in preparing a process map. If you want to view the presentations, please visit the [A-CoP training sessions page](#) on the hub.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the A-CoP, just fill out the [Analytics Community of Practice membership form](#). If you missed anything or want to make sure you are up to date on the latest events, check out the [Analytics Community Hub](#).

## ENGAGEMENT TEAM UPDATE

This August, the OCFO Engagement Team is launching a new employee engagement page on the OCFO Google Site. This page will be a one-stop shop for all things related to employee engagement, including information about the team, how to become a member, upcoming engagement events, Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey results, and more. We are very excited for the launch and hope that you all will check it out on August 1st.

In honor of National Wellness Month, which is recognized in August, the Engagement Team has planned a series of activities and events focused on physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Through these activities, the Engagement Team hopes to bring awareness to the importance of self-care and healthy habits — which will help you better manage stress and improve your overall happiness and well-being. Some of the activities you can look forward to include:

**Mindful Mondays:** Looking for ways to jumpstart or wind down your day? Check out this weekly series of tips and activities on the Engagement Team page of the OCFO Google Site.

**Grati-Tuesdays:** Gratitude is an instant mood booster, and promotes a positive team atmosphere. Twice in August, take a moment to reflect on what and who you are grateful for, then contribute a brief statement of gratitude to the gallery slide deck.

**Wellness Wednesdays:** Get up and move — then get back and refuel with a scavenger hunt and healthy smoothie demo on the Engagement Team page of the OCFO Google Site!

**Get-Together Thursdays:** Need a break from your daily routine? You won't want to miss connecting with colleagues for two events focused on improving your overall well-being.

**Fitness Fridays:** Feeling tired and sluggish and in need of a pick-me-up? Get your blood pumping and try out these weekly workout and stretching videos from your chair (15 minutes or less for each video).

Please look out for further communication regarding the Wellness Month activities and events. We also encourage you to visit the Employee Engagement Wellness Month page on the OCFO Google Site beginning August 1st to see a calendar of events and instructions on how to participate. The page will be updated daily with new activities and resources during the month of August.

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## EQUITY TEAM UPDATE

During the third quarter of fiscal year 2023, the Equity Team continued its work to embed and advance DEIA principles and practices in the workplace in support of equitable service delivery and operations.

Along those lines, the Equity Team is super excited to announce that Isabel (Izzy) Metzger (BIA) has joined the OCFO Equity Team leadership cohort as the sub-co chair for accessibility!

In this role, Izzy will leverage her skills and passion for advancements in an inclusive and accessible workplace to bolster OCFO's ability to build capabilities and capacity in this area. Welcome, Izzy!

Additionally, the Equity Team reached another major milestone this quarter and submitted a draft of the first ever GSA enterprise DEIA maturity model assessment tool to the A-Suite. If adopted, the model will assist GSA with determining its long-term trajectory and performance of DEIA and equity efforts in support of the "Putting People First" key capability and the new external measure Equity and Organizational Effectiveness Optimization measure as reported in GSA's Annual Performance Plan and Report.

The Equity Team, with the support of OCFO leadership, remains excited about

what's ahead. To that end, OCFO employees, of all GS levels, interested in becoming a member of the Equity Team or learning more are encouraged to complete the [Equity Team sign-up form](#) and **JOIN US!**

The OCFO Equity Team

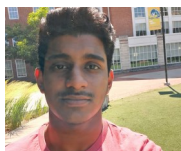
[FY23 Equity Team One-Pager](#)

## MEET THE OCFO EQUITY TEAM



Not pictured: Amarilis Reyes Box (BA), Avery Collins (BIS), Brenda Cadette (BR4F), Ebony Taylor (B), Erin Enoch (BGF), Fausta Aceves (BBW), Isabel Metzger (BIA), Jennifer Knowles (CSDE1), Kristin Williamson (BGF), Lisa Wilson (BR3R), Mia Drane-Maury (B), Nathan Keene (BIS), Yasantha Perera (BRC), and Zakiya Zaid (BBFA)

## HAIL & FAREWELL

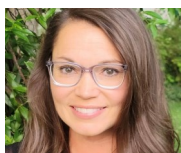


Welcome to **Anirudh (Ani) Naredla** (BAI), who joined the Office of Management and Accountability in June as part of the Partnership for Public Service's Future Leaders in Public Service Internship Program.

Ani is a rising senior at the University of Delaware where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in information systems and has received dean's list recognition all three years. His future plans are to pursue a master's degree in data science and to work in the field of data analytics, technical consultancy, or project management. In his spare time, Ani enjoys hiking and watching sports, mainly soccer and Formula One racing.



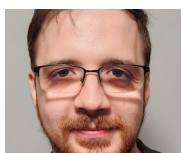
Welcome, **Grace Dragna** (BB)! Grace is a summer intern in the Office of Budget. She is joining GSA through the Partnership for Public Service and is currently pursuing her master's in public administration at the University of Georgia.



Welcome, **Erin Barnett** (BGA)! Erin is currently interning in the Accounting & Financial Reporting Division. She was a high school science teacher and instructional supervisor for 17 years before returning to school to make a career change. She plans to finish a master's degree in finance and economics from West Texas A&M University this fall, and has supplemented the degree with additional accounting courses to prepare for federal accounting work. In her free time, Erin is passionate about volunteering with a pet therapy program and participating in dog sports like agility and scent work.



Welcome to **Dylan Berry** (BGA)! Dylan is an intern with the Accounting & Financial Reporting Division. Dylan has tried a few career paths, deciding to finish a degree in business administration this summer. He looks forward to a rewarding and challenging career in accounting, operations, or any other role that piques his interest. Dylan was born and raised in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. In his leisure time, he likes to exercise, read, and hike. He and his wife are the parents of two silly cats.



Welcome to **Nick Brielmaier** (BGC)! Nick joins the Tax, PAR and Billing Section (TPB) team in Payroll. Nick previously worked as contractor with the FMLOB group and is a trombone player.



Welcome, **Freddie Morris** (BGC)! Freddie is a payroll guy who has worked with GSA NewPay and at USDA's NFC. Freddie's experience is already being put to use supporting GSA's payroll modernization project.

## HAIL & FAREWELL



Welcome, **Spencer (Billie Lee) Stamey** (BGF)! He joined BGF under the Reimbursable Agreements Sector in April 2023. Spencer enlisted in the United States Marine Corps right after graduating from high school. After his time in the Marines, Spencer completed a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration and began working within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Spencer is currently completing his MBA at Mercer University, with an expected completion date in the fall of 2023. Spencer's skill sets vary due to his background in different positions, allowing him to collect experience in sales, infantry, management, healthcare, and financial reimbursement. Spencer's goals are to assist in providing effective and efficient work that increases the value of GSA, both internally and externally.



Welcome to **Alonso Garcia** (BGF)! Alonso joined BGF under the Reimbursable Agreements Sector in June 2023. He has a dual degree in real estate and finance. He worked for GSA for close to 13 years up until 2017. During this time, he held a variety of different positions — asset manager, budget analyst, property manager, and COR. In his free time, he likes to exercise, cook, and spend time outdoors. He also enjoys working with his hands. He does mechanic work, is proficient in all the construction trades, and can build a house from the ground up. He doesn't have children but has a dog'hter named Cinnamon. She's a 10 year old black Chihuahua who's very sweet and well trained.



Welcome, **Mary Black** (BGF)! Mary joined BGF as a financial management analyst in March 2023. She was raised in Texas before joining the Marine Corps and serving a few enlistments. Mary worked for corporations and herself in financial accounting before joining the federal service. She resides in Fallbrook, California, with her husband. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her pets, hiking, and reading.



Welcome to **Jaemin Seo** (BGR)! Jae officially transferred to BGR on May 21, 2023. Jae is a recent FAS360 program graduate who previously rotated through FAS Region 2 Global Supply and ITC Business Operations. Jae has a bachelor's in international economics and political science from UC San Diego, a master's in international affairs with a focus on international management from UC San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy, and is starting his MBA at UC Berkeley this fall.

Jae is awaiting his FAC-C Level 1 certification. Prior to GSA, he ran a small business teaching kids how to build robots. The business is now a nonprofit focused on making the same education and experience accessible for all K-12 students. At BGR, he'll be helping refine the project intake and onboarding process, facilitating new project evaluations, and working on Google scripts for both the PO/IA team as well as BGR customers. His stretch goal is to harness the power of technology to streamline contracting at GSA. Outside of work, he enjoys tinkering with maker projects, working on (seemingly perpetually broken) cars, and gardening. He is geographically based out of the San Francisco Bay Area.

## HAIL & FAREWELL



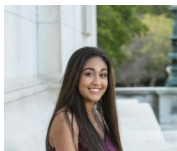
Congratulations to **Emily Burton** (BG2D) on her new position as a supervisory accountant in the Cash and Debt Collections Group, Financial Services Division, Pegasys Financial Services (BG2). Emily joined the Financial Services Division in July 2021 as a technical matter expert accountant.

Emily was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and she relocated to Texas after graduating from the University of Arkansas with a bachelor's degree. She moved to the DFW area when she accepted a position with the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), where she spent 14 years working as an auditor, her last position with DCAA was senior auditor. Emily earned a master's degree, concentrating in accounting and auditing, from Kaplan University.

Emily and her husband, Chris, have three sons, Cameron (16), Christian (9) and Evan (4). In her free time, Emily enjoys spending time and traveling with her family



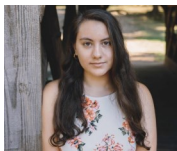
Welcome to **Leah Bruner** (BGF)! Leah attends the University of Notre Dame, majoring in economics, and will be working with the FAS Reimbursable Agreements Branch. She lives in Indiana. She has two sisters and two dogs. She cannot wait to get to know everyone!



Welcome, **Ariana Rao** (BGF)! Ariana is a rising junior at Indiana University, majoring in finance and business analytics, and she will be working with the AAS Financial Operations & Controls Branch. Ariana Rao grew up in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. In her free time, she loves to support Indiana basketball, watch movies, and bake.



Welcome aboard, **Kathleen Sullivan** (BGF)! Kathleen is a rising junior at Villanova University, majoring in economics and communications, and will be working with the FAS Financial Operations & Controls Branch. Kate is from Simsbury, CT. While at school, her favorite activities are playing basketball with the club team, singing with her acapella group, and volunteering with her school's student-run Special Olympics event. While at home, she loves subbing at her local elementary schools and watching sports with family.



Welcome to **Natalie Antonucci** (BGR)! Natalie is from the Future Leaders in Public Service summer intern program. She will be with BG from June 2023 to August 2023.



Welcome to **Cherie Kham** (BGR)! Cherie is detailed to BG from the Executive Potential Program from DHS. She will be with us until September 2023.

Welcome to **Salomon Djakpa** (CSDE1)! Salomon is detailed to BG from GSA's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) from May 2023 to August 2023.



## HAIL & FAREWELL



Welcome to **Larry Young** (BIA), who joined BI this quarter! Larry graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice with a bachelor's degree in forensic psychology. He has over 16 years of federal service, including 10 years with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Larry moved to Virginia in 2017 from New York City, where he was working at a USACE as a budget analyst. He has also worked for Department of Justice in the Executive Office of Immigration Review and for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Throughout his federal career Larry worked in following fields: permits, regulations and enforcement, emergency management, project management, finance, and budget.

He is excited to join GSA and the Analytics and Decision Support Division as a management analyst!



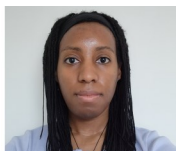
Welcome to **Tanisha Paulding** (BIS), who joined BI in April! Tanisha has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Tuskegee University, and an MBA, University of Maryland Global Campus.

Tanisha's prior experience includes: serving as a strategy implementation manager, policy analyst, training liaison officer, team lead, and intelligence officer at the Defense Intelligence Agency; a telecommunications patent examiner at the United States Patent Trade Office; and a telecommunications network engineer in the private sector.

Tanisha is originally from Michigan and has three kids, age 17, 19, 22. She also loves all types of museums.



Welcome to **Joshua Villarreal** (BR3L). Josh is a recent graduate that joined Zone 3's Leasing, Revenue and FFO Division.



Welcome to **Megan Watts** (BR4B), who joined the Zone 4 Building Operations Division this June. Megan is a U.S. Air Force veteran coming from the U.S. Census to work as a budget analyst. During her military service, she graduated from Western Governors University with a bachelor's in accounting. She is located in Hyattsville, Maryland. In her free time, she enjoys reading, language learning, personal finance, and creating trackers and data in Google Sheets. Her favorite hobby is taking pictures of her cat, Kin.



Hail to **Janina Lloyd** (BR1B). Janina is a certified public accountant and recently joined Zone 1's Building Operations Division. She was previously a financial management specialist with FEMA. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia and the Keller Graduate School of Management. Janina is located in Atlanta, GA, and she enjoys catching up on the many shows that she is behind on, spending quality time with her husband and two kids, and watching baseball.

## HAIL & FAREWELL



Farewell and congratulations to **Aamir Khan** (CSDE1), who is departing BA after completing his sixth and final rotation as part of the Enterprise Emerging Leaders Program (EELP). His prior rotations have been with the PBS Budget Division in OCFO, the Technology Modernization Fund, the Office of Digital Infrastructure Technologies,



Farewell to **John Stevens** (BG2D) as he starts a new adventure! On June 30, 2023, John, who indicates he is well into his second childhood, retired from GSA, Financial Services Division, BG2D. John has been a superlative employee with a wealth of knowledge that has been relied upon over the last 20 years, and for years before that as a government contractor.

He was enlisted in the Air Force via draft and can now safely tell you he was a code breaker, but that also included mowing grass, washing dishes, and ensuring a desk did not move.

In 2000, a health emergency led John to search for work in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and he was hired as a contractor, along with 11 others, to support GSA in the implementation of a new accounting system, Pegasys, to replace their 30-year-old system, NEAR.

John was hired as a federal employee by GSA in 2005, and has supported the Financial Services Division in the capacity of technical matter expert in the Financial Operations Group, as well as in the Rent and Miscellaneous Accounts Receivable Group.

In John's words, "it has been a bumpy ride at times, but I made the '8 second bell!' I went from a conceited taxpayer to a contractor trying to keep up with my federal counterparts, increasingly working harder and more complex tasks than I ever had before in my life."

Thank you, John, for your consistent service and willingness to complete anything asked of you. Nothing but the best wishes for an exciting new adventure that is well deserved. You will be missed.



Farewell and thank you to **Elizabeth Molina** (EELP April 2023–June 2023), **Andrew Kressin** (EELP January 2023–April 2023), and **Ayesha Kirk** (FAS360 November 2022–March 2023) for their hard work rotating through BGR over the winter and spring. Elizabeth and Ayesha were both instrumental in developing and analyzing

the 2022 Federal RPA Maturity Survey. On Andrew's rotation with our team, he conceptualized and completed accessibility improvements to the Process Optimization and Automation Evaluation form. This form is critical to the success of the Division's intake and evaluation process for every idea employees submit GSA-wide.

Farewell to **Jackie Dickens** who retired with GSA in the FAS Financial Services Division (BGF). It has been an honor to work for GSA for the last four years, but the time has come to close this chapter and start anew.

Farewell to **Anthony Bozzacco** (BGF), has accepted a supervisory position at the VA. Tony joined our team in 2016 and has been an integral part of our team and a great contributor in accomplishing our goals. We are sad to see Tony go, but excited for him to pursue this external opportunity.

## HAIL & FAREWELL



Farewell and heartfelt congratulations to **Eddie Johnson** from BR Zone 3 RWA/Capital Projects Division. After 50 years of dedicated service — 30 years in the Marine Corps and 20 years as a civilian with DoD and GSA — Eddie retired on June 30th. In recognition of his remarkable commitment, Eddie was awarded with a Presidential Letter of Appreciation prepared by the White House and personally signed by President Biden. Additionally, a flag was flown in his honor, commemorating his five decades of service to our country. We extend our warmest wishes to Eddie as he embarks on this new chapter of his life. He will undoubtedly be missed!



**Barb Martin** retired on June 30th with 43 years of service! After starting her career while still in high school, Barb moved from the Marine Corps Finance Center to GSA, where she became branch chief in the Zone 2 Building Operations Division. During their recent R7 visit, Deputy Administrator Katy Kale, CFO Nimisha Agarwal, and Steve Varnum were able to congratulate Barb in person.

They are pictured here, along with her supervisor Jeff Holthus and Zonal Director Julie Pfohl. In this meeting, Barb was awarded a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of her over four decades of faithful service. Having been with the Building Operations Division since zonalization, we really don't know how we will get along without Barb. We wish her the fondest farewell and an active, enjoyable, healthy, well earned and long-lived retirement!

Farewell to **Lindsay Mead** from Zone 2's Leasing, Revenue and FFO Division. Lindsay has accepted a new position in PBS Region 6.

Farewell to **Diane Crum** from Zone 2's RWA and Capital Projects Division. Diana has accepted a new position at another federal agency.