

# GAO Management News

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## GAO's International Audit Fellows Host Cross Cultural Day

GAO employees will soon have an opportunity to meet the 16 auditors from 12 countries who are participating in the 2016 International Auditor Fellowship Program. A cross-cultural celebration is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the first-floor main corridor at GAO headquarters. During that event, the fellows will staff displays providing information on their homelands' geography, culture, and heritage.

The fellows arrived at GAO in March and are now well into a four-month intensive training program designed to build the capacity of supreme audit institutions in other countries. The goal is to help graduates fulfill the missions of their various audit offices and strengthen accountability and governance worldwide.



*International Auditor Fellows, Class of 2016: (front, from left to right) Liu Guanya (China), Ajiva Mercy Kpenhangen (Nigeria) Nguyen Thi Quynh Nga (Vietnam), Xhuljeta Çelaj (Albania), (2nd row) James Bantu (Uganda), Mariana Peinado (Argentina), Hong Keat Wee Candy (Singapore), Boniface Kalinda Mulli (Kenya), Ali Ahmed Ghuloom AlAjmi (Oman), Fika Hassana Adamu (Nigeria), (3rd Row) Kornél Jakab (Hungary), Mostafa Ali Talib Al Hinai (Oman), Ahmad N S H Alrefaei (Kuwait), Mario Hernando Soria Acuña (Argentina), Florence Baleke Businge (Uganda) and Steven Safari (Rwanda).*

For additional information, please contact GAO's International Auditor Fellowship Program Manager, [Darreisha Bates](#) at 202-512-4233 or [Mary Arnold Mohiyuddin](#), Assistant Director, Strategic Planning and External Liaison, at 202-512-3087.

## International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management (ICGFM) Celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> International Training Conference



Started nearly 40 years ago by former GAOers [Mortimer Dittenhoffer](#) and [Jim Wesberry](#), the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management (ICGFM) is an umbrella organization that

brings together representatives from a range of organizations, including government entities, universities, firms, and professional associations, to promote a better understanding of professional financial management among public officials at all levels of government. GAO is a sustaining member of the ICGFM.

At ICGFM's [30<sup>th</sup> International Training Conference](#) held in Miami, Florida, May 15 to 20, Wesberry delivered the keynote address and paid tribute to Dittenhoffer, known as the father of the GAO "Yellow Book," who passed away earlier this year at the age of 102. Wesbury was an advisor to former Comptroller General Bowsher in the 1980s on accounting and auditing matters in the developing world and helped develop training programs for GAO's counterparts in developing countries. The theme of this year's ICGFM conference was "Transforming Development Finance: Public Financial Management's Role in Meeting Sustainable Development Goals."

Also at this year's conference, FMCI Director Dan Garcia-Diaz and FMCI Senior Analyst Nadine Raidbard discussed their report on low-income housing tax credits ([GAO-15-330](#), July 23, 2015) and how it relates to helping countries implement recently adopted UN Sustainable Development goals. Garcia-Diaz and Raidbard delivered their remarks as part of a session entitled "Promising Practices for Tax Initiatives that Address Sustainable Development Goals: A U.S. Case Study from the GAO Audit of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program."



*(left) ICGFM President, Jack Maykoski, looks on as Phyllis Anderson, ICGFM Secretary and FMA Assistant Director, presents pens to FMCI GAO presenters, Daniel Garcia-Diaz, Director and Nadine Raidbard, Senior Analyst at the 30th Annual ICGFM International Training Conference.*

Current GAOer Phyllis Anderson, FMA Assistant Director, is serving on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee as secretary. Peter Aliferis, former GAOer who served as the Director of Special Projects, Office of the Comptroller General, currently serves on the Board and Executive Committee as Treasurer. SPEL Managing Director James-Christian Blockwood is also a member of the Board. Blockwood told Management News that the ICGFM conferences provide an opportunity to draw on the work GAO does for domestic purposes to help provide insights for other countries.

Over 200 people attended the conference from more than 40 different countries. According to Phyllis Anderson, “Attendees were receptive of the presentations and asked insightful questions. Also, some attendees were very interested in GAO’s Center for Audit Excellence and how to become involved.” The [Center for Audit Excellence](#) was established in October 2015 to build the capacity of domestic and international accountability organizations, including supreme audit organizations, by providing fee-based training and technical assistance.

For more information about the Consortium see their [webpage](#). Also check out the [GAO May 17 tweet](#) that that appeared in over 31,000 feeds about the conference.

## GAO Celebrates 20th Diversity and Inclusion Month

GAO’s 20<sup>th</sup> Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Month celebration started June 1 with Members of the band Rebirth Steel performing and presenting the history of steel drums in GAO headquarters auditorium. The event was well-attended with over 100 in the audience and was capped by a spontaneous GAO conga dance.

Upcoming events are posted on the [D&I webpage](#) and may also be found in [notices](#).



*(Left) GAOers enjoying Caribbean American band Rebirth Steel while they play at D&I opening event June 1 in the headquarters auditorium. (Right) Dainia Lawes, PDP, HSJ, learns to play one of Rebirth Steel’s drums.*

## From Here and There

### *Arrivals and Departures*

#### **Welcome to recently hired GAO employees:**

**ASM:** Kirsten E. Leikem  
**DCM:** Daniel S Berg, Daniel M. Kuhn  
**EWIS:** Brian P. Wanlass  
**FMCI:** William V. Lamping  
**HC:** Kelsey R. Kreider  
**HCO:** Cloretta P Washington, Ymani T Washington  
**HSJ:** Shelia L. Thorpe  
**IO:** Dezmond J. Ray  
**IT:** Paris N. Hawkins  
**PA:** Susmita Pendurthi  
**PI:** Luqman M. Abdullah, Colenn S. Berracasa  
**SI:** Ann L. Czapiewski, Alexandra D. Gebhard  
**SPEL:** Harriet C. Ganson, Heather A Santos

#### **Good luck to recently retired GAO employees:**

**DCM:** Christopher Miller (Norfolk)  
**FMA:** Gregory Ziombra  
**GC:** Andrea Levine

#### **Goodbye and best wishes to employees leaving GAO:**

**ARM:** Kiera Reifschneider  
**SI:** Rebecca Rose O'Connor

### *In Memoriam*



Karl Johan "Gus" Gustafson passed away on May 25 in San Francisco, CA at the age of 69. His family provided the following: Gus moved wherever the Army sent them (China, Japan, Paris and Germany). Perhaps it was in childhood that Gus developed his love of traveling. Gus graduated from the United States Military Academy West Point -Duty, Honor, Country - in 1968. In Vietnam, he served in transportation and river boat companies. Although he never talked much about his service, he had great respect and love for those who serve and protect the United States. After military service, Gus received his master's degree from the University of Georgia. From 1977 to 2003, he proudly served as an auditor for the U.S. General Accounting Office. Gus enjoyed a great career with GAO in Sacramento, the Bay Area and Europe. Gus enjoyed spending time with family, travelling around the world, good company, food and red wine. He also enjoyed many years playing racquetball and handball with friends at various clubs. Gus is survived by his wife Mary Margaret "Maggie" of 47 years; son Andy (Mona) and grandson Michael Johan Rebel; daughter Victoria; sister Gail (Ron); nephews and nieces, family and friends. Family and friends celebrated Gus's life June 6 in Elk Grove, CA. Donations can be sent to one of his favorite charities: St. Jude's Children's Hospital or The Salvation Army.

### *Job Market*

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

[Human Resources Specialist \(Employee Relations\)](#), PT-0200/0201-02/02, closes 6/15  
[IT SPECIALIST \(NETWORK\)](#), PT-2200/2210-02/02, closes 6/17

[Human Resources Specialist \(Policy\)](#), PT-0200/0201-02/02, closes 6/13

[Management Analyst](#), PT-0300/0343-01/01, closes 6/13

[Contract Specialist](#), PT-1100/1102-01/01, closes 6/17

[Assistant Director - Auditing \(Supervisory Information Systems Auditor\)](#), PE-0500/0511-03/03, closes 6/17

[Management Analyst](#), PT-0300/0343-01/01, closes 6/16

## Recent Reports, Testimony, and Legal Products

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

Disaster Recovery: FEMA Needs to Assess Its Effectiveness in Implementing the National Disaster Recovery Framework.

[GAO-16-476](#), May 26

DOD Financial Management: Greater Visibility Needed to Better Assess Audit Readiness for Property, Plant, and Equipment.

[GAO-16-383](#), May 26

Human Trafficking: Actions Taken to Implement Related Statutory Provisions.

[GAO-16-528R](#), May 26

Immigration Detention: Additional Actions Needed to Strengthen DHS Management of Short-Term Holding Facilities.

[GAO-16-514](#), May 26

Imported Food Safety: FDA's Targeting Tool Has Enhanced Screening, but Further Improvements Are Possible.

[GAO-16-399](#), May 26

Rail Grant Oversight: Greater Adherence to Leading Practices Needed to Improve Grants Management.

[GAO-16-544](#), May 26

Small Business Research Programs: Agencies Have Improved Compliance with Spending and Reporting Requirements, but Challenges Remain.

[GAO-16-492](#), May 26

U.S. Customs and Border Protection: Review of the Staffing Analysis Report under the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014.

[GAO-16-606R](#), May 26

Aviation Security: Airport Perimeter and Access Control Security Would Benefit from Risk Assessment and Strategy Updates.

[GAO-16-632](#), May 31

Federal Air Marshal Service: Actions Needed to Better Incorporate Risk in Deployment Strategy.

[GAO-16-582](#), May 31

Housing for Special Needs: Funding for HUD's Supportive Housing Programs.

[GAO-16-424](#), May 31

U.S. Supreme Court: Policies and Perspectives on Video and Audio Coverage of Appellate Court Proceedings.  
[GAO-16-437](#), April 28

Medicare: Utilization and Expenditures for Complex Wheelchair Accessories.  
[GAO-16-640R](#), June 1

IT Dashboard: Agencies Need to Fully Consider Risks When Rating Their Major Investments.  
[GAO-16-494](#), June 2

Midway Atoll: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Faces Many Competing Priorities.  
[GAO-16-382](#), June 2

VA's Health Care Budget: In Response to a Projected Funding Gap in Fiscal Year 2015, VA Has Made Efforts to Better Manage Future Budgets.  
[GAO-16-584](#), June 3

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Federal Reserve Banks' Information Systems Controls.  
[GAO-16-601R](#), June 6

VA Health Care: Improvements Needed for Management and Oversight of Sole- Source Affiliate Contract Development.  
[GAO-16-426](#), May 6

Visa Waiver Program: DHS Should Take Steps to Ensure Timeliness of Information Needed to Protect U.S. National Security.  
[GAO-16-498](#), May 5

Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains: Opportunities May Exist to Share Information More Efficiently.  
[GAO-16-515](#), June 7

## Restricted Reports

Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications: DOD Has Taken Steps to Address Sustainment and Maintenance Challenges for Critical Satellite Systems but Could Better Identify Risks and Mitigation Actions.  
[GAO-16-370C](#), May 26

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Federal Reserve Banks' Information Systems Controls.  
[GAO-16-600RSU](#), June 6

## Congressional Testimony

Aviation Security: TSA Is Taking Steps to Improve Expedited Screening Effectiveness, but Improvements in Screener Oversight Are Needed.  
[GAO-16-707T](#), June 7

## Press Release

[GAO Makes MedPAC Appointments.](#)  
June 2

## ***Legal Decisions and Opinions***

### **Bid Protest Decisions**

[Crowley Technical Management, Inc.](#), B-412690.2, B-412690.3, May 12  
[Dellew Corporation](#), B-410159.4, February 26  
[Metropolitan Life Insurance Company](#), B-412717, B-412717.2, May 13  
[NCI Information Systems, Inc.](#), B-412680, B-412680.2, May 5  
[Palantir USG, Inc.](#), B-412746, May 18  
[Dee Monbo, CPA](#), B-412820, May 23  
[Discover Technologies LLC](#), B-412773, B-412773.2, May 27  
[DKW Communications, Inc.](#), B-412652.3, B-412652.6, May 2  
[Patricio Enterprises Inc.](#), B-412740 B-412740.3, B-412740.4, May 26  
[Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc.](#), B-412744, B-412744.2, May 26  
[Priority One Services, Inc.](#), B-410695.3, B-410695.4, April 6  
[SupplyCore Inc.](#), B-411015.8, May 27  
[Wilson 5 Service Company, Inc.](#), B-412861, B-412861.2, May 27

### **Legal Decisions**

Medicare: Utilization and Expenditures for Complex Wheelchair Accessories.  
[GAO-16-640R](#), June 1  
[Protein Sciences Corporation](#), B-412794, June 2  
[Wyle Laboratories, Inc.](#), B-412964, B-412964.3, May 27

## **Speakers' Platform**

Kristin Van Wychen and Erin Preston, ASM, presented an overview of GAO as part of a Congressional Operations Seminar for NASA hosted by Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute in Washington, D.C., on May 2.

Nick Marinos, IT, spoke on a privacy panel at ISACA's Annual Meeting of the Chapter for the Washington D.C. Metro Area on May 24. Nick discussed his experiences participating on a variety of reviews of federal agencies' efforts to protect personally identifiable information and was joined by the Director of Privacy Service at the Department of Veterans Affairs, LaShaunné David, and the Director of the Information Privacy & Security Division in IT Audits at the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, Marj Leaming.

Gerald Dillingham, PI, Panelist for "Conversations on Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization" – Outlook for What is Ahead", RTCA 2016 Global Aviation Symposium, June 1-2, in Washington, DC.

### ***On the Air***

Seto Bagdoyan, FAIS, spoke with Federal News Radio about his testimony on Medicare and weaknesses in provider and supplier enrollment controls ([GAO-16-703T](#), May 24), May 31.

Jenny Grover, HSJ, was interviewed by Cox television about the team's report on airport perimeter and access control security ([GAO-16-632](#), May 31), June 1. That same day, Jenny discussed that work with CBS News.

John Pendleton, DCM, was interviewed by National Defense Week, a radio program airing on WMAL, about the team's reports on the Navy's optimized fleet response plan ([GAO-16-466R](#), May 2) and the recommendations of the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force ([GAO-16-405](#), May 6), June 2.

Anne-Marie Fennell, NRE, spoke with Federal News Radio about the team's report on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's management of Midway Atoll ([GAO-16-382](#), June 2), June 6.

Steve Morris, NRE, spoke with NET News, a public radio network in Nebraska, about the report that he and Cindy Brown Barnes, EWIS, directed on continued hazards in the meat and poultry industry ([GAO-16-337](#), April 25), May 26.

## ***Published***

Bill Egar, ARM, had an article published in the Legislative Studies Quarterly, March 2016. The article is entitled "Tarnishing Opponents, Polarizing Congress: The House Minority Party and the Construction of the Roll Call Record." The work reported was from his Ph.D. dissertation, completed before he came to GAO.

## **About *Management News***

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