



THE INSIDER

FRONTLINES

AUGUST 2010

Gloria Steele Sworn in as Mission Director for the Philippines

Gloria Steele, former senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Global Health, was sworn in as the new USAID mission director for the Philippines in Washington, D.C., July 20. Following the ceremony, she was interviewed by FrontLines staff member Mary Jane Cotter.

Q: What are the most important achievements of USAID's development programs during the past decades in the Philippines?

STEELE: I still have to get myself familiarized with our programs in the Philippines, but I know that USAID has given significant help to the Philippine government to lay the foundation for achieving stability and prosperity in the southern part of the island of Mindanao, where 60 percent of the [USAID] program is focused, as well as major programs supporting other islands in the Philippines. I understand that a lot of work has been done and is under way to help with poverty alleviation, education, infrastructure, and the provision of health services, safe drinking water, and proper sanitation methods.

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Willy C. Gaa, Philippine ambassador to the United States, congratulates Gloria Steele during her swearing-in ceremony July 20.

Arellano Appointed as Agency Counselor

By Michael Del Moro

Hilda Arellano replaced Ambassador James Michel as Agency counselor last month, bringing versatility and years of development leadership experience to what she described as a "living" position.

Known to her colleagues as "Bambi," a nickname that has stuck with her since birth, Arellano said the counselor position has typically conformed to the present needs of the Agency. That will mean overseeing large-scale changes as proposed by Administrator Rajiv Shah, including an ambitious agenda of reforms for the coming years.

"My hope is to be of service to USAID and all organizational units that make it up," Arellano said. "I just hope I am able to give back to an agency that has given me so much during my career."

"The challenges for us are very clear," she said. "Traditionally, we have been able to step up to the plate, no matter how daunting the constraints. I am optimistic, but it will require a lot of energy and commitment from all of us."

Arellano comes to the third-highest position in the Agency from Cairo, Egypt, where she had been the mission director since 2007. Her history with USAID goes back to 1987, when she served as a general development officer in Ecuador before heading up missions in Europe, South America, and the Middle East.

Michel, who previously served as counselor in 1999,

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FRONTLINES EDITOR DEPARTS POST

Ben Barber, who has served as editorial director of *FrontLines* since 2002, is departing his post with the Agency as he retires from government service.

During his tenure with the Agency, Barber brought worldwide journalistic coverage of events to *FrontLines* and special topic magazines. His reporting and photography have taken him to Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Mozambique, and a host of other countries.

Prior to joining USAID, Barber served with *The Washington Times* as its State Department



Ben Barber

bureau chief and with the U.S. Information Agency, where he conducted seminars and training for foreign journalists in a number of countries including the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Guinea, Niger, Madagascar, and Morocco.

Barber's background includes traveling with Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Middle East and Africa and with President

Bill Clinton aboard Air Force One to Middle East peace talks. He was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 1998 by *The Times* for a series of articles on the Hmong ethnic group of Laos.

The author of numerous newspaper and magazine articles on international issues, Barber also served as a foreign affairs lecturer at Johns Hopkins and Georgetown Universities as well as the U.S. Naval Academy.

"I left the newspaper world in order to support what I thought was a fine cause—U.S. foreign aid," said Barber. "As a reporter, I'd seen plenty of need for aid in foreign countries. I was glad to lend whatever skills I had as a writer and editor to communicate the great things that were being

done, which, unfortunately, are not widely known by the American public."

Barber revived *FrontLines* twice following periods of dormancy. Each time it gained credibility as an historical document of Agency activities around the world.

"Some of the finest moments during my time here have been during visits to projects in the field—in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the tsunami [in Indonesia, 2004] and, most recently, in Mozambique and Nepal," he added.

Barber plans to continue writing about foreign aid and international development.

He can be reached at benbarber2@hotmail.com. ★

WHERE IN THE WORLD...

MAY 9, 2010 – JUNE 5, 2010

PROMOTED

Justin Armstrong

Administrative Officer

Sarah M. Banashek

JO (Education)

Heather Benucci

Intel Research Specialist

Sarah Jean Berry

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Patrick D. Bowers

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Colin Buckley

Program Analyst

Elizabeth A. Callender

JO (Program/Project Development)

Sara A. Calvert

JO (Program/Project Development)

Elizabeth Davnie Easton

JO (Program/Project Development)

Marble B. Dilneshau

Accountant

Michelle S. Dworkin

JO (Program/Project Development)

Elias A. Ebone

IT Specialist

Christopher T. Foley

JO (Program/Project Development)

Monika A. Gorzelanska

JO (Program/Project Development)

Alicia R. Harris

Supervisory Contract Specialist

Linda M. Hill

Administrative Officer

Norman James

Contract Specialist

Adam Jung

JO (Program/Project Development)

Christopher Kisco

Program Analyst (ICS)

Ky T. Lam

JO (Health, Population & Nutrition)

Luis A. Maes

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Enilda Martin

JO (Health, Population & Nutrition)

Kathleen Mazur

Contract Specialist

Danielle C. Meyer

Criminal Investigator

Christopher Miller

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Mark A. Mitchell

JO (Program/Project Development)

Kira Mickie Mitre

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Elizabeth Moushey

General Business Specialist

Monique A. Murad

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Christine Obester

JO (Education)

Phillip Palmer

Private Sector Officer

Allyson Phelps

JO (Program/Project Development)

Shannon M. Rogers

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Mariella Ruiz Rodriguez

JO (Education)

Tracy M. Sando

Contract Specialist

Cael H. Savage

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Andrea G. Sawka

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Christopher Schaffer

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Erica C. Scott

Budget Analyst

Eileen K. Sienkiewicz

Agricultural Development Officer

Jennifer A. Slotnick

JO (Health, Population & Nutrition)

Jason Smith

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Matthew Sumpter

Program Officer

Bradley A. Tucker

JO (Program/Project Development)

Jeannette E. Vail

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Corina Warfield

JO (Program/Project Development)

Brendan Wheeler

JO (Democracy & Governance)

Lee Wilbur

JO (Education)

Daniel Dee Wimbley

Human Resources Specialist

Anya Wingert

JO (Program/Project Development)

Brandy Witthoft

JO (Program/Project Development)

Billy L. Woodward

JO (Democracy & Governance)

REASSIGNED

Rafael A. Alequin

SEC/PS/FI to SEC/ISP/DS

Thomas H. Allen

SEC/ISP/SE to SEC/ISP

Mohammad K. Ayub

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to Iraq/OAA

Brian S. Bacon

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/P

Zohra P. Balsara

COMP/NE/OJT to Tanzania/JOS

Cassandra G. Bannister

SEC/PS to SEC/PS/A

Thomas G. Beck

ODP/BMD to PPL/DE

Heather Benucci

SEC/CTIS/CI to SEC/CTIS

Christopher S. Bodle

SEC/ISP/SE to SEC/ISP

Thomas P. Briggs

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/SPP

Melissa Gay Brown

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/P

Shelvee L. Brown

ACCTG OPER & REPT to SEC/OD

Patrick J. Butler

SEC/PS/FI to SEC/ISP/DS

Laura Campbell

COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/JOS

Kimberly Paige Cernak

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/SPP

Susan LP Cheung

COMP/NE/OJT to Peru/EXO

Fernando Cossich

DCHA/OMA to E&E/ECA

Illona Kazimi Countryman

ANE/SPOTS/PMFA to Asia/SPO/SPPM

Mary H. Cross Sidky

COMP/DETAIL/SUP to COMP/FS/OS/DS

Tara S. Debnam

SEC/PS to SEC/PS/BI

Jeffrey A. Denale

SEC/CTIS to SEC/CTIS

Dana Deruiter

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/P

Kerri A. Dizoglio

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/SPP

Beth P. Dunford

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to AFR/SD/EGEA

William L. Dunn

HR/FSP/SP to Iraq/PO

Steven D. Edminster

Guinea/GD to DCHA/DG/G

Michael W. Fabrie

SEC/ISP/DS to SEC/ISP/SE

Diane Fitzgerald

SEC/CTIS/IS to SEC/CTIS

Valerie A. Frederick

SEC/PS to SEC/PS/FI

Bethany K. Gaddis

COMP/NE/OJT to Armenia/JOS

Conrado A. Garcia

Dominican Republic/PDO to Dominican Republic/JOPA

Marty Dean George

COMP/NE/OJT to Bangladesh/EXO

Theodore L. Glenn IV

Nepal/PPD to Nepal/JOS

Carrie A. Gruenloh

DCHA/DG/EPP to DCHA/CMM

Michael W. Harris

SEC/OSP/SE to SEC/ISP/SE

Chris Harrod

SEC/PS/A to SEC/PS/QAPR

Clinton J. Howard

SEC/ISP/SE to SEC/ISP

Christine Janes

COMP/NE/OJT to Honduras/JOS

Carnita A. Johnson

SEC/CTIS/IS to SEC/CTIS

Mae F. Jones

SEC/PS/FI to SEC/ISP/DS

Melissa A. Joy

DCHA/FFP to East Africa

Haelee Kim

COMP/NE/OJT to Haiti/JOS

Terrance Knox

SEC/PS/FI to SEC/ISP/DS

Eugene T. Korzeniowski

SEC/ISP to SEC/ISP/DS

Elisabeth A. Kvitashvili

AA/DCHA to WFP AFF Rome

Brian S. Levey

Cambodia/JOPA to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

Ruth E. Levine

A/AID to AA/PPL

Clifford G. Lubitz

Nepal/JOPA to Nepal/HFP

Darren A. Manning

LAC/SA to Paraguay

Leonardo Martinez

AA/EGAT to PPL/P

Derno L. McCary

SEC/PS/FI to SEC/ISP/DS

Kelly L. McClellan

SEC/PS/BI to SEC/PS/QAPR

Kevin D. McGlothlin

DCHA/OMA/PD to Mexico

Molly M. Mimier

COMP/NE/OJT to Peru/JOS

Cynita V. Minor

SEC/PS/A to SEC/PS/QAPR

Stephanie L. Minor

DCHA/PPM to DCHA/OCR

Bernadette M. G. Mitchell

A/AID/COO/PAC to AA/PPL

Reginald Mitchell

SEC/ISP/SE to SEC/ISP

Dwayne A. Moore

SEC/ISP/SE to SEC/ISP

William M. Patterson

Nepal/ARD to Nepal/GDO

Anne M. Peniston

Nepal/PFNP to Nepal/HFP

James B. Powell

SEC/OSP/SE to SEC/ISP/SE

David A. Ratliff

Paraguay to Peru/JOS

Michael J. Reilly

Bolivia/PO to Egypt/DIR

Calvin L. Revelle

SEC/PS/BI to SEC/PS/FI

Katrina R. Riley Sawyer

SEC/CTIS/IS to SEC/CTIS

Elizabeth T. Roen

A/AID/COO/PAC to PPL/LER

Sheila R. Roquitte

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to Nepal/PPD

Cynthia M. Ruiz

ANE/TS to ME/TS

Kimberly Sais

AA/EGAT to EGAT/PDAM

Elizabeth Santucci

Nepal/JOPA to Nepal/PPD

Michele J. Schimpp

COMP/DETAIL/SUP to ME/TS

Janine A. Scott

COMP/NE/OJT to Kenya/JOS

Dennis Sharma

Asia/EAA to Bangladesh/DIR

Marcus C. Singleton

SEC/ISP/DS to SEC/ISP

Vandana S. Stapleton

COMP/NE/OJT to Rwanda/JOS

Sophie J. Taintor

COMP/NE/OJT to El Salvador/JOS

Tracy C. Thoman

DCHA/FFP/PTD to AFR/SD/EGEA

Natalie J. Thunberg

Bolivia/AAO to Sudan/CO

Gerard Torres

SEC/PS to SEC/ISP/DS

Mark A. Webb

SEC/PS to SEC/OD

Carrie Mae Williams

ANE/SPOTS/PMFA to Asia/SPO/B

John O. Wilson

ANE/TS to ME/TS

Brian K. Woody

COMP/NE/OJT to Caucasus/JOS

RETIRED

Jeffrey D. Bell

Judy M. Britt

Austin Chadwick III

Amanda G. Downing

Stephen D. Driesler

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Ronald V. Curtis

Jacqueline Greene

Faye Elissa Haselkorn

Aaron P. Karnell

Donald L. Lerch

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Shannon M. Maguire

Elizabeth L. Martin

Mildred Otero

Samuel Rubino

James Schermerhorn

Gregg Leroy Wiitala

David Wilcox

Adel Yamak

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Q: You were the acting head of USAID's Bureau for Global Health for several years. What were the major achievements you managed during those years?

STEELE: We have significantly improved our programs in combating malaria. Specifically, President Obama's malaria initiative has substantially reduced the incidence of malaria, particularly in Africa. We have addressed other neglected tropical diseases and have seen major improvements in family planning and in reducing child mortality rates. More recent studies have shown much-needed improvements in reducing maternal mortality rates, an area in which USAID has contributed significantly.

Q: As one of the highest ranking Asian-American women in the U.S. government, did you face any unique obstacles? What is your advice to others on how to break through the "bamboo ceiling"?

STEELE: I've spoken a lot about the glass ceiling or, as you call it, the bamboo ceiling. I think that USAID is unique. I think that if you set your sights on something and go after your goals, people are more than happy to help you get there. I don't think the bamboo ceiling exists in our agency.

My own example, and I know situations differ from one person to the next, demonstrates that if you want something and you work hard for it, your chances of achieving it in USAID are very high. It is important to have goals, to know what you want and where you want to go. It is quite helpful to find good mentors or coaches, and let people know what you are trying to accomplish.

Q: As a Filipino American, does returning to assist your ancestral homeland have special

Excerpts from Gloria Steele Remarks, July 20 Swearing-in Ceremony

"[On July 22] I will begin my journey back to the country of my birth and a long-standing ally of the U.S. Thirty years ago, when I left the Philippines, the possibility that I would, one day, return as a USAID mission director was but a dream. It was a dream inspired by my mother who constantly spoke of the American legacy in the Philippines, a legacy characterized by an excellent education system, which rivals some of the best in the world, a population with English as a second language, and a democratic constitution. Now, in the twilight years of her life, my mother will see her own daughter lead USAID's effort to build upon that American legacy."

"Since I left the Philippines in 1980, the country has undergone significant transformation, from a country under martial law, to the full democracy that it is today. Indeed, the Philippines is able to claim the honor of being Asia's oldest democracy. It is a country rich in natural and human resources, whose economy is comparatively well-equipped to weather the global financial crisis, at least in the short

term, due to wise fiscal policies and internationally accepted capital standards adopted by the Philippines government. Substantial development and security-related efforts in the southern Philippines have contributed to an improved, enabling environment for peace and prosperity, although challenges remain in achieving lasting peace in that region."

"There are other challenges. Forty percent of the population still lives on less than \$2 a day. While the Philippines has made solid gains in achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and is, in fact, on track to meet most of its 2015 MDG targets, the Philippines will need to step up efforts in meeting targets in primary education and delivery of health services. The Philippines has the fastest growing population in East Asia; there are serious issues with governance and the rule of law, and environmental degradation persists."

"The recent election of [President] Noyonoy Aquino, however, brings a new sense of hope and optimism about the future." ★

meaning and will it make it easier or harder to do your job?

STEELE: Of course, it has special meaning. I grew up hearing my mom talk about the American legacies for the best education systems, the democratic institutions, and the English language. So it is special to me that I will be able to come back to the Philippines and build upon USAID's legacy and expand the

Agency's efforts further. What makes it less difficult for me is that I will not have to learn the language. Although I have been away from the country for many years, by and large, I believe that I have a good understanding of Filipino culture.

Ironically, what makes it difficult, I think, is that expectations will also be greater for the same reasons I have given above for why the job should be easier. ★

COUNSELOR from page 1

retired from the Agency in 2001 for a consulting position.

"I never expected to have the opportunity to participate again directly in the work of this agency," Michel said. "But first Alonzo Fulgham and then Raj

Shah made it possible for me to do so over the past year."

In a message to colleagues, Michel thanked them for their efforts and wished them continued success.

"Ambassador Michel is an

impossible act to follow," Arellano said. "His history with the Agency spans a rich variety of challenges. Whenever he has held a leadership position in USAID, his contributions were relevant, timely, and important." ★

Eichelkraut Awarded Fellowship to Study in Japan

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation named Amanda Eichelkraut as a fellow on June 28, setting the USAID program analyst up for a year of Japanese language and area training studies followed by a year of work in Japan.

Eichelkraut has spent the past two years working on training and professional development for Foreign Service Officers and Foreign Service Nationals. Of the five fellows, she is the only USAID employee.

“It’s going to be quite an honor to be the lone USAID representative in this class and I look forward to the opportunity to learn more about U.S. government and Japanese agencies that we work with closely,” Eichelkraut said.

The foundation, named after the late senator and ambassador, Mike Mansfield, and his wife, first established the fellowship in 1994. The award provides for one year of domestic language training followed by a year of working in an agency of the Japanese government and is designed to build a cadre of U.S. government

employees with experience and knowledge in Japanese language and culture.

“Amanda Eichelkraut has valuable experience in international and community development, and is committed to building on her experience to facilitate cooperation between the United States and Japan,” said L. Gordon Flake, executive director of the foundation. “She has a strong interest in learning how the Japanese government makes decisions and policy related to ODA [Office of Development Assistance] programming and to using the knowledge and contacts gained during her fellowship to help USAID support and foster donor coordination and partnerships with Japan and other strategic allies.”



Amanda Eichelkraut

Eichelkraut said she applied for the fellowship because of her interest in the region.

“My personal reason for wanting to apply was to broaden my knowledge and skill set in the Asia region,” she said.

Though her formal language training begins in early September, Eichelkraut has already begun Japanese lessons using Rosetta Stone, in anticipation of what is likely to be a challenging learning experience.

“I’m looking forward to the challenge and this is such a remarkable experience to really focus full time towards learning a language,” she said. ★ — M.D.

Ag Officer Receives Military Award for Work in Afghanistan

Agricultural development is on the rise in Kandahar, Afghanistan, thanks to collaboration between the military and civilian aid workers like Katya Sienkiewicz, who was recently recognized for her efforts.

Sienkiewicz, USAID’s agriculture officer in Kandahar and deputy manager of the AVIPA (Afghanistan Vouchers for Increased Production in Agriculture) Plus program, received the U.S. Army’s Superior Civilian Service Award March 23 from the Army’s 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in Arghandab.

According to Sienkiewicz, the USAID program supports the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock in its efforts to provide access to high-quality agriculture in the country. The 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Division, with which Sienkiewicz worked to expand farming and connect Afghan farmers with their government, has suffered more casualties than any other battalion in its effort to secure and hold an historical insurgent access path to Kandahar City.

“I continue to be both humbled and honored by my work with the military men and women of the Army’s Stryker Battalion throughout Kandahar,” Sienkiewicz said. “Their tenacity, discipline, and honor amid devastating losses has been unparalleled. It has, by far, been one of the most rewarding aspects of my time here.”

Capt. Jonathan Pan pushed for Sienkiewicz to receive the award. “Katya is awesome because she: a) really cares, and b) knows how to get things done,” Pan said. “She understands the difference between stabilization and development—not to marginalize development, but how to tie it in to stabilization.” ★ — M.D.



Katya Sienkiewicz



A student listens during a presentation July 23 when USAID hosted a group from Higher Achievement, a non-profit organization that provides middle school children from underserved areas year-round academic enrichment programs and preparation for top high school placement. The students met with Sandra Wiggins of the Office of Human Resources, who provided background on the Agency; Micaela White of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, who discussed USAID’s response to the disaster in Haiti and gave the students a tour of the Operations Center; Ben Barber of FrontLines, who presented a slide show on Agency programs throughout the world; and Anna Gohmann of LPA, who showed the students USAID’s model Haiti relief shelter and explained the Agency’s continuing support to the island nation.



Left to right, Jannie Kwok, Hanna Jung, Megan Kyles, and Julie Southfield, members of the 12th graduating class of the Development Leadership Initiative, July 9, at the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C. Under the DLI, the Agency plans to hire 300 new Foreign Service Officers each year until 2012.