



# THE INSIDER

FRONTLINES

NOVEMBER 2010

## Getting the Message Out From Albania to Zimbabwe

By Gregg Rapaport

When it comes to convening people from myriad countries for a common purpose, athletes have the Olympic Games, foreign delegates have the United Nations General Assembly, and USAID's global network of communicators have the development outreach and communications officer (DOC) training conference.

Organized by the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA), the most recent conference took place in Washington, D.C., from Oct. 11-15. It was a milestone for the DOC program, with the entire cadre of mission-based communicators coming together for the first time to discuss the common goal of informing in-country audiences and to explore the divergent challenges of connecting with populations in countries as far apart as Peru and Vietnam, Ukraine and South Africa, and Macedonia and East Timor.

Eighty-six field employees from 61 different missions flew in to participate with their D.C. colleagues from LPA, regional and pillar bureaus, the Iraq Task

Force, and the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs.

The conference took place several weeks after President Barack Obama addressed the United Nations, highlighting the importance of development at this moment in history. Administrator Rajiv Shah told the DOCs, "the last time a U.S. president delivered that kind of a message on development was in a letter to Congress. It was in 1961, it was President Kennedy, and it resulted in the creation of the U.S. Agency for International Development."

With nearly 50 years having gone by, Shah related his excitement "about this unique moment because this president and this secretary of state care so deeply

about our development mission, and believe so fundamentally that the development mission ought to be how we project ourselves abroad."

The communications specialists were inspired to "take those extra steps to make sure that we project that part of the U.S. commitment to people around the world in a fundamentally different and more expansive way."

In addition to Shah, the DOCs met with USAID stakeholders including senior representatives of the Feed the Future, Global Health, and Global Climate Change presidential initiatives, as well as 50th anniversary project planners and team leads from the Agency's USAID Forward; publications; public



Leanne MacDougall, the development outreach and communications officer at USAID's Central Asian Republics mission, engages a panel of her colleagues at the DOC conference.

Photo by USAID

engagement; and social media departments.

"Coming to the conference gave me the chance to hear directly from policy makers and gain exposure to what happens at USAID in D.C.," said Bill Thomas of USAID/Jordan.

"The timing and content were great for getting up to speed on the new vision of USAID," said German Acevedo of USAID/Columbia.

High-level policy discussions on development, and its intersection with diplomacy and defense, were a thread that ran throughout the symposium. Outside of USAID, the DOCs met with Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy Judith McHale (in a joint session with

State public affairs officers), three members of the National Security Council, and journalists that cover development and foreign affairs.

USAID's mission communicators also served on panels to share their experiences, and ultimately drove the dialogues concerning how the Agency can best communicate its story. Promoting USAID through the context of partnership was a message they felt would resonate with audiences everywhere. A DOC's ultimate charge is to explain more fully what the words "from the American people," that accompany the Agency's logo, mean. After a week together in D.C., they are now more prepared to do so. ★

## Communication and Camaraderie: An FSN's DOC Conference Take-away

By Moussa Doumbia

The USAID Development Outreach and Communications Officer (DOC) training conference held in Washington, D.C., from Oct. 10-15 was unprecedented, and will prove useful for doing the DOC business differently, especially for a Foreign Service National (FSN) communicator from Mali.

This amazing week in Washington marked my first visit to the United States in my seven-year career with USAID. For the first time in the Agency's history, communicators across the Agency and from field missions were all

together in once place, thus breaking the cycle of regional trainings. It was an unprecedented event, an opportunity for sharing and learning. Unquestionably, despite some unresolved issues, I and most participants left with a sense that development communicators are being valued and their roles recognized and elevated—a sense very few of us had before the global meeting.

Moreover, this conference was unique given its format, content, and timing. Having attended a few regional training events in the

past, I feared the conference would be a mere duplication of what we learned before. However, rather than touching on tactical issues in communications, the conference creatively dealt with emerging issues that captured the attention of everyone, even the longest serving communicators. I found every day to be so different and captivating, always leading me to reflect on how we can broaden the communications toolbox in Mali and other missions.

It was an enormous pleasure and honor to meet with Administrator Rajiv Shah twice in less than a week. The conference featured the administrator in two discussions, one at the opening session and another at a White House

session with State Department public affairs officers. Both events were particularly illuminating. On both occasions, I felt extraordinarily proud to be an FSN DOC and to feel the administrator's strong commitment to "over-communicating" about our development work. It was gratifying to note that DOCs are a centerpiece of the elevation of development as a component of U.S. foreign policy and that the FSN DOCs' contribution to this communication effort is invaluable.

The timing of the DOC conference with the Department of State's Global Public Affairs Officers' Conference was perfect. The joint session between these two communications communities

helped bridge our efforts. The combined voices of the USAID administrator, the secretary of state through a recorded message, and the under secretary of state for public diplomacy underscored the importance of communication at a time when development has become more important than ever before in U.S. foreign policy.

A session held at the Newseum with a panel of development journalists, and the social media sessions were unique and eye-opening experiences for me and will impact on my media relations as well as my mission's use of social media tools. Speaking live with four Washington-based journalists

see **CONFERENCE** on page 4 ►

# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

## AUGUST 1, 2010 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

### PROMOTED

**Stephan Acosta Mikulasek**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Rolf R. Anderson**  
Supervisory Natural Resources Officer

**Judith G. Aranas**  
Accountant

**Robert L. Arellano**  
Deputy Controller

**Mohammad K. Ayub**  
Contracting Officer

**Erin Balch**  
Public Health Analyst

**Douglas Balko**  
Supervisory Private Enterprise Officer

**Christopher G. Barrett**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Wrenn F. R. Bellamy**  
Auditor

**Steven B. Bennett Jr.**  
Auditor

**Lily Beshawred**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**David E. Billings**  
Project Development Officer

**Robert Boncy**  
Program Officer

**Stephen M. Brager**  
Supervisory General Development Officer

**John L. Brannaman**  
Supervisory Food for Peace Officer

**David G. Brown**  
Supervisory Contracting Officer

**George H. Buzby**  
Auditor

**Dean M. Cabrera**  
Supervisory Contracting Specialist

**Jeremiah A. Carew**  
Supervisory Project Development Officer

**Karen I. Cavanaugh**  
Health Science Specialist

**Narendran Chanmugam**  
Supervisory Agricultural Development Officer

**Robert W. Clark**  
Controller

**Cybele Marcia Cochran**  
Program Analyst

**Robert P. Combs**  
Contract Specialist

**E. Lewis Conner**  
Controller

**Anthony Cotton**  
Economist

**Adam B. Cox**  
Contracting Officer

**Corey D. Croom**  
Administrative Officer

**Jennifer L. Crow Yang**  
Contracting Officer

**Thomas Crubaugh**  
Program Officer

**George J. Delia**  
IT Specialist

**Jeri Leeann Dible**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Mary E. Diebold**  
General Business Specialist

**Katie Donohoe**  
Education Development Officer

**Robert E. Drapcho**  
Food for Peace Officer

**Brian M. Dusza**  
Supervisory Private Enterprise Officer

**Michael J. Eddy**  
Democracy Officer

**Harvey A. Eichenfield**  
Contracting Officer

**Margaret E. Enis**  
Supervisory Agricultural Development Officer

**Clay W. Epperson**  
Supervisory Project Development Officer

**Erika L. Ersland**  
Auditor

**Karen Stone Exel**  
Supervisory General Development Officer

**Amy R. Fawcett**  
Comptroller

**Martin Fischer**  
Comptroller

**Kimberly Fish**  
Human Resources Specialist

**Nancy A. Fisher Gormley**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Sacha Fraiture**  
Education Development Officer

**Christopher B. Frost**  
Contracting Officer

**A. Camille Garcia**  
Contracting Officer

**Luis F. Garcia**  
Supervisory Contract Officer

**Peter C. Garcia**  
Facilities Manager

**Ramses Gauthier**  
Controller

**Gabriel F. Grau**  
Private Enterprise Officer

**Aler Grubbs**  
Program Officer

**Sarah E. Gwilliam**  
Auditor

**David A. Hallengren**  
Supervisory Executive Officer

**Walter L. Hammond**  
Comptroller

**Veronica Hartanto**  
Program Analyst

**Ross M. Hicks**  
Supervisory Executive Officer

**Bryan T. Highfill**  
Auditor

**Joseph Hirsch**  
Agricultural Development Officer

**Ann G. Hirschey**  
Supervisory Health & Population Development Officer

**Emily J. Hogue**  
Program Analyst

**Edith I. Houston**  
Supervisory Project Development Officer

**Jennifer Troung Huynh**  
Program Analyst

**Tonya Jay**  
Human Resources Specialist

**Ryan E. Johnson**  
Supervisory Contract Specialist

**Shelley A. Johnson**  
Program Budgetary Specialist

**Sean M. Jones**  
Supervisory General Development Officer

**Rebecca P. Kaplan**  
Auditor

**Jill D. Kelley**  
General Development Officer

**Ronit Kirshner Gerard**  
Private Enterprise Officer

**Karen D. Klimowski**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Bradley S. Klingsporn**  
Auditor

**Paul R. Kolstad**  
Supervisory Health & Population Development Officer

**Nancy K. Leahy**  
Community Planner

**Suezan C. Lee**  
Education Program Specialist

**Joseph P. Lessard**  
Supervisory Private Enterprise Officer

**Brian S. Levey**  
Education Development Officer

**Dale Lewis**  
Contracting Officer

**Ginger E. Longworth**  
Supervisory Executive Officer

**Kimberley Lucas**  
Agricultural Development Officer

**Hannah Maloney**  
Auditor

**Darren A. Manning**  
Program Officer

**Tess M. McEnery**  
Democracy Specialist

**Ryan L. McGonagle**  
Auditor

**Martin G. McLaughlin**  
Natural Resources Officer

**David Alexander McNeil**  
Lead Auditor

**Mark A. Meassick**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Sandra K. Minkel**  
Comptroller

**Khadijat L. Mojidi**  
Supervisory Health & Population Development Officer

**Monica J. Moore**  
IDI (Program/Project Development Officer)

**Stephen R. Morin**  
Supervisory Program Economics Officer

**Charles E. Mosby**  
Contracting Officer

**Aleathea P. Musah**  
Supervisory Health & Population Development Officer

**Christine N. Nteireho**  
Auditor

**Cristina A. Olive**  
Education Development Officer

**Gregory P. Olson**  
Private Enterprise Officer

**Benjamin K. Owusu Jr.**  
Auditor

**Erin Nicholson Pacific**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Kathryn Panther**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Esther Y. Park**  
Auditor

**Amy Paro**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Sangita Patel**  
Supervisory General Development Officer

**Milan Pavlovic**  
Legislative Officer

**Moncel E. Petitto**  
Procurement Analyst

**Naadia L. Porter**  
Auditor

**Neil G. Price**  
Contracting Officer

**Steven K. Ramonas**  
Auditor

**Jill K. Randall**  
Program Analyst

**Thomas E. Rhodes**  
General Development Officer

**Craig D. Riegler**  
Contracting Officer

**Luis A. Rivera**  
Contracting Officer

**Randall Robinson**  
General Development Officer

**Ernest R. Rojas**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Sheila R. Roquitte**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Jonathan Ross**  
Supervisory Health Development Officer

**Michele Russell**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Bryn A. Sakagawa**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Roshanak Salimi**  
Auditor

**Joel B. Sandefur**  
Legislative Officer

**Ragip Saritabak**  
Deputy Controller

**Kendra Louise Schoenholz**  
Financial Management Officer

**Adam E. Schumacher**  
General Development Officer

**Susan J. Scott Vargas**  
Contracting Officer

**Zema Semunegus**  
Food for Peace Officer

**Jeffrey B. Sharp**  
Executive Officer

**Lorraine Sherman**  
Supervisory Executive Officer

**Maurice L. Shines**  
JO (Private Enterprise)

**Steven Austin Shira**  
Traffic Management Specialist

**Madeleine Short**  
Social Science Analyst

**Mary E. Skarie**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**John P. Slattery**  
Auditor

**Francisco R. Somarriba**  
Comptroller

**Joann Carla Sparacino**  
Contracting Officer

**Gail Monique Spence**  
General Development Officer

**Richard Spencer**  
NEP (Contract Specialist)

**Kartik K. Srinivasan**  
Auditor

**Aaron Stern**  
Program Officer

**Michael B. Stewart**  
Supervisory Executive Officer

**Kelley D. Strickland**  
Supervisory Democracy Officer

**Katherine L. Swartz**  
Program Analyst

**Natalie J. Thunberg**  
Supervisory Contracting Officer

**Aye A. Thwin**  
Supervisory Health & Population Development Officer

**Ryan N. Truxton**  
Program Analyst

**Paul C. Vicinanza**  
Traffic Management Specialist

**Mark R. Visocky**  
Supervisory Private Enterprise Officer

**Sara R. Walter**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Ryan G. Washburn**  
Supervisory General Development Officer

**Sharon Wayne**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Darlene Wheeler**  
Human Resources Specialist (Classification)

**Peter A. Wiebler**  
Supervisory Democracy Officer

**Patrick Joseph Wilson**  
Contracting Officer

**Jessica H. Zaman**  
Democracy Officer

**Ellen Marie Zehr**  
Supervisory Executive Officer

### REASSIGNED

**Anne H. Aarnes**  
AA/ME to COMP/DETAIL/SUP

**Charisse A. Adamson**  
E&E/PO/PPD to Africa/EA

**Jason Alexander**  
Afghanistan/OD to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

**John B. Alumbaugh Jr.**  
GC/LE to GC/LAC

# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

**Richard T. Andrews**

COMP/FSLT to Guatemala/PDS

**Lisa Anne Baldwin**

Indonesia to West Bank/Gaza

**Maria E. Barron**

Mexico/JOPA to Afghanistan/OD

**Howard F. Batson**

Iraq to Nigeria

**Thomas G. Bayer**

RDMA/REXO to Afghanistan/OPPD

**Robert A. Beadle**

COMP/NE/OJT to Philippines/JOS

**Kimberly Bostwick**

COMP/FSLT to Jamaica-CAR/JOS

**Michael Boyd**

Kosovo to Liberia

**Donald J. Brady**

Liberia to Ukraine/REXO

**Larry H. Brady**

El Salvador/D to COMP/DETAIL/  
SUP

**Stephen M. Brager**

Dominican Republic/GDO to  
Armenia/DGO

**Paul V. Bruning**

Egypt/PPS to Jordan/EO

**David A. Bruns**

COMP/NE/OJT to Mali/GD

**Stephen Callahan**

COMP/FS/OS/DS to O/S LANG  
TRNG

**James C. Carlson**

Russia/DHRD to Sudan/PROG

**Samuel Carter**

Iraq/MGT to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

**Courtney L. Chubb**

Russia/EXO to RDMA/REXO

**Robert W. Clark**

Jordan/FM to Nepal/FM

**Jeffery Cohen**

Dominican Republic/PDO to Peru/  
PDP

**Louis Coronado**

Afghanistan/OD to East Africa/FFP

**Katherine Crawford**

Cambodia to Tanzania/D

**Dianne Cullinane**

CA to Bangladesh

**Diana N. Daibes**

COMP/NE/OJT to Kenya/JOS

**Markus D. Dausses**

Uganda/EXO to COMP/LT TRNG

**Aparna Reddy De Weever**

COMP/NE/OJT to Peru/JOS

**Scott J. Dempsey**

Afghanistan/OD to COMP/FS/  
REASSIGN

**Victor De Leon Diaz**

SM/MAO to M/OMS

**Alexander Dickie IV**

ME/IR to Iraq/OMD

**Aman S. Djahanbani**

Peru/D to Pakistan/OD

**Clinton L. Doggett Jr.**

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to OAPA/  
SPME

**Elizabeth A. Dooghan**

Asia/SCAA to OAPA/PAK

**Joseph L. Dorsey**

Morocco/MO to HR/FSP/SP

**Colin C. Dreizin**

COMP/NE/OJT to Dominican  
Republic/JOS

**Michelle S. Dworkin**

Egypt/PO to Afghanistan/OPPD

**Deborah Eason**

HR/FSP/SP to HR/ELR

**Ronald Edwards**

Russia/FM to Uganda/CONT

**Amr H. Elattar**

Uganda/CONT to Dominican  
Republic/OFM

**Mervyn A. Farroe**

Haiti/PCPS to Kenya/PE

**Amy R. Fawcett**

El Salvador/CONT to Ethiopia/  
CONT

**Jason D. Fraser**

Dominican Republic/DIR to  
Ethiopia/D

**Susan Kosinski Fritz**

Kosovo/DIR to SM/DIR

**Kurt A. Gainer**

SA/RPPDO to EGAT/EG/EPG

**A. Camille Garcia**

Caucasus to Afghanistan

**Benjamin Garrett**

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to Egypt/JOS

**Bruce Gelband**

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to West  
Bank/Gaza

**Jason A. Girard**

Colombia to Peru/OFA

**Michelle A. Godette**

GC/ANE to Nigeria

**Monika A. Gorzelanska**

Ghana/PPD to Caucasus

**Mary K. Graham**

COMP/NE/OJT to Nicaragua/JOS

**Ronald J. Greenberg**

AFR/SD/EGEA to Nigeria

**Walter L. Hammond**

Rwanda to Sudan/FMO

**James Harmon**

AFR/SA to Pakistan/OD

**Carl L. Harris**

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to  
Afghanistan/OD

**Margaret M. Harritt**

EGAT/PR/UP to ME/IR

**Daniel Harter**

COMP/NE/OJT to Kenya/JOS

**Michael T. Harvey**

SM/DIR to West Bank/Gaza

**Renee Yvette Howell**

COMP/NE/OJT to Afghanistan/  
OPPD

**Michael H. Hryshchshyn**

COMP/FSLT to Russia/D

**William Cullen Hughes**

Macedonia to Macedonia/JOS

**Michael Scott Jackson**

COMP/NE/OJT to Angola/JOS

**Whitney E. Jensen Rodrigues**

COMP/NE/OJT to Mozambique/  
PDM

**F. Catherine Johnson**

DCHA/DG to Pakistan/OD

**Michael L. Jones**

Caucasus to Caucasus/JOS

**Han Kang**

Zambia/D to Nepal/HFP

**Joshua Karnes**

Senegal/HPN to DROC

**Maurice P. Kent**

M/OAA/GRO to AA/PPL

**Sepideh Keyvanshad**

COMP/DETAIL/SUP to COMP/LT  
TRNG

**Ronald R. Kryk**

Afghanistan/OD to USAID REP/  
Vietnam

**Susan K. Kutor**

Ukraine/JOPA to Afghanistan/OD

**Christopher J. La Fargue**

West Bank/Gaza to DCHA/OTI

**Warren D. Leishman**

GC/LAC to Ethiopia/EXO

**John Joseph Liebner**

Indonesia to Colombia

**Eugene Lin**

West Bank/Gaza to Afghanistan

**Harry Lipper**

RDMA to Iraq

**Kurt P. Low**

Sudan/PROG to East Africa/OD

**Luis A. Maes**

Peru/JOS to Mexico

**Peter A. Malnak**

Sudan/OMD to COMP/LT TRNG

**Jerry Marcus**

Egypt/PPS to Colombia

**John R. Martin**

Russia to Macedonia

**Thomas P. McAndrews**

EGAT/PR/MD to El Salvador/SO1

**Christopher B. McDermott**

Liberia to Afghanistan/OD

**Paul G. McDermott**

Afghanistan/OD to COMP/FS/  
REASSIGN

**Andrew McKim**

West Bank/Gaza/JOPA to West  
Bank/Gaza

**Scott S. McKissock**

Asia/SPO to OAPA/SPME

**Robyn E. Melzig**

Asia/SCAA to OAPA/SPME

**Peter C. Mohan**

DCHA/FFP to East Africa

**Frank Monticello**

COMP/NE/OJT to Bangladesh/  
OFM

**Hanh Nguyen**

COMP/NE/OJT to RSC/OD

**Donald L. Niss**

COMP/LT TRNG to OAPA/SPME

**Charles E. North**

AA/Asia to Russia/D

**Patrick O'Brien**

HR/FSP/SP to HR/ELR

**Elizabeth E. Palmer**

Jordan/FM to Pakistan/OD

**Mark H. Parkison**

Afghanistan/PFNP to Jordan/SSO

**John R. Pasch**

COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/PSD

**Sharon Pauling**

Pakistan/OD to Nigeria

**Cyndee C. Pelt**

Charleston, SC to FA/COO/AFR

**John A. Pennell**

Afghanistan/OD to CA/DO

**Leslie C. Petersen**

COMP/NE/OJT to El Salvador/EXO

**Malcom Phelps**

COMP/NE/OJT to OAPA/TS

**Suzanne M. Poland**

Ethiopia/FHA to Afghanistan/OD

**Kristin A. Poore**

CA/DM to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

**Thomas E. Rhodes**

Ecuador/GD to Jordan/WRE

**Tim C. Riedler**

Iraq/OMD to Russia/D

**Mariella Ruiz Rodriguez**

COMP/NE/OJT to West Bank/  
Gaza

**Nadja Ruzica**

AA/Asia to OAPA/OD

**Allison E. Salyer**

Asia/SCAA to OAPA/SPME

**Michael G. Sampson**

Sri Lanka/D to Kosovo/EXO

**William B. Schaeffer**

DCHA/OFDA to CA

**Adam P. Schmidt**

COMP/NE/OJT to Afghanistan/  
ODG

**Jennifer Lee Scott**

West Africa/REO to SM/MAO

**Nathaniel Scott**

COMP/NE/OJT to Uganda/JOS

**Ken A. Seifert**

COMP/NE/OJT to Honduras/JOS

**Padmaja Shetty**

Ukraine/JOPA to Afghanistan/PFNP

**Charles Signer**

SA/RAAO to East Africa/CON

**Jaidev Singh**

Afghanistan/OD to COMP/FS/  
REASSIGN

**Kristine K. Smathers**

GH/SPBO to Pakistan/EXO

**Michael B. Stewart**

Pakistan/EXO to Kosovo/EXO

**Jane E. Strachan**

Ethiopia to DCHA/OFDA

**Sheryl A. Stumbras**

COMP/NE/OJT to Zimbabwe/PDIS

**Ravindral Suaris**

COMP/FS/REASSIGN to OAPA/  
SPME

**Zdenek L. Suda**

Asia/SCAA to Rwanda

**Littleton Tazewell**

Panama/D to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

**Danielle Tedesco**

COMP/NE/OJT to Uganda/JOS

**Mark Herman Tegenfeldt**

COMP/NE/OJT to DROC/JOS

**Cara Thanassi**

Colombia to Peru/OHR

**J. Alexander Thier**

HR/CSP/ST to OAPA/OD

**Penelope A. Thomas-Attar**

Bangladesh/EXO to Dominican  
Republic/EXO

**Rodney E. Thompson**

COMP/NE/OJT to Colombia/JOS

**Amy Tohill Stull**

Zimbabwe/PDIS to Jordan/PM

**Michael A. Trueblood**

COMP/NE/OJT to DROC

**Lynn N. Vega**

Colombia to COMP/FS/REASSIGN

**John D. Vernon**

SA/RFMO to Jordan/FM

**Dennis Wesner**

COMP/NE/OJT to CA/JOS

**Amy F. Wielkoszewski**

COMP/NE/OJT to India/JOS

**Andrew K.G. Williams**

COMP/NE/OJT to East Africa/JOS

**Elizabeth M. Willis**

COMP/NE/OJT to Senegal/JOS

**Alonzo A. Wind**

Nigeria to Iraq/CBO

**Monica P. Wisner**

COMP/NE/OJT to Peru/JOS

**Brian K. Wittnebel**

COMP/NE/OJT to USAID REP/  
Vietnam

**RETIRED****Ben Barber**

Christopher J. Barltrop

Caroljo Rushin Elron

Thomas J. Johnstone Jr.

Angela Lord

Steffi E. Meyer

Desaix B. Myers III

Francesca Nelson

Son H. Nguyen

Christopher O'Donnell

Magdalena C. Reynolds

**MOVED ON**

Grant W. Anderson Jr.

Dorothy M. Awosika

Heather Benucci

Alison Bird

Jess Bratton

Stephen Brown

Sara Buchanan

Patricia K. Buckles

Thomas Carpenter

Kathleen D. Conroy

Rebecca A. Dobbins

Michael E. Doctor

Corwin V. Edwards Jr.

Philip M. Gary



Pam White, right, at the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare

## Liberia Fetes Beloved Mission Director-turned-Ambassador, Pam White

By Justin Prud'homme

The departure of a USAID mission director is not an unusual event in Liberia. Since the Agency was formed in 1961, there has been a USAID mission in Liberia, and in the 50 years since, with periods of absence during the civil war, a long line of aid chiefs have come to the West African nation to steer the course for a few years, and then leave.

As the head of the largest donor organization in the country, the USAID mission director is a highly visible and very public figure and, as such, end of tours are usually accompanied

by farewell dinners and exit briefings with government officials. Even so, the outpouring of gratitude and sentiment over Pam White's Liberian departure has been anything but usual.

Previously the USAID mission director in Mali and Tanzania, White came to Liberia in 2008 and immediately put her 30 years of experience in Africa to use. During her tenure in Liberia, White oversaw a rapid expansion of the mission staff and budget. Under her leadership, the Agency delivered significant impact to the fragile post-conflict country—the

first 2,000 teacher-trainee graduates in 20 years were certified; textbooks were donated and distributed to every Liberian student in the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades nationwide; enough mosquito nets were distributed to ensure protection for 80 percent of the population; and an accelerated contract was awarded to double the government's power-generation capacity by Dec. 31, 2010.

White recently left Liberia to take up the post of American ambassador to The Gambia, the first female USAID mission director to become ambassador

to an African country. During her time in Liberia, White's constant energy and unshakeable passion have endeared her not only to government officials and heads of other donor agencies, but to the public at large, reflected in the Liberian media's celebration of her achievements and character.

"Miss White, during her time in Liberia, was the personification of her country's aid for international development. She knew the needs of a country digging itself out of the ashes of war, and she did not hesitate in directing her country's aid where it was most needed to the schools, among the youths, in the villages among the poor and providing mosquito nets to prevent the spread of malaria," said an editorial in Liberia's *Daily Observer* newspaper on November 2, before going on to say, "She rolled up her sleeves, identified our needs and together with her collaborators at the American Embassy, they provided the necessities that have ignited once again the engines putting us on the development track."

The article ended: "May the U.S. government be inspired to send us more of such committed and dedicated aid workers, who use their talents to cement the ties of friendship and cooperation between countries in the promotion of world peace. Perhaps we ought to name a training institute or library after Pamela White." ★

## IN MEMORIAM

**Susan May Bacheller**, 52, died Oct. 20 in Falls Church, Va. She was the tuberculosis team leader in USAID's Bureau for Global Health from 1997 to 2000 and from 2002 to 2010. In her position, Bacheller helped build USAID's tuberculosis portfolio and the U.S. global tuberculosis strategy. From 2000 to 2002, she worked in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Bacheller was also a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, serving as a nurse midwife in Yemen from 1993 to 1994 and as a child survival specialist in Honduras from 1994 to 1995. Bacheller received a nursing degree from Mercy Central School of Nursing in Grand Rapids, Mich., a bachelor's degree in political science from Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Mich., and a master's degree in international development from American University in Washington, D.C.

**Aubrey F. Mills**, 74, died Sept. 22 in Cottonwood, Ariz. Mills began his career working for the Veterans Administration as a management analyst, and joined USAID in 1967 in a similar role. From 1969 to 1971, he was the chief of USAID's management analysis branch in Saigon, Vietnam. Mills returned to Washington as a supervisory management analyst from 1971 to 1974. He became the Agency's designated liaison with the General Accounting Office from 1974 to 1979. Mills also served as a supervisory auditor at USAID headquarters in Washington from 1979 to 1983. His final post was in Manila as a management auditor for the Philippines mission from 1983 to 1987. After his retirement in 1988, Mills became a consultant and reviewed financial management operations for USAID and the State Department. Mills received a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California at Berkeley in 1961 and a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University in 1965. Mills served in the U.S. Air Force from 1954 to 1958 as a Russian language specialist stationed in Germany. ★

CONFERENCE from page 1



Moussa Doumbia, left, and Richard Nyberg, development outreach and communications officers from Mali and Vietnam, respectively, swap stories from the field.

from ABC News, MBC TV, Foreign Policy's *The Cable*, and Reuters was a positive media experience for the DOCs. The journalistic nature of the DOC function and the increasing interaction with media require that we reach out to U.S. audiences effectively. The conference served as a link with respected media voices.

I never took social media seriously before the conference. I have since realized it is one of the most powerful modern communications tools. I "tweeted" for the first time during the DOC conference—in fact, I had never even heard of Twitter—and I am looking for ways to use Twitter to communicate to the Malian community

about upcoming USAID events and activities. A major take-away for me is that the Agency is continuously striving to find ways to incorporate social media—blogs, Twitter, Facebook, etc.—into our communication efforts, and I will do my best to do the same in Mali.

Finally, I walked out of the DOC conference with a sense that, thanks to the useful tools and amount of information gathered, I will conduct communications in my mission differently. I feel empowered and energized more than ever before to make a difference as an FSN DOC communicating USAID's message abroad. Kudos to the organizers and panelists! ★

### Correction

In a page 1 story in the October *Insider* entitled "New Leaders Join Agency," Nisha Desai Biswal worked at USAID as a special assistant to Administrator J. Brian Atwood. The story listed Atwood's name incorrectly.