

THE FOREIGN SERVICE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2014



THE NEW SPECIALISTS

FLYING MONKEYS
IN THE EMBASSY

WORKING WITH WOMEN
IN AFGHANISTAN



A USAID History Lesson

On July 14, the U.S. Agency for International Development hosted the daughter of one of the first African-American Foreign Service officers to serve in its ranks.

Dorothy Davis, daughter of Griffith J. Davis, made a presentation at a brown bag lunch on USAID's history from the perspective of someone who served at the time of its creation.

The event was sponsored by USAID's Office of the Administrator and the Office of Civil Rights and Diversity, in partnership with the Blacks in Government Employee Resource Group.

Griffith J. Davis joined the U.S. Foreign Service in the early 1950s, becoming one of the pioneers of President Harry Truman's Point Four Program for foreign aid,

the forerunner of the present-day USAID.

Dorothy Davis spoke about her father's work, drawing from a report he wrote at the conclusion of his four-year mission to



Dorothy Davis at USAID.

Liberia in 1957. Griffith Davis was also a skilled photojournalist and had worked as a correspondent for *Ebony* magazine, among other publications. He used this talent in his Foreign Service career to convey information on situations in the field.

In addition to serving



Griffith J. Davis took this photo when he served in Liberia in 1952. The iron ore railroad was supported by President Truman's Point Four Program.

in Liberia, Davis's career included posts in Tunisia and Nigeria. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1985, and died in 1993.

Ms. Davis presented USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah with a vintage photograph her father took while in Liberia (which tied for second place in the 2011 USAID/*Frontlines* 50th-anniversary

photo contest). The photo depicts a Liberian woman walking alongside an iron ore train; the railroad system in Liberia was supported by the Point Four Program.

Also attending the event were USAID Counselor Susan Reichle and AFSA Vice President Sharon Wayne. ■

—Chioma Dike,
USAID Staff Assistant

NEWS BRIEF

AFSA HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING FOR STATE CONSTITUENCY

AFSA's priorities, plans and progress were presented to AFSA's State Department constituency in a town hall meeting with AFSA President Robert J. Silverman and State Vice President Matthew Asada.

The "AFSA Mid-Term Review," held on Aug. 21 at AFSA headquarters, gave active-duty State members the chance to hear from their constituency vice president and president over lunch. Silverman opened the well-attended meeting, possibly the first of its kind ever held at AFSA, and encouraged the audience to ask questions and participate in the discussion, as the event was also an opportunity for AFSA to solicit feedback and comments.

Asada then took the floor and outlined the agenda for the meeting. He began with AFSA's 2013-2015 Strategic Plan, which outlines priorities and guides AFSA's efforts. Silverman followed with remarks on advocacy and a review of AFSA's work on a number of issues, including overseas comparability pay and the ambassadorial confirmations.

Asada concluded with a discussion of AFSA's outreach efforts, including the annual report, the quarterly State VP updates and surveys and webinars. A lively question-and-answer session followed. To see a video recording of the entire event, visit www.afsa.org/video.