My Year as a Jefferson Science Fellow at USAID

Peter Hirst
What is the purpose of JSF?

JSF announced Oct 8, 2003 to establish:

“a new model for engaging the American academic science, technology, engineering, and medical communities in the formulation and implementation of U.S. foreign policy and international development programming.”

Jefferson Science Fellows spend one year on assignment at the U.S. Department of State or USAID as science advisors on foreign policy/international development issues.
Who are the fellows?

JSFs by discipline

- Biochemistry
- Mathematics
- Food Science
- Social science
- Agriculture/Forestry
- Computer Science
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Biology
- Geography/Env/Earth
- Medical/Vet
- Engineering
Why apply for JSF?

• Gain first-hand understanding of government
• Experience policy-making, intl. development practice
• Have an impact on US foreign policy and implementation
• Gain different perspective than academia
• Develop networks within federal agencies
A few nuts and bolts

- Must be a tenured scientist, technologist, engineer or physician
- Must be U.S. citizen
- Program is overseen by STASS
- Salary paid by home institution
- MOU signed between university and NAS
- Living allowance paid through NAS
- One year on-site assignment in Washington DC (may involve extended stays at US foreign embassies or missions)
- Federal security clearance required
- Purdue has had more JSFs than any other university
Selection based on

• **Stature, recognition**, and experience in the national and international scientific or engineering community

• Ability to rapidly and accurately **understand scientific advancements** both within and outside their discipline area and to effectively integrate this knowledge into U.S. Department of State and USAID policy discussions

• Ability to **articulate science and technology** to the non-specialist/general public

• **Benefit** of the fellowship to the applicant and the applicant's university

• **Related experience** which may positively influence the success of the applicant in this fellowship
What did I actually do?

- Very little within my area of academic expertise!
- Youth development
- Provided input on new starts, other programs
- Grant panels / evaluating proposals
- Employment framework – E3
- Attended many seminars – IPs, missions
- Reviewed docs – internal white papers, talking points
- Attended workshops / trainings (talent management is big)
USAID Organizational Chart

Administrator
Deputy Administrator/Chief Operating Officer
Chief of Staff

Chief Information Officer
Senior Procurement Executive
Chief Financial Officer

Office of Inspector General
Executive Secretariat
Office of the General Counsel

Office of Budget and Resource Management
Office of Security
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
Office of Civil Rights and Diversity
Office of Human Capital and Talent Management

Bureau for Food Security
Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance
Bureau for Global Health
Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning
Bureau for Foreign Assistance
U.S. Global Development Lab
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs
Bureau for Management

Bureau for Africa
Bureau for Europe and Eurasia
Bureau for Asia
Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs
Bureau for Middle East
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

FIELD OFFICES OVERSEAS

~4,000 employees
### 5 largest programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity ID</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>161909</td>
<td>Global Health Supply Chain - Procurement and Supply Management (GSHC-PSM)</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Chemonics International, Inc.</td>
<td>$697,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>137761</td>
<td>Contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM)</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</td>
<td>$440,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>163257</td>
<td>Cash Transfer</td>
<td>Government and Civil Society</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Government of Jordan</td>
<td>$412,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>165068</td>
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<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria</td>
<td>$277,905,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>164193</td>
<td>Title II - WFP</td>
<td>Emergency Response</td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
<td>Multilateral - United Nations Organization</td>
<td>$206,430,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Largest ag. Program (# 38)

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<th>Activity ID</th>
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<th>Implementing Agency</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>154096</td>
<td>CGIAR Fund grant with the World Bank</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>U.S. Agency for International Development</td>
<td>CGIAR</td>
<td>$47,783,549</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
U.S. GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

[Logos of various U.S. government agencies]
USAID

- Intelligent, engaged, hard-working, passionate people (but don’t expect an email response after 5:30 pm)
- Highly collaborative
- Well travelled – frequent TDY
- Strong interaction between WDC and missions
- High staff turnover – FSO, NGO
- Geographically dispersed
- Focused on programs that make a difference
- Engaged with Congress
- Career potential
A few reflections:

- Purdue not particularly visible at USAID (apart from PICS bags)
- People are very busy – many programs
- Budgetary constraints
- Minimal staff support
- People are passionate
- Research vs M&E
- Apolitical

JSF applications due Oct 31