

USAID Alumni Association

April 2014 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Tuesday, May 6 (10:00 am to 12:00 pm): "Financing Urban Infrastructure in Latin America." As part of the urban series, the UAA and the International Housing Coalition, in partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Center, are hosting this seminar. The panels will be moderated by David Painter, former Director of Housing and Urban Programs at USAID. This event will be held at the Woodrow Wilson Center, which is located in the Ronald Reagan Building.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 (12 Noon-2pm): UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue- Charles Kenny, Center for Global Development, "The Upside of Down: The Rise of the Rest is Good for the West." DACOR is located at: 1801 F St NW, Washington, DC. See recent email for new more interactive format for this talk.

Sunday, May 18, 2014 (5:30-7:30 pm): UAA Spring Gathering at DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F St NW, Washington, DC. Current USAID Mission Directors have also been invited.

June 13, 2014 (12 noon to 2pm): UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - Senator Tim Wirth, United Nations Foundation, "The Politics of Climate Change." DACOR is located at: 1801 F St NW, Washington, DC.

August 9, 2014: Third Annual UAA Summer Picnic, Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA.

New on USAIDALUMNI.org

- **Take note:** Both of the UAA conversation series, the UAA/DACOR Dialogues and Friday Mornings, are **now being recorded either in video or audio**. The full archive of the media available sessions is located [here](#).
- Since the last newsletter, the **UAA Friday Morning** series has had three very interesting and well-attended sessions. The first of these featured **John Sanbrailo** who spoke on "**Extending the American Revolution Overseas: Little-Known Origins of U.S. Foreign Assistance and Their Lessons for Today.**" The next session, led by **Peter Davis and Cindy Clapp-Wincek**, was a **review of the current state of evaluation in the State Department and USAID**. Finally, former USAID Chief Scientist **Alex Dehgan** and Indonesia Mission Director **Andy Sisson** provided an overview of the **reinvention of science and technology at USAID**. Most recently, on April 25 **Beth Cole**, USAID's Director of the Office of Civilian-Military Cooperation and two colleagues, gave an interesting talk titled "**Two to Tango: USAID - DoD Cooperation in a Complex World.**"
- The **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue** also has been busy. **Geoffrey Lamb** of the Gates Foundation spoke on "**Rethinking Development Assistance for the Post-Aid World.**" **Maria Otero**, founder of Accion and former USAID staffer,

discussed **structural challenges that make collaboration between State and USAID difficult.**

- Read an update on the expanded and extended **[UAA/USAID Mentorship Program](#)**.
- The **[Where in the World](#)** section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. was updated through the end of March.
- See what's new on the **[UAA Event Calendar](#)**.
- Take a look at the results of the **[recent Annual Membership Survey](#)**.
- In the **[Forum](#)**, view 1) the obituaries of a number of recently deceased colleagues, 2) a Raj Shah note on the Agency's new Mission statement and core values, 3) an opportunity to test how well you might do on the current Foreign Service Exam, and 4) a letter to the Agency from Shah on the launch of the U.S. Global Development Lab.
- Read **[Articles](#)** about 1) QDDR II and the related issues of debate, 2) the link between growth and governance for inclusive development (by alumnus Jim Michel), 3) the hunger strike of Cuba prisoner/USAID consultant Alan Gross, 4) USAID's use of local businesses and banks to fight poverty, 5) USAID's secret Cuba Twitter program, 6) the (denied) rumor of Raj Shah's becoming the U.S. Ambassador to India, 7) State IG's criticism of the OTI-redundant State Department Conflict Bureau, and 8) continued concerns about African demographic issues.
- In the **[Web Links](#)** section, take a look at a new interactive map of global remittances and the latest edition of Front Lines.

Do you have news, an article or event you would like to share? Please send it to **office@usaidalumni.org** or, better still, post it on the **[Forum](#)**.

Looking for someone with a USAID alumni background and skills to hire or volunteer? Express that interest on **usaidalumni.org**. If you would like to post a job or volunteer opportunity, please email us at **office@usaidalumni.org**, Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

Update: UAA/USAID Mentoring Program

With a class of 16 new mentors and mentees, the program now has a total of 29 active pairs. The new round of mentoring has broadened the geographical coverage of the program to include: 6 pairs from Latin America and 5 from Africa, as well as pairs in Europe & Eurasia, PPL and Global Health. Bureau coordinators have been doing an excellent job, taking initiative for keeping track of what's happening in each of the mentor/mentee arrangements and managing initial introductions of mentors and mentees.

There is a pressing need for more Strengthening USAID Committee members to help monitor more closely the expanded mentoring program. Optimally, the Committee would like to have at least one of its members for each participating bureau - Africa, LAC, E&E, etc. If you would like to participate in this interesting and important program, please contact either Jerry Wood (**jerryjwood@gmail.com**) or Marilyn Schmidt (**schmidtmarilynn@aol.com**).

RSVP Today! UAA Spring Reception on Sunday, May 18

Join fellow alumni, former colleagues, and USAID Senior Staff and Mission Directors on May 18 at the

2014 UAA Spring Reception

Sunday, May 18, 2014
5:30 - 7:30 pm

DACOR Bacon House
1801 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Refreshments will be provided.

RSVP to office@usaidalumni.org by May 9, 2014

The 2013 Spring Reception was an enormous success, bringing together over 80 alumni at the residence of Nancy and John Pielemeier to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the founding of the USAID Alumni Association. The USAID Alumni Association looks forward to seeing all alumni who are able to make it to this year's reception at Dacor House.

UAA to Honor Two Outstanding Alumni at 2014 AGM

As inspiration to others, **UAA is launching a search for two truly innovative and outstanding "Alumni of the Year"** who have made unusual and significant contributions since leaving USAID. One recipient will be honored for paid or volunteer work overseas, and the other for work in the US. The awards will be presented at UAA's Annual General Meeting on Oct. 24, 2014, at the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC.

To nominate a friend or colleague or apply yourself, email awards@usaidalumni.org describing what you or your nominee have done since leaving USAID that represents innovative and transformative service in development work overseas, or in community work or the arts in the US. Tell us about the impact of the contribution and why it might be inspiring to other USAID alumni or those contemplating life after USAID. Include contact information and if possible a brief narrative bio covering both USAID and post-USAID activities. If nominating yourself, please include the names of two references knowledgeable about your post-USAID contributions.

The deadline for nominations and applications is July 1, 2014.

Applicants/nominees must be US residents able to attend the UAA AGM on Oct. 24, 2014, in Washington, DC. UAA can help defray travel expenses for winners who live outside the Washington area. Applicants/nominees must also be in one of the categories eligible to join UAA:

- Those who worked for USAID for at least two years and who left the agency in good standing, including:
 - Former Civil Servants, FSOs, FSNs, TCNs, AD and Schedule C appointees; and
 - Those formerly employed through interagency service agreements (PASAs, RASAs), fellowship programs (e.g. AAAS Fellows, Population Fellows), and personal services contracts (PSCs).

The awards will celebrate the new paths taken by two outstanding alumni who may have built on their USAID experience and skills but who've chosen to work in different arenas, with different partner organizations, or on their own. The recipients will also have shown passion for new activities and made significant and lasting contributions.

Alumni Groups Gather in North Carolina

North Carolina took the lead in 2014 with gatherings of locally-based USAID Alumni! UAA has almost 40 registered Alumni in the state, and the Membership Committee has encouraged some casual events.

At the end of January, Sharon Epstein, recently returned from a long-term assignment in Afghanistan, organized a group in the Chapel Hill area for a luncheon at the Weathervane Restaurant. The group included Barbara Kennedy, Liz Maguire, Barbara Crane and Sharon Epstein. Nancy Piet-Pelon, David Piet, and Judy and John Hansen and others who were not able to attend look forward to another occasion.

In late February, former USAID Pakistan colleagues who live in the western part of the state lunched at Season's Restaurant at the Highland Lake Inn in Flat Rock (see photo below). Alumni included (l to r) Marcy Buchan, Brent Schaeffer, Andy and Kitty Herriott, David Esch, Linda and John Martin, and Sylvia Stewart. David and Sylvia joined from Greenville, South Carolina. Brent's wife Faith was still in Bangkok on evacuation status from her USAID assignment in South Sudan.



A subset of that group joined about 30 USAID and State retirees the following day at the Chestnut restaurant in downtown Asheville. USAID retiree Harry Petrequin and his wife Katharane who live in Black Mountain also participated.

Please send us news of your state and local Alumni gatherings to share in our newsletter!

Alumni Profile: Sharon Epstein

Sharon Epstein has had a very interesting life before, during and after her time in USAID.

Her career began with nine years in the U.N. Fund for Population Activities. Although the typical U.N. agency at the time employed only about 2% women, UNFPA had about 45% young, committed professional women who were encouraged and supported by senior management especially her mentor Dr. Nafis Sadik. Sharon opened the first UNFPA office in Bangladesh in 1972 as UNFPA Field Coordinator to that country and managed its \$10 million program. She then went on to become the UNFPA Regional Coordinator in the South Pacific and Papua New Guinea and then became Coordinator in Pakistan.

In 1984, Steve Sinding and Michael Jordan encouraged Sharon to join USAID. She began in the Bureau of Science and Technology and then moved to the Asia Bureau. She subsequently served in Bangladesh where she was Director for Population and Health.



In 1989, Sharon returned to the U.S. to care for her parents. While in Washington, she served in the Africa, Asia and Latin America/Caribbean Bureaus. Still unable to accept overseas postings because of family responsibilities, she resigned from the Agency in 1997.

During the next four years, she led the Focus on Young Adults Program, a USAID-funded Pathfinder International project addressing adolescent reproductive health. Following her parents' deaths, she became Director of the Healthy Women in Georgia Project, a USAID-funded John Snow reproductive health project based in the Imereti region of Georgia, roughly four and a half hours from the capital, Tblisi.

Sharon then worked as a consultant in international health, as she has at intervals throughout her career. In 2009, she was reappointed to the Foreign Service in USAID and served as Team Leader for Health in Nigeria and, most recently, in Afghanistan.

Sharon retired to Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 2013 and now spends quality time with her many friends, including pooch-sitting for Marco Polo who belongs to a friend. She has recently organized a reunion of USAID Alumni in North Carolina. Like other retirees who are not entirely retired, Sharon "keeps her oar in" as a consultant in international health and development.

Alumni are not only in the D. C. area but scattered across the country and overseas. We would be pleased to share your latest news with former colleagues in the upcoming newsletters. Brief and breezy is the style we enjoy. Alumni interested in sharing what they are up to are encouraged to send a paragraph or two to office@usaidalumni.org

USAID Alumni Association

Make Your 2014 Membership Contribution!

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward this email](#)

 SafeUnsubscribe™

This email was sent to office@usaidalumni.org by office@usaidalumni.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

