



USAID Alumni Association

December 6, 2014

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 11:30 am to 2:00 pm - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "The New Geopolitics of Energy" Presentation by **Ambassador Carlos Pascual**. He served as U.S. Ambassador in Mexico (2009-2011) and Ukraine (2000-2003). As Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, he established and directed (2011-2014) the State Department's Energy Resources Bureau and was the senior advisor to the Secretary of State on global energy diplomacy. He also spent 12 years in leadership roles with USAID.

RSVP to intern@dacorbacon.org, cc to ashakow@comcast.net

****Note:** The program originally scheduled for December 17 - "International Family Planning: Where we have been and where we are going" by Scott Radloff - will now take place at a future date, probably in March, 2015

Friday, January 16, 2015: 11:30 am to 2:00 pm - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "What are the priorities for US foreign aid reform?" **George Ingram**, long-time aid expert on Capitol Hill and USAID deputy assistant administrator, is now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. His talk is designed to spark a conversation and elicit additional ideas from the participants on a renewed development aid reform agenda. (For further background see his recent blog post <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/up-front/posts/2014/07/23-modernizing-us-foreign-assistance-ingram>.)

Friday, January 23, 2015: 10:00 to 12 noon - John Sanbrailo - "History of Foreign Assistance - 1950 - 2015." Part 2 of John's in depth study of aid history. Gabriela Mistral Conference Room, Terrace Level of the OAS Building at 1889 "F" Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

New on USAIDALUMNI.org

- Read about the outstanding October 24 **[UAA Annual General Meeting](#)**. If you like, click on recordings of the plenary sessions or a small photo gallery of the event.
- Take a look at the **[new UAA Board and Executive Committee](#)** and their various responsibilities.
- On August 1, the **[UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue](#)** hosted a presentation by **[Ambassador Fredrick "Rick" Barton](#)** who spoke on the topic of "**[Managing Foreign Policy in a Messy World](#)**." You can listen to it **[here](#)**.
- In **[Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#)**, there are a number newly posted job/volunteer opportunities.
- See what's new on the **[UAA Event Calendar](#)**.
- In the **[Forum](#)**, view 1) the obituaries of several recently deceased colleagues, 2) the announcement of new books by alumnus Robert Gaul and Lu Rudel.
- Read **[Articles](#)** about 1) how African countries are not achieving Millennium Development Goals, 2) USAID promoted innovation in attacking Ebola, 3) the use of investment criteria for selection of development activities, 4) USAID's Nancy Lindborg's selection as head of the U.S. Peace Institute, 5) the negative impact of oversight on development programs, 6), a Raj Shah interview on the Ebola crisis, 7) discussion of a prisoner swap with Cuba to free Alan Gross, 8) an assessment of USAID morale, 9) accusations that USAID's IG has been too generous in editing its findings, 10) the latest aid transparency index, 11) who is leading the USG's Ebola effort, and 12) 50 years of USAID work on global health.
- In the **[Web Links](#)** section, take a look at the most recent 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 as a volunteer? If you would like to post a job or volunteer opportunity, please email us at **office@usaidalumni.org**,
Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

Feedback wanted on UAA proposed activities for 2015-2016

As 2014 draws to the close, the UAA Executive Committee is in the process of reviewing 2014 accomplishments and setting priorities for 2015. We want to hear your thoughts on the Association's priorities and welcome your suggestions as we look forward to the new year. In the coming weeks, we will circulate a brief survey in order to better gauge alumni interests in priorities, and encourage everyone to take a look through the 2014 Report to Members for a review of 2014 activities and proposed activities for 2015-2016.

[Click here to read the 2014 Report to Members](#)

You also can review the **[2014-2016 UAA Strategic Plan](#)** on the UAA Website by **[clicking here](#)**.

Again, we welcome your feedback and ideas and encourage you to send any thoughts you have to the Executive Committee at: **executivecommittee@usaidalumni.org**

Recapping the 2014 UAA Annual General Meeting

The 2014 USAID Alumni Association Annual General Meeting, held on Friday, October 24, 2014 at the Center for Global Development, was a great success. The meeting drew together over 100 alumni with panelists from USAID and CGD, among other development organizations, for an engaging series of panels centered on the theme of Innovation and development at USAID.

Programming also included remarks from Former USAID Administrator Peter McPherson, Current USAID Deputy Administrator Alfonso E. Lenhardt, and USAID Counselor Susan Reichle. You can read more about the 2014 Annual General Meeting, including summaries of panel discussions and remarks, in the [**Report on the 2014 USAID Alumni Association Annual Meeting.**](#)

The UAA awarded its **1st Annual Alumni Award(s)** to three inspiring alumni and wishes to congratulate:

In the primarily international category: Anne Dammarell
In the primarily domestic category: Mary Kilgour and Satish Shah

You can read more about all three awardees in this newsletter.

To view a photo gallery of AGM highlights, [**click here.**](#) [**Listen here**](#) to the AGM opening plenary, including Peter McPherson's keynote presentation. To hear the closing plenary, including the presentation of the Alumni of the Year awards, [**click here**](#) . To read a special report by John Sanbrailo on the history of USAID involvement with the private sector, [**click here**](#) .

The UAA has accomplished a great deal over the past year and has exciting plans for the future. You can read about this in the **Report to Members on Activities in 2014 and on Proposed Activities in 2015-16 to Achieve Progress Toward UAA Strategic Goals.**

[Click here to read the 2014 Report to Members](#)

We strongly encourage all alumni to read through the report and welcome your feedback via email to [**executivecommittee@usaidalumni.org**](mailto:executivecommittee@usaidalumni.org).

Learn more about the 2014 UAA Alumni Award Winners



From left to right: Mary Kilgour, Satish Shah, and Anne Dammarell

Anne Dammarell

Winner, 2014 UAA Alumni Award - International category

Anne Dammarell retired from USAID's Foreign Service in 1988, having worked in participant training and later as a program officer. Since then she has volunteered on three different continents. First, in Egypt she taught for three years with the Maryknoll brothers, who had set up an English language program in the Coptic Catholic Seminary in Maadi, Cairo, as part of their post-elementary education for young seminarians, primarily farmers from Upper Egypt. She later returned to Egypt for three summers, 1991-93 to teach at the Maryknoll English program for the seminarians in Alexandria.

In the 1990's, Anne taught English to Latino immigrants at the Sacred Heart Center in Adams Morgan and to several immigrant neighbors she befriended who needed to improve their language skills. She also earned a M.A. degree in Middle East Studies at Georgetown University, studied theology at the Washington Theological Union, and volunteered at the White House answering mail.

Between 2000 and 2007, Anne volunteered at the Sitar Arts Center in Adams Morgan, a project to advance critical life skills of underserved children and youth through visual, performing and digital arts education that is not available in the public schools. These children of poor working parents came to the Center for classes and practice after public school classes were finished. Volunteers and major organizations contributed equipment, musical instruments and instruction, and a variety of performance and technical training. Anne taught the children writing, play composition, knitting and more English. She also held classes for mothers and grandmothers who came to escort the children home, in English and literacy, and even basic creative writing for some.

In 2011 the Maryknoll Brothers again asked Anne to teach English, this time to Buddhist monks at a Wat located in a working area of Bangkok. She volunteered for 3-month periods each year between 2011 and the spring of 2014. She taught both monks and laity ranging from young students and workers to retired men and women. With few exceptions these are a poor and underserved population with little access to education, but with ambition and a strong desire to

learn. Buddhist monks value education and wish to prepare for a working life outside the monkhood. Anne taught novices and young monks from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Burma as well as Thailand, between the ages of 14 and 21. Many were selected by their communities based on perceived potential; most were expected to leave the monkhood and return to work in their countries. Those who remain monks frequently teach English to other monks.

The overarching purpose of these volunteer efforts has been to address the needs of the poor and marginalized, to help them individually through access to education, and therefore to find better employment and contribute to the common good of society as a whole.

Mary Kilgour

Winner, 2014 UAA Alumni Award - Domestic category

Mary Kilgour retired from USAID in 1996 after a highly successful career - Mission Director in Liberia and Bangladesh, multiple senior management positions in Washington and USAID faculty member at the National War College.

After retirement Mary was a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem [Court-appointed Special Advocate for Children] for the past 15 years. Drawing on her own childhood as an orphan she represented children in dependency cases in which parents were in court because of child abuse or neglect.

As Guardian Ad Litem, Mary advocated for the best interests of the child, meeting frequently with the children, parents, psychiatrists, lawyers, governmental caseworkers, and schools. Some legal cases would go on for years - and, in those cases, Mary provided continuity for the children as they changed foster homes, schools and case workers frequently. She developed close, personal relationships with about 25 children over the 15 years. Besides representing their best interests in court, she spent hours getting to know them; helping them understand that a tough childhood or being an orphan could be overcome; taking them to movies and for lunches; urging the children that education was their escape route from poverty; and generally showing them that they are valued human beings. She even trekked to the Juvenile Detention Center on a few occasions to provide a "hug" and to ensure that the rights of these troubled children were protected.

While Mary left her Guardian Ad Litem role a year ago, she remains active in supporting the disadvantaged in her community - this time from her church. She is a leader in their community outreach ministry that is working with the homeless and very poor in the community. She is on the board of the clinic that provides services to the homeless and very poor, and also does "sovereign immunity interviews" once a month for the patients and clinic. Beyond this active participation through her church, she serves as a volunteer Patient Advocate at the local hospital emergency room, working once a week at the hospital to help patients and their caregivers be more comfortable as they await diagnosis and treatment.

She has also become a prolific writer, publishing ten short stories in various journals [including seven in the Foreign Service Journal]. Even more significantly, The Child Welfare League of America published her eloquent memoir, Me May Mary, in 2005. It is an inspirational description of her difficult childhood and teen years in a Connecticut orphanage and the positive paths she and her brother paved for themselves. In summary, Mary Kilgour has taken USAID's concern for the poor and carried it with her to her local community and also branched into creative fields she couldn't fit into her demanding work life before retirement.

Satish Shah

Winner, 2014 UAA Alumni Award - Domestic category

Satish Shah joined USAID as a Foreign Service National (FSN) in Kenya in 1962. After gaining U.S. citizenship he became a Direct Hire for USAID in 1977. He retired in 1994 with the rank of FEOC.

Since retirement Satish has been an active member of the Dallas Indian Lions Club. During his tenure as its treasurer, the Club raised over \$60,000 to support several charities in India, Nepal, the Philippines and United States. He has been a co-leader of DILC's monthly activity in McKinney, Texas, where about 150 homeless people are provided daily meals. He also participated in an eye care camp for school children. This year Satish serves as a member of the Donation Committee that reviews applications for donations to several organizations in India and the United States.

He is an active member of the Jain Society of North Texas, a faith-based organization with over 350 families as members. The organization provides religious education, conducts social and cultural activities and maintains facilities for Jain faith worshippers. Satish has served on the Board of Directors, leading the Facility Management Committee, which has been responsible for renovating an 18,000 square foot building that the Society purchased in 2010. Satish continues to provide technical support for the maintenance of facilities owned by the Society.

Satish developed and published a Directory of Oshawls living in Canada and the United States in 1996 and since then has updated it regularly for the benefit of about 500 families living in Canada and the United States who have immigrated to the U.S. from Kenya and India. He researched and wrote various sections of the book and also edited the final product. Satish was also a member of Finance Committee and Treasurer of a Home Owners Association in Plano, Texas.

Satish Shah's work in the Dallas area seeks to build strength in the immigrant community and to facilitate their integration with the local population - while, importantly, maintaining links to community culture and building continuity with second and third generations.

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

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