



USAID Alumni Association

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Newsletter Subtitle

May-June 2015 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday July 6, 2015, 10:00 to 12:00 noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue with William Hammink, USAID Mission Director, Afghanistan. This is an opportunity to explore with USAID's Afghanistan Mission Director the major transition under way there as well as to hear his thoughts about the Agency based on his 32 years of experience. William Hammink has been Director of USAID's largest mission since 2013.

Friday, July 24, 2015, 11:30-2:00 - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "The Arab Spring Four Years On: Has the bloom faded?" Masood Ahmed, Director of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia Department of the International Monetary Fund. There is growing disillusionment, violence and sectarian strife in the region while the most fundamental structural weaknesses in the economic frameworks of these countries are yet to be addressed. Mr. Ahmed will discuss these topics as well as the economic outlook for the region.

Monday, July 22, 2015, 12 PM EDT - USAID's LPA has offered USAID alumni an opportunity for orientation and media training on USAID's new mission message. This training will take place online (you will need access to a computer) on July 22 at 12pm EDT. This training is on a first come, first served basis, so please let John Champagne (jchampagne@usaidalumni.org) know if you are interested.

Saturday, July 25 - UAA Annual Picnic

**SAVE THE DATE! JOIN THE FUN!
4th Annual UAA Summer Picnic
Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA
Saturday, July 25, 2015
Noon - 3:00 pm**

[CLICK HERE for Details on Fort Hunt Park](#)

Saturday, August, 15 - Vermont [and nearby] Alumni Get-Together

The Vermont chapter of the USAID Alumni Association will hold its annual summer pot-luck get-together on August 15 in Rochester, Vermont at the home of Anne Aarnes/David Sprague. If you are in Vermont or passing through on that date and would like to attend, please let David know (spraguedavid@hotmail.com).

*****Save the Date! 2015 UAA Annual General Meeting*****

We're excited to announce that the 2015 UAA Annual General Meeting will be held on **October 23, 2015** at the **Center for Global Development headquarters in Washington, DC**. This year's meeting theme is:

"Building a new consensus for development and the role of foreign assistance."

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** A number of recent obituaries have been added to the [Tributes](#) page. Recent obituaries (those appearing since the previous UAA Newsletter) are marked as "New!"
- For **information on the death of alumnus hostage Warren Weinstein**, click [here](#).
- On our recently created page **Books and Papers Recently Published by USAID Alumni**, two new papers are available: **USAID and Economic Growth - Elevating Institutional Development** by Ken Lanza and **Meeting the Food and Nutritional Demands of an Urbanizing Africa: Expanding the Agricultural Value Chain Linking Producers with Consumers** by Steve Giddings.
- In **Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities**, there are several newly posted opportunities.
- We have had a full agenda of **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogues**:
- On May 15, 2015, **Shahid Javed Burki**, retired vice president of the World Bank and former finance minister of Pakistan spoke on **"Reassessing United States' Leadership of the Global Economy"**. To listen to that presentation, click [here](#).
- On May 11, 2015, **Dr. Lilian Pintea**, Vice President for Conservation Science at the Jane Goodall Institute, spoke on **"Adapting to Climate Change at the Community Level"**. To hear that talk, click [here](#).

- On April 13, **Rolf Anderson**, USAID's Director of Global Climate Change and **Andrew Steer**, President of the World Resources Institute, gave presentation on "**Climate Change and Development.**" You can hear it [here](#).
- In the **Forum**, view 1) the way to obtain a State Department retiree ID badge, 2) how you can contribute money to support Nepal FSNs affected by the earthquake, 3) a statement to Congress from the wife of Warren Weinstein, 4) information on the OPM data breach, and 5) an update on the confirmation of USAID Administrator nominee Gayle Smith.
- Read **Articles** about 1) reflections on the US/African Leaders' Summit, 2) strengthening Africa's security governance, 3) a GAO review of steps taken to safeguard government to government programming, 4) the nomination of a new USAID IG, 5) a TED talk by USAID's Alex Their on ending extreme poverty, 6) Howard French's take on the nomination of Gayle Smith to be A/AID, 7) Alan Gross' post-release advocacy for improved US-Cuba relations, 8) 5 questions to ask about the new QDDR, 9) an OECD report on fragile states, 10) QDDR concerns re. the adequacy of current institutions' (e.g. the IMF and IBRD) ability to respond next gen issues such as ISIS and the Syrian civil war, 11) Gayle Smith's nomination to be A/AID, 12) the continued number one donor ranking of the US, and 13) the blurring line between the Civil and Foreign Services.
- In the **Web Links** section, take a look at the new World Bank Development Talk blog and the most recent Frontlines.

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.

Spring Reception

Nearly 100 USAID alumni, spouses, and current USAID employees attended the UAA's Annual Spring Reception at the beautiful home of Alex and Pat Shakow. It was a great success - and the rains held out to ensure a lovely time for all.

[Click here to see more photos from the Spring Reception.](#)

UAA to Honor Two Outstanding Alumni For Post-USAID Service

UAA to Honor Two Outstanding Alumni For Post-USAID Service

At our 2014 Annual General Meeting, the UAA presented awards to three outstanding USAID alumni for their significant contributions at home and abroad since their retirements - Anne Dammarell, Mary Kilgour, and Satish Shah. Their inspirational work was covered in the November 2014 Newsletter; in case you missed it, you can find it here: <http://www.usaidalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/November-December-2014-Newsletter.pdf>

The UAA would like to continue to salute the outstanding accomplishments of former USAID employees - and we are now starting this year's search for **two truly innovative and outstanding "Alumni of the Year"** who have made unusual and significant contributions since leaving USAID. One will be for contributions overseas and the other for contributions in the US. These two individuals will be honored at UAA's Annual General Meeting on October 23, 2015.

Please help by nominating a friend or colleague - or apply yourself (don't be shy about your own achievements). Just send an email message to awards@usaidalumni.org describing what you or your nominee have done since leaving USAID that represents unusual, creative and transformative service in some aspect of 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 15, 2015.

Applicants/nominees must be US residents able to attend the UAA AGM on October 23, 2015. UAA can help defray domestic U.S. travel expenses for winners who live outside the Washington area. **Applicants/nominees must also be in one of the categories eligible to join UAA** (See the UAA website for membership information: www.usaidalumni.org):

- Those who worked for USAID for at least eighteen months, including former Civil Servants, FSO, 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).

Please note that this is not another lifetime achievement award. **We especially want to celebrate the new paths taken by alumni to explore service and contributions in new arenas, with different partner organizations, or on their own.** The Outstanding Alumni of the Year may have built on USAID experience and skills but will have shown passion for new activities and made significant and lasting contributions.

What have YOU been doing since leaving USAID?

UAA Administrative Assistant

The UAA search Committee headed by Frank Almaguer was able to identify a replacement for the outgoing Administrative Assistant, Kristina Short who had recently accepted a full

time more demanding position at George Washington University's Anthropology with incumbent Ven Suresh who currently is associated with a non-profit organization in Washington, DC whose goals and missions are to alleviate poverty. Ven Suresh started with UAA effective June 15, 2015. The UAA Executive Committee is extremely thankful and appreciative of Kristina's invaluable service to the USAID Alumni Association for the past 4 years. She has already passed some of the wisdom to Ven in a recent meeting with him and the handover has begun. Please welcome Ven Suresh and he can be reached at vensuresh.uaa@gmail.com

Alumni Profiles: Alan Berg

Alan Berg

An article in a recent issue of the journal *Development* declared that Alan Berg, whose work was rooted in his 13-year career with USAID, "is internationally acknowledged as the person most responsible for placing nutrition on the international development agenda," being recognized for helping to transform the way development agencies and national governments think about the problem of malnutrition as a fundamental component of economic growth. Former USAID colleagues, in their nomination of him for the 2014 UAA Alumni of the Year Award, credit him for "defining nutrition as a central element in the development process. He pioneered the concept, now central to international programs, of multi-sectoral nutrition. . .The number of human lives that Alan Berg helped to save and to improve, building on his pioneering work in USAID, number in the many millions." In being awarded one of the first United Nations Achievement Awards for Lifelong Service to Nutrition, he was cited as "a global giant in nutrition history."

Alan began his career with then-AID at its inception in 1960 as Deputy Executive Secretary. While there Alan was seconded to the White House Food for Peace Office, where he became Deputy Director, and co-director of a White House Nutrition Task Force that recommended that AID explore a U.S. role in national-scale multifaceted nutrition operations.

Ambassador to India Chester Bowles, who had read the report and wanted India to be a prototype country, recruited Alan to plan and implement what would be USAID's first large-scale multi-sectoral national nutrition program. This effort enabled our Agency to save hundreds of thousands of lives in the Bihar famine of 1966-67. The timely massive intervention he coordinated, along with his other innovative nutrition work, earned Alan the 1968 Jump Award, the government's annual tribute to the Outstanding Young Civil Servant. While Alan was in India his seminal article, "Malnutrition and National Development," based on his AID experience there, was published in *Foreign Affairs*, making the case for the first time that improving nutrition, far from being merely a medical or welfare issue, is vital to a country's national development. This article led to his secondment by AID to The Brookings Institution where, as a Senior Fellow, he wrote the path-breaking book, *The Nutrition Factor: Its Role in National Development*. From this work Robert McNamara, a trustee at Brookings and President of the World Bank, recruited Alan to initiate a nutrition program at the World Bank, with the scope to implement and build upon the recommendations contained in his writings. There, as the World Bank's senior nutrition officer for 23 years, he was the driving force behind its \$2.1

billion nutrition projects portfolio.

Along the way, Alan authored six books and numerous articles. For five years he was Visiting Professor of Nutrition at MIT and chairman of the Nutrition Panel for the National Academy of Sciences' World Food & Nutrition Study. Further specifics are available from a recently published interview at:

http://www.unscn.org/files/Publications/SCN_News/SCNNEWS40_final_standard_res.pdf ("Visionary at the Conception", page 121).

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

It's time to make your 2015 Membership Contribution

Thank you to everyone who has already made their 2015 UAA Membership Contribution. Your support allows us to continue strengthening the array of services and programs of interest to alumni. No matter where you reside, we need your active participation, ideas, and generous financial support.

If you've not already made your tax-deductible contribution to the UAA for calendar year 2015 (January 2015 - December 2015) we encourage you to do so today. You can [make your contribution electronically through our secure payment system by clicking here.](#)

Or, if you prefer, you can mail a check to

**USAID Alumni Association
DACOR House
1801 F Street, NW (4th Floor)
Washington, DC 20006**

Contribution amounts for 2015 are:

- \$75 Those who live within 50 miles of Washington, DC
- \$50 Those who live elsewhere in the United States
- \$25 Residents of foreign countries AND Former FSNs wherever they live

And, of course, we welcome you to join with UAA's other "angels" who have generously contributed \$100 or more as "Friends of UAA."

So don't delay! Make your 2015 annual membership contribution today, and encourage your friends and former colleagues to sign up and contribute to UAA as well!

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or comments for us, or if you

know of other alumni who should be on our mailing list. Everyone is welcome -- former FSOs, Civil Servants, FSNs, PSCs and other contract personnel, and political appointees.

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