



# USAID Alumni Association

## September 2015 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Monday, September 14, 10:00 am to Noon** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **Emmy Simmons** speaks on "**Transforming Food and Ag Policy: How US Decision-Making Might Shape the Future of Food at a Global Scale**". Simmons, now an independent consultant focused on food, agriculture and Africa, in 2005 completed 30 years at USAID as Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade.

**Friday, October 9, 11:30 - 2:00** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **Lester Brown** will speak about "**The Great Transition: Shifting from Fossil Fuels to Solar and Wind Energy**". In his long career, Brown, who founded and headed the WorldWatch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute, has focused on food production, population growth and climate change. His latest book and powerful advocacy are directly relevant to the forthcoming December Paris meetings on climate change.

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

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."**

The program will feature an introductory panel on "**Bridging the Congressional-Executive Chasm: A conversation with Three Congressional Leaders,**" with former Congressmen **Matt McHugh, Jim Kolbe, and Howard Berman, chaired by George Ingram.** Concurrent panels will focus on:

1. **Creation of new legislation with a poverty focus - Alex Shakow, moderator, with Jack Sullivan** (New Directions legislation), **Chris Holmes** (Global Water Initiative), **Terry Peel** (DFA legislation)
2. **Dealing with disaster - Diana Ohlbaum, moderator, with Andrew Natsios** (evolution of OFDA from a focus on disaster assistance to dealing with complex emergencies), **Bill Garvelink** (how OFDA's mitigation and prevention role facilitates the Feed the Future initiative), and **Jeremy Konyndyk** (OFDA and the agency response to Ebola)

The final panel will focus on "Issues and Objectives that should shape the USAID of the next administration, with CGD President Nancy Birdsall, CGD fellows Ben Leo and Casey Dunning, and key Hill staffers Les Munson and Tim Rieser (invited).

Click [here](#) to register for the **AGM**

## 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!*"
- Two thoughtful pieces have been added to the recently created Development Issues Committee's [Perspectives](#) page. Juan Butari focuses on likely issues and challenges to any upcoming reassessment of U.S. development assistances Stephen Klein's contribution weighs the matters of concern that will be considered in the upcoming Paris meeting on climate.
- The ever-popular [Where in the World](#) section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. is now updated through August.
- In the [Forum](#), view updated information on the OPM data breach and what you can and should do about its possible consequences..
- In [Articles](#), read 1) an interesting Congressional Research Service report that provides background information on the institutional makeup and operations of USAID, 2) a Washington Post piece on two stellar USAID employees, 3) a Devex piece on the largest ever (\$9.5b) USAID contract award, and 4) a Post item regarding a judge's order to lift the USAID suspension of IRD.
- In the [Web Links](#) section, take a look at the most recent Frontlines.
- The [UAA Alumni Directory](#) has recently been updated to include state and country location information. Please update your information by letting us know at [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

Do you have news, an article or event you would like to share? Please send it to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org), Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

## USAID Alumni: Vermont Development Wallahs

On August 15 a group of 17 "Development Wallahs" gathered at the Vermont home of Anne Aarnes and David Sprague who dished up plenty of good food, great conversations and sunny weather for the occasion. The host retired from USAID in 2000 and the hostess retires this fall after 46 years with the Agency. All but three of the participants were retired or current USAID including both permanent residents and Alumni from the D.C area who enjoy vacation homes in Vermont. Also included a USAID officer from Ukraine on home leave in the area and a Harvard professor who manages USAID-funded projects during the school year. Look forward to next August's get together which we understand may be hosted by Steve Sinding and Monica Knorr.

Unfortunately, no cameras captured the actual event but here is the venue.



## How to use the new bibliography of USAID authors

NONE of us have ever read a bibliography, word for word. So why did UAA volunteers prepare a Bibliography of USAID Authors, now with almost 170 entries, that you find on the UAA website. Why is the USAID front office putting out a General Notice alerting current USAID officers to our bibliography and putting it on the USAID Knowledge Services Center website?

Because all you have to do is SCAN the bibliography and you'll almost certainly find a book or two that piques your interest; maybe a book written by a former colleague or about a place or time that you are familiar with (e.g. there are several recent books on USAID's tenure in Vietnam during the war).

Once you identify a book of interest, you'll note that the title, author, publisher, and ISBN (International Standard Book Number) are provided. If you want to read the book, you have several options:

1. BUY: Go to Amazon.com or the publishers website and purchase the book (the author will be pleased).
2. BORROW: Go to your local library (or the USAID library), give them the title and ISBN and ask them to get the book for you to borrow.
3. PERUSE: Go to Google or Google Scholar and type in the title of the book. You may find lengthy reviews of the book or linkages to other books that cover the same topic. You can also Google the author and will usually find a lengthy history of that person's career.
4. LINK UP: Use the link provided in the bibliography (for some titles) to go directly

to the book or the author. For example, you can go directly to Daniel Miller's photography books of Central Asian nomads.

Some of the authors are folks you know or worked with: Jonathan Addleton, Janet Ballentyne, Juan Buttari, Art Fell, Princeton Lyman Larry Harrison, Carol Lancaster, Ann Van Dusen, Steve Radelet, Mary Kilgour, Rocky Staples, Joe Stepanek, Robert Thurston, Diane Ponasik, Mark Wentling and Frank Denton to name a few.

You'll find excellent fiction and insightful memoirs. For example, Roberta Worrick's *Antonia Saw the Oryz Firstwas* on the NYTimes best seller list under the pseudonym of Maria Thomas. You'll even find travel guides, children's books and poetry.

Over the next year, in each monthly UAA newsletter, we'll feature one of the books in the bibliography - to stimulate your interest.

Meanwhile, while you're writing YOUR book, please send any titles that we've missed to John Pielemeier at [jpielemeie@aol.com](mailto:jpielemeie@aol.com). The bibliography will be updated every three months.

## UAA/USAID Mentoring Program Plans - A call for Mentors

UAA, in collaboration with USAID partners, is preparing for the launch of a 5th cohort of our mentoring program, which matches alumni members with USAID field officers who have applied for this assistance. Alumni with experience in the full range of USAID backstops and interest in strengthening the current generation are requested to send expressions of interest to the addresses below. We welcome a return of alumni who had successful mentoring relationships through participation in the early cohorts as well as those for whom it will be a new experience. Many of those who have participated in the program to date report that the experience was as fulfilling for them as they hope it was for their mentees.

The program calls for a **six-month commitment**, extendable as desired by both parties. Mentor/mentee pairs communicate primarily by phone and skype, supported by e-mail as needed. Our experience is that development of successful, trusting relationships requires a regular schedule for contact. Each relationship will be different, but a common characteristic is that it is mentee driven, with joint responsibility for taking initiative and building trust.

In its first three years the program has responded to over 50 requests from officers serving in missions world-wide. At latest count there are 24 active pairs in the program.

We will confirm receipt of expressions of interest with a brief profile form, which we ask be completed and returned to us not later than October 1. Communications should be directed to co-chairs of the Strengthening USAID Committee: **Marilynn Schmidt** - [schmidtmarilynn@aol.com](mailto:schmidtmarilynn@aol.com) or **Jerry Wood** - [jerryjwood@gmail.com](mailto:jerryjwood@gmail.com)

## Alumni Profiles: Jerry Jordan

### Jerry Jordan

Unlike many of the Alumni members, Jerry Jordan has never really left USAID! She is currently employed by DCHA's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) as an



intermittent Senior Management Advisor. Jerry joined USAID in August 1962 as a GS-3 Clerk Typist and, after many years in the administrative and personnel field, she became Director of the Asia Executive Management Staff (EMS) in 1982. From 1982 to 1995 Jerry served in all four regional Bureau EMS Director positions, two rightsizing exercises and as a member of several Management Assessment teams.



In August 1995, after 36 years in AID/W, Jerry was given the opportunity to convert to an FSL appointment to manage the Agency's first regional Executive Office. Jerry, two retired EXOs (Bill Wanamaker and Luke Malabad) and a TCN from Guatemala (Fernando Cossich) provided administrative support to 16 Europe and the New Independent States AID programs from Budapest, Hungary. This was the "Tiger Team".

In May 1998, Jerry was recognized for her management achievements as a recipient of the State Department's highest management award - the Luther I. Replogle Award for Management Improvement. Following four years in Budapest, Jerry officially retired but continued as a PSC with the Tiger Team. Jerry has spent considerable time on the road including a 16 month assignment in Islamabad. Unfortunately, Jerry has been going through some medical issues which prevents overseas travel. But, no regrets - 93 countries under her belt!

However, since Jerry has always enjoyed the quiet and relaxing environment of the ocean, she "settled" in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware in 1999 and enjoys the company of her sister who lives nearby. Her daughter lives in Virginia Beach, VA and her son is in Olney, Maryland so they are close enough to visit often. Jerry has three grandchildren - John Jr., 27, Jenna 21 and Peyton 15 with whom she stays in close contact.

With the extra time, Jerry has started drafting a book about her experiences in USAID. "A Broad in the Foreign Service" will highlight many Washington and overseas experiences. In addition to the book, Jerry enjoys the excitement of Delaware casinos. She has been fortunate to hit a couple of jackpots. Jerry reports that there is nothing better than hearing those bells go off and seeing the words - "you've just won 900,000 pennies"!

If coming to the area, Jerry welcomes a visit or call - [jjindel@aol.com](mailto:jjindel@aol.com); 302-226-8288.

---

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](mailto: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.

**[Make your 2015 UAA Membership Contribution](#)**

**USAID Alumni Association**

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

**[Forward this email](#)**

 **SafeUnsubscribe™**

This email was sent to office@usaidualumni.org by [office@usaidualumni.org](mailto:office@usaidualumni.org) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)

USAID Alumni Association | 1801 F Street | Washington | DC | 20006