



USAID Alumni Association

November 2015 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA and other Events

Monday, November 9, 2015, 10:00 to 12:00 noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **Ed Abel and Sunita Sharma** (senior figures in Palladium, formerly the Futures Group) will discuss **"Is Family Planning Assistance Needed in the 21st Century?"** and explain the innovative software and computer models (e.g. RAPID) used in providing decision-makers answers to that question.

Thursday, November 19, 2015, 1:00 to 4:00 pm - The 2nd Annual AFSA Book Market will take place at AFSA headquarters on November 19 from 1:00 to 4 pm. 18 authors will be present to discuss (and hopefully sell) their books. Go to AFSA.org for the full list of authors attending. Four of the authors who plan to attend are from USAID (**David J. Garms, Bruce Byers, Erin Soto, Ben Barber**)

Friday, December 4, 2015, 11:30-2:00 pm - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **Steven Radelet** will speak about his new book **"The Great Surge: The Ascent of the Developing World."** Radelet, former Chief Economist of USAID and currently Director of the Global Human Development Program at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, highlights the great progress made by the poor in recent decades and how to maintain the momentum.

Annual General Meeting

On October 23, the UAA held its seventh Annual General Meeting. Over one hundred USAID alumni and guests, 18 discussion panelists, including three former Members of Congress, two former Administrators, as well as current and past Hill staffers and USAID senior officials, made this year's AGM one of the best attended and most successful of the annual gatherings of the UAA community. This year's **AGM focused on "building a new consensus for development and the role of foreign assistance."** The theme was chosen to learn from past experience and current realities in promoting and managing foreign aid initiatives. The theme was considered timely as the 2016 election year approaches.



Bridging the Congressional-Executive Chasm: Matt McHugh, Jim Kolbe, Howard Berman (former Congressmen) and George Ingram

The event also gave participants an **opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni**, engage in lively discussions on development issues and catch up on UAA activities and future plans.

The AGM also included the announcement of the **election of five Board members: Franklin Moore, Tish Butler, John Heard, Carol Peasley and George Hill**. These, along with Nancy Pielemeier and David Cohen, will constitute the UAA Board for 2015-16.



The 2015-16 UAA Board

A detailed report on the 2015 AGM proceedings and additional photos can be found by [following this link](#).

Listen to the audio of the full AGM:

- [Opening and plenary panel on : Bridging the Congressional-Executive Chasm](#)
- [Breakout Panel on Poverty](#)
- [Breakout Panel on Dealing with Disaster](#)
- [Panel on Issues for the next Administration; Alumni of the Year Award; Election Results, Comments of USAID Chief of Staff](#)

Next year's AGM is tentatively set for Friday, **October 21, 2016**. Mark your calendars and plan on being there!

UAA Second Annual "Alumni of the Year" Awards

The 2015 award was presented to:

- Judith Gilmore for her work as a volunteer mediator in the DC metropolitan area
- Bette Cook for her work as a volunteer for the American Red Cross



Award Winners Cook and Gilmore

The award and summary descriptions of the work of the two winners are detailed [here](#).

The UAA Awards Committee asked all alumni to be thinking about this recognition as they observe the work of their fellow alumni. Comments and suggestions for next year's awards cycle should be sent to awards@usaidalumni.org.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** A couple of recent obituaries have been added to the [Tributes](#) page. The most recent ones (those appearing since the previous UAA Newsletter) are marked as "**New!**"
- In the [Forum](#), read an Agency Notice on why it has not published a 2015 SFS promotion list.
- On October 9, 2015, distinguished environmental pioneer **Lester Brown** spoke to the largest ever crowd at a **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue** about his newest book **The Great Transition: Shifting from Fossil Fuels to Solar and Wind Energy**. You can listen to full presentation [here](#).
- In **Papers Recently Published by USAID Alumni**, read an interesting article by **David Bathrick** on "**Helping Advance President Obama's Vision to Substantively Reduce African Poverty: "New Era" Inclusive Agricultural and Rural Development.**"
- In [Articles](#), read about 1) the decline in world hunger, 2) why aid agencies should make better use of ex-staff, 3) Nobel Prize winner Angus Deaton has to say about foreign aid, 4) the challenges aid agencies face working in conflict zones, 5) the wide support given to the new Chinese promoted Asia infrastructure bank, 6) the greater utility of providing refugees with cash transfers vice in-kind handouts, 7) how USAID funding of think tanks hurts the poor, and 8) the White House fact sheet on the US Global Development Policy and Agenda 2030.

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.

Bette Cook : Winner, 2015 UAA Alumni Award

Bette Cook joined the International Cooperation Administration, USAID's predecessor, in 1959. She began her 42-year career in Tunisia and then moved on to Vietnam in 1963. Upon returning to Washington, DC, she worked in the Vietnam Bureau, the Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau and finally for the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs. Bette was well known and well respected on Capitol Hill. As Congressional relations officer, she managed the preparation and submission of USAID's budget request to Congress for 23 years and assisted all Presidential nominees for senior agency positions through the Senate confirmation process for over 20 years. Bette retired in 2004, only to return four years later as a consultant for strategic communications with Congress. She is proud of her USAID experience that spanned Foreign and Civil Services, overseas and Washington and direct hire and contract employment.



Before leaving USAID in 2012, Bette attended medical meetings at Walter Reed Medical Center at Bethesda and the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and was moved by the young men and women struggling with the challenges of their war-related injuries. She wanted to show them how much she appreciated their service to the country. So once retired, she volunteered with the American Red Cross because of its solid historic partnership with the military. She also had a warm, personal memory of the organization: a Red Cross worker had visited her home to tell the family of her older sister's death in Japan. Bette had also witnessed Red Cross international humanitarian efforts when she accompanied Congressional delegations overseas.

Bette currently serves as the Red Cross Station Chair, the lead volunteer position at Fort Belvoir and Quantico Marine Corps Base. As the alter ego to the Station Manager, she works with 400 volunteers to provide services to members of the Armed Forces and their families. Bette averages a 50-hour workweek assisting members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Reserves, both active duty and retirees. She speaks frequently to the military community - for example, 21 events in August and September -- about Red Cross services to the Armed Forces and also devotes one-day each week to work at Fort Belvoir Hospital's physical therapy clinic to interact with the wounded warriors. Fort Belvoir Hospital, a new state-of-the art medical facility, which is part of the Walter Reed Medical system, has a facility for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress care. Bette has published articles in USAID's 50th Anniversary Impact Blog, the Foreign Service Journal, and Front Lines.

Bette lives in Alexandria, Virginia with her husband Mel, a retired Hall of Fame U.S. Army aviator who served during three wars (World war II, Korea and Vietnam), and son Joe, a former PGA golf pro. Bette is always happy to hear from her friends and may be reached at: bettecook@cox.net

JUDITH GILMORE : Winner, 2015 UAA Alumni Award



After retiring from USAID in 2006, Judy Gilmore has concentrated on issues of human rights and conflict resolution. During her career with USAID, she had focused on all aspects of development, local capacity building, NGOs, and monitoring and evaluation. She held senior manager positions in Technical Resources in Africa, the Sahel, Latin America's Regional Sustainable Development, East Asia, Private Voluntary Cooperation and PL480.

Instead of returning to USAID as a contractor, Judy trained to become a mediator and joined the Board of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and Mediators Beyond Borders (MBB). She did, however, continue her evaluation work in the area of human trafficking and carried out a 5-country evaluation in Asia for Microsoft. Even a broken foot couldn't deter her, and she continues to work in this arena.

"Mediation has been the perfect second career for me. It keeps me in touch with people's daily lives and struggles and has taught me enormous empathy and listening skills." Judy began in community mediation, branched out to the DC and MD court systems, the federal government, Montgomery County Human Rights and the States' Attorney's Office, and most recently to DC's Office of Police Complaints. Her cases range from small claims, custody disputes, employment discrimination, and misdemeanors to police/community relationships and restorative justice. Judy calculates she has mediated close to 1,000 cases since 2006.

Her family has also introduced her to new vistas. She has traveled with her husband Rick to Russia, Australia, China and Italy while he continues his work in agribusiness and food safety. Judy also serves on the selection committee of the Rosenthal fellowship program that Rick runs, keeping both of them on the cutting edge of youth in international relations. Judy's daughters and their husbands are all artists - novelist, video performance sculptor, painter, and conductor, living in New York. She attends as many of their shows/performances in the U.S. and overseas as possible. Her two grandsons, ages 2 and 3, keep her on her toes, both physically and mentally. "I never thought I'd be talking about bulldozers and going down slides at this stage of life."

Retirement has allowed Judy to venture into a series of new beginnings as well as spend time with friends, exercise, attend book club and women's finance group meetings and take history courses at the University of Maryland and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Judy would be pleased to hear from USAID friends at judithwgilmore@gmail.com.

Make your 2015 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward this email](#)



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

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