



USAID Alumni Association

July 2017 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Saturday, July 22, 2017 - from 12:00-3:00. Join us at the Sixth Annual UAA Summer Picnic which will be held again this year at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia. See details below and RSVP today!

Monday, July 31, 2017 - Deadline for the 2017 "Alumni of the Year" award(s). The deadline is fast approaching to nominate someone (or yourself). Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org.

Wednesday, August 9, 2017 - Will you be in **Vermont** this August? **Join other USAID alumni for a picnic** hosted by Nils Daulaire on Wednesday at his home, Upper Lea Farm, in South Royalton, Vermont. For more information, contact Nils at nils.daulaire@gmail.com

Monday, September 18, 2017 - 10:00 to Noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **David Steinberg**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Asian Studies at Georgetown University and a USAID alumnus, will speak on "**Erroneous Estimates: How South Korea and Burma (Myanmar) Upended Early Development Expectations.**"

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page has some new entries.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), A couple of new opportunities have been posted.
- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) how aid can undermine governance, 2) Administration wants to stop four famines, 3) Trump Administration actions re. shipment of PL480 commodities on US flag vessels, 4) Natsios on why it would be a bad idea to merge USAID into the State Dept., 5) why aid serves US foreign policy interests, 6) what fiction can reveal about development, 7) the IMF tries again in Africa, 8) a State FSO on why he has resigned, 9) new State guidance on sexual assault, 10) strong bipartisan support at hearings for A/AID designate Green, 11) five myths about famine by Gayle Smith, 12) USAID officer pleads guilty on steering contract to friend, and 13) foreign assistance agency briefs by CGD.
- In the [Forum](#), we have a number of new additions. These include: 1) an update from Joe Ryan on his thoughts on development assistance history and 2) information on purchasing items with the USAID logo.
- In [Web Links](#), take a look at a new World Justice Institute rule of law index.

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.

UAA Encourages Members to Engage in Public Outreach

UAA members are aware of the vital development work our country does to make the world a more prosperous, safer and better place. We know that a number of you are involved in public speaking to share this message within your local communities. We wish to acknowledge these individual efforts in future UAA newsletters and thereby, hopefully, encourage increased member outreach participation.

Send a brief email outlining your outreach experience (date, host organization, subject) starting from May 1, 2017 to jchampagne@usaidalumni.org

UAA Board - Volunteer to serve

The UAA is seeking expressions of interest by members to serve on the Association's Board for the 2017 - 2019 cycle. Please contact **Carol Peasley**, Chair of the 2017 Nominating Committee, at cpeasley@usaidalumni.org by August 22nd to express your interest in running and/or to share your recommendations of other candidates. [Click here](#) for more information.

6th Annual UAA Summer Picnic

RSVP TODAY IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY! JOIN THE FUN!
6th Annual UAA Summer Picnic

Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA
Saturday, July 22, 2017
Noon - 3:00 pm

In order for us to have adequate water and soft drinks available, **please let us know that you are coming and with how many** adults and children. Respond to office@usaidalumni.org

Details:

The UAA will have its annual picnic on Saturday July 22 at Fort Hunt picnic area. Our get together is scheduled from noon till 3:00pm. We hope everyone will come and bring other Alumni, children, guitars, games, etc. The parking lot is a very short stroll to the sheltered picnic area so we will proceed rain or shine.

Based on the enthusiastic response the last two years, we decided to repeat our successful pot luck so that people can bring dishes to share. We will provide non-alcoholic beverages and water, table covers, paper goods, cups and plastic ware. Please bring your own wine and beer - and some to share. The area has a liquor license, but for wine and beer only.

Please bring one dish sufficient for 6 to 8 people. If you have a special dish that would be great. Otherwise, bring a dish according to the following categories:

People with last names between A and D are asked to bring a main dish.
People with last names between E and M are asked to bring a salad or side dish.
People with last names between N and R are asked to bring a dessert.
People with last names between S and Z are asked to bring an appetizer.

Directions: Fort Hunt is South of Alexandria and just north of Mount Vernon. From Interstate 395, take exit 10B for the southbound George Washington Memorial Parkway. Merge onto the parkway and continue for about 12 miles. Turn right onto Fort Hunt Road and continue to the Park. For further details, [click here.](#)

The UAA picnic will again be held in site B-001.

THE 2017 UAA "ALUMNI OF THE YEAR" AWARDS PROGRAM

The deadline is fast approaching to nominate someone (or yourself) for the 2017 "Alumni of the Year" award(s) that will be announced at the UAA's Annual General Meeting on November 3. The deadline for nomination submissions is Monday, July 31. The "Alumni of the Year" awards recognize and celebrate new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and improve the lives of others at home and abroad. There are impressive contributions among our alumni community waiting to be recognized by our fellow alumni. Don't wait until the last minute to share those stories. All nominees, including the 2017 winner(s), will be featured in future editions of the monthly UAA Newsletter. For full details about the Award and how to make nominations, click [here.](#)

ANNUAL SURVEY OF THE UAA MEMBERSHIP

As it does every year, in January, the UAA sent a survey document to all of its members. The purpose of the survey was to understand better how well the organization is serving the needs and interests of its member constituents. By clicking [here](#), you can read a summary of the survey results, as brilliantly composed by Carol Dabbs.

Alumni Profiles - George Deikun

George Deikun retired from USAID in 2009 as a Career Minister from his dream job of four years as Mission Director to India. He came to India from Kazakhstan where he served as the Regional Mission Director to the five Central Asian Republics while they were front line programs after the US intervention in Afghanistan. Over his 29-year career, he served as Deputy Mission Director in Russia and Haiti, Environmental Office Director in Egypt, General Development Office Director in Russia, and in numerous RHUDO assignments in South America, Caribbean and West Africa.



After retiring from USAID and with no lack of idealism, George joined the United Nations as the Director of UN Habitat's Liaison and Humanitarian Affairs Office in Geneva, Switzerland. With his seven-year stint at the UN he realized a lifelong

goal of working with the brotherhood of nations addressing the world's development and humanitarian challenges. He served as UN Habitat's representative to the Interagency Standing Committee (IASC) which brings together all the major UN and NGO humanitarian actors to guide humanitarian policy, law and operations development. There, he led the development of the IASC's first Strategy for Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, using the resources of cities to respond to humanitarian crises rather than setting up camps and other inefficient responses. He led the same over thirty UN agencies, INGOs and Geneva-based diplomatic missions in advocating an urban perspective in the formulation and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

After reaching the mandatory retirement age, George retired from the UN in 2015. His plan was to retire in Thailand for the following couple of years but he got offers from USAID that he couldn't resist, bringing to USAID the benefit of his multi-lateral experience. He returned to Kazakhstan as the Regional Mission Director and gave strategic direction to the program, including a new US foreign policy initiative to reengage with the Central Asian states in trade, energy and security. He then joined RDMA as a senior strategic advisor to develop USAID's first development cooperation strategy with the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

George is taking some time off to travel in Asia as he ponders his next steps. He just completed a tour of Sri Lanka's five UNESCO World Heritage sites. He is using the extra time to deepen his practice of Tibetan Buddhism and study of other spiritual traditions, art history and history in general. He is also looking forward to getting his art collection out of storage.

George welcomes reconnecting with colleagues. His personal email is gdeikun@hotmail.com.

Make Your 2017 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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

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