



USAID Alumni Association

November - December 2017 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday, December 4, 2017 - 10:00 to Noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue. Long-time USAID and World Bank colleague **Jerry Wolgin**, will speak about a subject he knows very well - "**African Economic Growth: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.**"

Friday, December 15, 2017 - 11:30 to 2:00 - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **Stephen B. Young**, Global Executive Director of the Caux Round Table, former USAID staff in Vietnam and author of a recent book *The Theory and Practice of Associative Power: CORDS in the Villages of Vietnam 1967-1972*, will speak on "**The USAID Advantage: Wiser than "Hard" Power and More Formidable than Soft Power.**"

Monday, February 12, 2018 - 10:00 to Noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **John Mellor**, former USAID Chief Economist, Director-General of IFPRI and Emeritus Professor at Cornell, will speak on key themes from his forthcoming book **Agricultural Development and Economic Transformation: Promoting Growth with Poverty.**

2017 Annual General Meeting

Theme: USAID'S Commercial and Intellectual Partnerships



Administrator Green addressing AGM

On November 3, USAID alumni, young Agency professionals and CGD staff gathered to hear distinguished panelists speak about USAID's commercial and intellectual partnerships. The 140 participants learned about USAID's past and current partnerships, including perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of brokering and sustaining partnerships with commercial actors and with U.S. and international universities.

Dr. Gebisa Ejeta gave a moving account of how USAID investments in higher education offered him-and many others-a path out of poverty. USAID Administrator Ambassador Mark Green and aid reform panelists agreed on the need for a "strategic transition" in USAID bilateral relationships from "aid" to "trade and investment," a reform supported by the executive branch and legislative branches. Click [here](#) for a full summary of the 2017 AGM and [here](#) (morning session) and [here](#) (afternoon session) for videos of the full event.

In other AGM topics: Announcement was made of the re-election to the UAA Board of Franklin Moore, Letitia Butler, George Hill and John Heard and the election for first terms of Nancy Tumavick and Christopher Crowley. The Alumni of the Year Awards went to Marcia Bernbaum and Ray Martin. (Scroll down to read their profiles)



New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page has several new entries.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), a couple of new openings have been posted.
- In [Papers Recently Published by USAID Alumni](#), alumnus Kiert Toh offers his assessment of the impact of macro-economic volatility on growth, using Sub-Saharan Africa as a case in point.
- At a September [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#), Former World Bank official, **Inder Sud**, gave a presentation of the highlights of his new book **Reforming Foreign Aid: Reinvent the World Bank - Lessons in Global Poverty Alleviation**. Listen to it [here](#) and see his slides [here](#).
- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) a State buyout offer for those willing to leave by April; 2) an open letter from AFSA on the harmful hemorrhaging of both new and senior FSOs; 3) a State briefing on five "Guiding Beliefs" for the Tillerson redesign for USAID and State; 4) an

assessment of why, despite all else, foreign aid has impressively strong support; 5) the placement of a political appointee as Director General of the Foreign Service; 6) the cancellation of 97 new employment offers to USAID applicants; 7) a reduction in support for the special needs of FS children dependents; 8) the mortal peril facing the French language by grammatical gender neutrality; 9) VP Pence's wish to remove US relief support to the UN and provide it through USAID links with faith-based NGOs; 10) the 10 common themes for State/AID reorganization drawn from 6 senior-level analyses; and 11) the large amount of aid received by the birthplaces of African leaders.

- [Web Links](#) includes the gateway to the treasures of the USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse plus the most recent edition of 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.

USAID History Project Underway! Additional Support Needed!

Many months ago we sought pledges from UAA members to finance the writing and publication of an independent and objective history of USAID. About 140 people generously pledged \$180,000, and we are very grateful that we have already reached that amount in contributions. But even as we move forward with the project, we need your help to expand the number of contributors and increase total donations to provide the resources needed to assure we are able to compile, publish and widely disseminate the book and undertake broader educational follow-up steps.

Thus, we urge many more of our fellow USAID alumni to join the effort and make a tax-deductible contribution now. Please send your check payable to the "UAA/USAID History Project"; as soon as possible. Contributions should be mailed to the UAA/USAID History Project, c/o DACOR, 4th Floor, 1801 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. You will receive a grateful acknowledgment from the UAA and a receipt for tax purposes. Unless you specify otherwise, your name will be listed among contributors in our Newsletter and on the UAA website (www.usaidalumni.org).

Please donate as much as you can to help us record the critical place of USAID in global development. If you have any questions, please write Alex Shakow (ashakow@comcast.net) or Carol Peasley (cpeasley@starpower.net).

Thank you!

Alumni Profiles - Ray Martin

Ray Martin, winner of this year's Alumnus of the Year International Award, has used his experience with USAID and the World Bank to improve the health of the marginalized in Africa. In the United States, he has focused on climate change. This is his story.

For 25 years Ray served with USAID in the fields of health, population and nutrition. In 1992, he joined the World Bank as a health officer in Africa, fostering collaboration between faith-based organizations and international donors in health, a theme he carried throughout his work.

Leaving the World Bank, Ray entered the world of NGOs, volunteering for a fledgling network of Christian organizations involved in health in developing countries, Christian Connections for International Health, (CCIH). Ray was elected to the CCIH Board and later appointed its



Executive Director. Under his 14-year leadership, CCIH's member organizations and individual memberships grew. USAID, the Gates Foundation, GAVI, and others started awarding CCIH grants. He helped mobilize significant religious advocacy for international family planning. Meanwhile, Ray worked with the International Health Section of the American Public Health Association, where he was elected Chair of the Section, and later received the Section's highest award, the Carl Taylor Lifetime Achievement Award in International Health.

At 74 Ray stepped down from CCIH. He and his wife Luann wanted to travel before the birth of their first grandchild; however, his world was suddenly turned upside down when Luann was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. After Luann's death, Ray contemplated how to spend the rest of his life in a way that reflected his values and interests. His choices prove that one doesn't have to be a Warren Buffett to be a philanthropist.

Ray established a million dollar Luann Martin Legacy Fund for Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition with the Mennonite Central Committee, a church agency Luann worked for when they first met 45 years ago. This Fund supports maternal and child health projects using community health workers in Africa.

Taking on climate change, Ray became active in the Northern Virginia Sierra Club and the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. He accepted the co-chairmanship of the Climate Change and Health working group of the International Health Section of the American Public Health Association. He pledged a million dollars toward the establishment of a Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, coordinated by Eastern Mennonite University, to work for mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

Ray finds great joy in working on "his" projects...something, he stresses, he would have missed had he simply left funds for them in his will. He views his beneficence as an investment in the kind of world he wants to bequeath to his grandson and to all children.

Alumni Profiles - Marcia Bernbaum

Marcia Bernbaum, this year's Alumna of the Year Domestic Award winner, has taken on one of the thorniest problems in DC, homelessness, addressing it with both grassroots and analytic approaches.

During her USAID career, Marcia financed advocacy efforts of NGOs. Now she is leading an advocacy effort that has united non-profits, business organizations, neighborhood associations, churches, and DC Council Members in support of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC) Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative. PFFC is a grassroots advocacy organization established and led by individuals who have been or are currently homeless, whose objective is to end homelessness in DC.



The Downtown Washington DC Public Restroom Initiative, for which she is mentor and advisor, was launched in the Fall of 2014. The Initiative aims to persuade the DC Government to install and maintain clean, safe public restrooms available 24/7 to everyone. Marcia has applied her years of experience in strategic planning, project design, and skills building with USAID to train

and assist PFFC's "Loo Committee" (three formerly homeless and one currently homeless member) to design the initiative, inventory public and private restrooms in downtown DC to document the problem, prepare and deliver testimony at DC City Council hearings, and deliver professional presentations to the groups targeted for support to the initiative. The culmination of these efforts was the introduction of the Public Restroom Facilities Installation & Promotion Act of 2017 inspired by the Initiative and introduced this year by Council Member Brianne Nadeau. A hearing is expected in late November/early December.

Marcia has also helped PFFC develop a first rate website (www.pffcdc.org) and establish a financial tracking system, helping the Coalition to begin to transition from a loosely structured group of individuals to move along the path to become a professional organization.

On the analytic level, Marcia is completing a case study of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless. The Clinic was established 30 years ago to "use the law to make justice a reality for our neighbors who struggle with homelessness and poverty." Her work will help the Legal Clinic chart its course over the next decade.

Marcia notes that, as someone who has never been without a roof over her head, she is "honored to be a member of PFFC and considers as close friends several homeless and formerly homeless activists who are taking extraordinary steps to help their homeless brothers and sisters". She has learned to develop an internal toughness in the face of a culture that can at times be confrontational; and she's "just scratching the surface: there is so much more to do and learn."

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USAID Alumni Association

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