



# USAID Alumni Association

## April 2018 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Monday, April 16, 2018 - 10:00 to Noon** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - Ambassador and former USAID Counselor **Jim Michel** - "**Fragility - Implications for Peace, Security, and Sustainable Development**", based on his recent CSIS report.

**Sunday, May 20, 2018 - UAA Spring Reception** - Alex and Pat Shakow are again hosting the annual Spring Reception. We hope you will join us for this special social occasion in a lovely garden setting. Plenty of food and drinks for all. This event is free of charge to Alumni and their spouse or partner. See below for details. Respond today!!

**Monday, May 21, 2018 - 10:00 to Noon**- UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - Retired USAID Mission Director **Larry Heilman** will launch his long-awaited book **USAID in Bolivia: Partner or Patron?** as part of the USAID Authors Series led by **John Pielemeier**.

**Saturday, September 8 UAA Annual Picnic** at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia

**Friday, October 26 - UAA Annual General Meeting** at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, D.C.

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** There is one new addition to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) how Bangladesh has overcome diarrhea, 2) a profile of John Bolton, ex-PPC chief, 3) Congress' rejection of steep cuts to the USAID budget, 4) A/AID Green's defense of the President's requested foreign aid cuts, 5) the last best chance for food aid reform, 6) preparations at State for an expected shift in the post-Tillerson era, 7) the establishment of a new Chinese aid agency, 8) the increasing level of public debt in sub-Saharan Africa, 9) a possible new U.S. development finance entity, and 10) lucky escapes from animals, a magnificent article from alumnus John Pielemeier.
- There are two new items in the [Forum](#): 1) transformation at USAID, possible changes in the Agency's organizational chart, and 2) an Agency notice on the end of the State-USAID hiring freeze.

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.

## 2018 UAA Membership Survey Results Available

There was a 52% increase in participation of UAA registered members in the 2018 survey, compared to 2017. Participation continued to be about evenly divided between DC area and outside of DC area residents.

The results show a stable organization: the same features of the newsletter and the Website continue to be the most popular; the same events continue to be the most popular; and the reasons for attending events or not are also similar year over year. Comments also show a continuing interest in activities outside the DC area.

A new question was asked this year about our process for electing Board members. Among those who answered, the current process was overwhelmingly supported.

We also inquired about member interest in participating in public speaking, mentoring, committee activities related to our six goals, the Annual General Meeting committee, and the Board. Those working with each of these groups are reviewing these expressions of interest and will be contacting respondents directly. The full report on this survey may be found on our website by [clicking here](#).

## 2018 UAA Awards Program

In 2018, the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by USAID alumni. Since the inception of the Awards Program in 2014, the UAA has recognized and celebrated new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and make lasting contributions to others at home and abroad.

In response to the many comments and suggestions by the members in the 2016 and 2017 evaluations following the annual general meeting (AGM), we are pleased to make the following change in this year's awards program. We have expanded the signature Alumni of the Year award criteria to include leadership excellence, including contributions to intellectual development and implementation, and to clarify that both retirees and spouses or partners, who are members of the UAA, are eligible recipients for the award.

We also appreciate the members' AGM evaluation comments concerning the need to recognize outstanding performance and commitment to furthering the goals of the USAID Alumni Association. Many of our members have served over several years with dedication, passion and commitment to the association through design, establishment, and management of UAA systems, programs and social events. Separately from the Awards Program, we plan to periodically acknowledge these extraordinary efforts by some of our members.

For the Alumni of the Year award, your help is requested in identifying individuals whose post-USAID activities are truly exemplary and highlight the quality of our alumni community. We ask everyone to consider nominating (or self-nominating) someone you know who is deserving of this recognition.

The Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year, beginning now until July 31, 2018. Send nominations electronically to: [awards@usaidalumni.org](mailto:awards@usaidalumni.org). The award winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on October 26.

The 2018 UAA Awards Program guidance is provided on the UAA website. [Please click here to view the guidance.](#)

## Development Issues Committee

The next meeting of the Development Issues Committee will be on Thursday the 5th of April at 2:00 P.M. at the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF), 1889 F Street, N.W. Our guest discussion leader will be Ms. Jeanne Bourgault, President and CEO of Internews (and a USAID Alum). Internews is dedicated to promoting free and independent media throughout the world. The Development Issues Committee invites any USAID alumnus to join our lively discussion group. If you would like to attend this month's meeting, please advise committee Co-Chairs [Steve Giddings](#) and [Jim Fox](#) no later than COB Wednesday April 4th.

On May 17, the Development Issues Committee will have David Warsh, whose forthcoming book on the USAID-Harvard-Russia imbroglio gives a detailed account of this convoluted story, discuss the book. David has a blog, Economic Principals, and was formerly a reporter for the Boston Herald.

## RSVP Today for the UAA Spring Reception May 20, 2018

UAA Annual Spring Reception

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**  
**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

The Home of Alex and Pat Shakow  
4001 Dresden St. - Chevy Chase View  
Kensington, Maryland 20895

If you plan to attend, please RSVP as soon as possible and no later than Monday, May 14 to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org) and copy [ashakow@comcast.net](mailto:ashakow@comcast.net) - directions will be sent.

Alex and Pat Shakow are again hosting the annual Spring Reception. We hope you will join us for this special social occasion in a lovely garden setting. Plenty of food and drinks for all. This event is free of charge to Alumni and their spouse or partner.

## Update on the USAID History Project

As reported in previous Newsletters, the USAID History Project is well underway. Our author **John Norris** has now completed five of the eighteen months needed to prepare a finished manuscript. He has done vast amounts of research and collected many hundreds of pages of valuable material. He has read every one of the more than a hundred oral histories of retired USAID staff, perused the relevant documents available online in USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC), read all the relevant USAID-related news clippings he could find, read many - but not yet all - of the many published books on aspects of USAID's work, and drawn on many other sources as well. He will now begin to refine the material, starting to turn it into chapters while also working on a book proposal to shop to publishers.

As noted last month, Presidential libraries are important repository of key documents. Two UAA members in the Boston area have begun doing research for

John in the JFK Library, and soon Carol Peasley will be heading to Texas to do some digging in the LBJ and Bush libraries. We repeat our request - if you live near a Presidential library and would like to help John's research, please let us know ([ashakow@comcast.net](mailto:ashakow@comcast.net)).

Once again, we want to thank our generous UAA members for their tremendous support for the project. About \$210,000 has been received from more than 150 donors. We continue to encourage contributions to be sure the project can be completed and to promote various post-publication educational activities drawing on the book. Moreover, we believe that the widest possible UAA member participation - at whatever dollar level - in this important project is a key to its ultimate success.

If you have not contributed, please do so now by sending a check payable to the "UAA/USAID History Project" 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 co-chairs and a receipt for tax purposes.

## Alumni Profiles - Charlie Bliss

Last month's issue showcased the profile of Charley Moseley, part one of a tale of two Charlies. Known in the local press as the Thermodynamic Duo, Charlie Bliss and Charley Moseley's collaboration began in 1981 in Pakistan and continues today in Fairfax County, VA. Bliss, a chemical engineer, and Moseley, an electrical engineer, in 2015 were awarded a US Patent for a "Method to Optimize the Utilization of Captured Carbon Dioxide through the Cultivation and Processing of Microalgae." They have several additional methods at various stages of development, the most advanced and most promising of which is a more complete and efficient way to capture carbon dioxide from fossil fuel power generation plants. They applied for a patent for this method in early 2016 and anticipate a Patent Office decision on the application by April 30, 2018.

This month brings you part two:



Charlie Bliss is probably unique in having been associated with USAID, inside or outside, since its formation by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. A chemical engineer, he worked on USAID projects for a consulting firm in the 1960s and 1970s applying his engineering skills to economic development in the newly independent Nigeria and using appropriate labor-intensive technologies to reduce the cost of infrastructure construction and to increase employment opportunities in Colombia, Ghana, and the Philippines.

In the early 1980's, Charlie joined USAID in the Office of Energy. In 1981 his path first crossed that of one Charles Moseley, head of USAID/Pakistan's Office of Energy and Environment, who requested support in a project to develop a coal-fired power plant. Their collaboration established the feasibility of a modern coal mining and power generation installation that met international standards for environmental protection. Charlie also served as USAID's liaison to the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in connection with furnishing the equipment for its Fuels Research Center, which upon completion in 1989 became a world-class research and development facility.

During his USAID career, Charlie developed and managed two major energy projects: one, a reconfiguration of Kenya's petroleum refinery at Mombasa that overproduced heavy fuel oil for which there was no local market; the other, application in the Philippines of a coal-water slurry fuel for power generation as a substitute of heavy fuel oil at a time of unusually high oil prices.

Since retiring from USAID in 1991, Charlie has worked as a consultant specializing currently in fossil-energy fired power generation in the US. That has led him to continue collaboration with Charley Moseley in their joint interest in suppressing emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, as a precaution against foreseeable and perhaps disastrous climate changes. The two have invented a process to capture the carbon dioxide produced by coal burning instead of releasing it into the atmosphere. They believe a patent for their process is imminent. In 2015 they received a patent for the use of algae cultivation as a means for utilizing the captured carbon dioxide, thereby making it a revenue producer.

In 2011, Charlie's alma mater, Cooper Union, awarded him its Gano Dunn award for outstanding achievements in engineering. He now lives in the Greenspring retirement community in Springfield, VA. As a centenarian, he attributes his long life to staying engaged with work that he loves.

**Make Your 2018 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).