



USAID Alumni Association

November 2018 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday, December 3, at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue at DACOR Bacon House, address by **Larry Garber** on "**Zimbabwe Deja Vu: An International Observer Returns After 33 Years.**" Garber, former senior USAID official, was Co-Leader of the Observer Team for Recent Zimbabwe Election.

February 2019 (date and time TBD) - UAA Winterfest. We look forward to putting the winter blues behind us at the UAA Winterfest in February where we can share wine and appetizers with friends ear to hear of our wisdom or award-winning sense of humor. Details will be provided later.

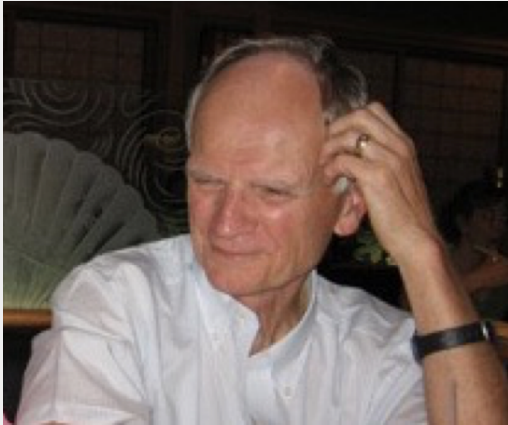
New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** There is one new addition to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- [See the full report](#) on the UAA Annual General Meeting, or - better still - [watch a full video](#) of it.
- The [Job and Volunteer Opportunities](#) page has two new offerings.
- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) the creation of a new USAID Bureau for Resilience and Food Security; 2) SecState's launch of a Humanitarian Assistance Steering Council; 3) an expected revived White House attempt to sharply cut the aid budget; 4) the use of cash instead of aid in conflict zones; 5) USAID's new tool to assess how recipient countries are progressing towards no longer needing foreign aid; 6) USAID's new AA for Latin America; 7) recent remarks by A/AID Green on the importance of aid recipients achieving self-reliance; 8) Trump's threats to end aid to Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador over illegal immigration concerns; 9) 23 charts and maps that show the world is getting much better; 10) the removal of the acting head of the MCC; 11) the positive impact of internet connectivity on life in sub-Saharan Africa; 12) the impact of Mexico City abortion language on family planning and female health in Madagascar; 13) the World Bank's first Human Capital List; and 14) the launch of a new US development finance agency: the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.
- Given the substantial response to its recent revision, the [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#) has been updated again and includes a number of intriguing additions.
- At a November 5 [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#), Larry Cooley, president emeritus of MSI and President of SID, spoke about The Changing Role of International Development in Achieving Sustainable Outcomes at Scale. Hear the presentation and the following discussion [here](#).

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.

In memoriam: John Heard



The USAID Alumni Association sadly announces the death of Board Member, John Heard, on November 8, 2018. John was elected to the Board in October 2015 after serving previously for several years in a leadership position on the Strengthening USAID/Mentoring Committee. Even though not living in the DC Metro Area, John participated actively on the Board - and continued to play a lead role managing the Mentorship Program. We will all miss him greatly. As noted by many in their comments following his death, John was a compassionate, generous, gentle, and caring man who left the world a better place.

Jose Garzon wrote it best: John often ended consultations with kind words of encouragement, saying "super" or "muy bien." Those words equally describe his life. Our condolences go out to his wife Anne, their children, and grandchildren.

2018 UAA Annual General Meeting

The Ninth UAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 26, 2018, at the Center for Global Development in Washington, DC. The meeting was organized around four topics:

- 1) USAID's role in the United States government's response to fragile situations with a panel discussion by Senior Advisor to the USAID Administrator Tom Staal; Brigadier General (Ret.) Tim McAfee, former Deputy Director of J5 Strategy and Plans at United States Africa Command (AFRICOM); Patricia Haslach, former Ambassador and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State; and panel moderator Ambassador James Michel, UAA;
- 2) The UAA-sponsored history of USAID's 60 years of development experience, with a conversation between John Norris, author, and Charles Kenny, senior fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD);
- 3) The UAA's future with a discussion among the membership;
- 4) USAID reform remarks by USAID Assistant to the Administrator for Policy Planning and Learning, Jim Richardson. USAID Administrator Mark Green also delivered brief remarks.



A report of the presentations and sessions is available [here](#) and on the UAA website, including links to full summaries of each session. A video recording of the entire meeting is available [here](#).

140 people attended the meeting, including UAA members, speakers, and guests. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to meet with friends and former colleagues and to interact with speakers and guests from USAID, CGD and other collaborating organizations.



UAA Development Issues Committee

The Development Issues Committee announces several interesting events scheduled for December 2018:

(1) On Wednesday, December 5th, the UAA Book Club continues the discussion of the Ian Morris book, *Why the West Rules -- for Now*, led by Bobbie Van Haefen, over lunch from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Irish Inn, 6119 Tulane Avenue in Glen Echo, Maryland. Please let Stu Callison know if you plan to attend by November 26th (stucallison@yahoo.com)

(2) On Thursday, December 13th, the Development Issues Committee holds its next bi-monthly meeting at the Pan American Development Foundation, 1889 F Street, N.W., from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Our guest discussion leader is Elizabeth Roen, Acting Director, Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research at USAID's Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning. Please let Co-Chairs Steve Giddings (Sgiddings5@gmail.com) and Jim Fox (jameswfox@cox.net) know if you will be attending no later than December 11.

(3) UAA members have been invited by DACOR's Africa Discussion Group to attend a luncheon meeting on Tuesday, December 18, from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m., at the DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, N.W., for a discussion with Ms. Viola Llewellyn, President of Ovamba Solutions, a Chevy Chase based organization using "Islamic finance" to connect Africa's small businesses to investors. Ovamba Solutions was recently named a "Global Technology Pioneer" by the World Economic Forum, one of three winners focusing on Africa. Cost of the luncheon is \$15. Please let Amb. Chris Goldthwaitce (goldthwaitce@yahoo.com) know by December 14th if you plan to attend this interesting discussion. Copy also to intern@dacor-bacon.org.

Alumni Profiles

David C. Leibson **Winner, 2018 Alumnus of the Year, Domestic Category**



David Leibson has been actively supporting affordable housing programs in the United States and abroad for more than 45 years. After beginning his professional career with the former Cooperative Housing Foundation, he served as a Foreign Service Officer for over 20 years, specializing in financing housing and urban development programs in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Since his retirement from USAID in 1996, David has actively promoted affordable housing solutions in his home town and county of Arlington, Virginia. He has served as co-chair of Arlington County's *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* since it was launched in 2008. During this 10-year period, the number of homeless persons in the county has been cut by two-thirds and homelessness among veterans in the community has been nearly eradicated through permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless and rapid re-housing for families and individuals.

Arlington's *10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* was initiated and implemented with a consortium of more than 100 stakeholders from public, private, and faith-based community organizations. The Plan's primary goal is that no individual or family shall lack access to decent, affordable housing. The Committees of the *10 Year Plan* work in concert to ensure that available federal, state, and local resources are used strategically to meet the needs of Arlington's homeless households and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Prior to his work on the Plan to End Homelessness, from 2000 to 2008, David was an active member of the Arlington County Housing Commission. He is also currently President of the Alliance for Housing Solutions and has served on the Working Group for the County's recently adopted Affordable Housing Master Plan. Prior to that effort, David served on the Working Group for the award-winning Columbia Pike Land Use and Housing Plan.

David and his wife Bea live in Arlington, Virginia. They have a two children and five grandchildren. Friends may contact them at dcleibson@verizon.net

John Eriksson

Winner of UAA Alumnus of the Year 2018, International Category



John Eriksson served 25 years in USAID from 1970 to 1995 both in Washington and overseas. His service included as economist in the Program and Policy Coordination Bureau, Deputy Administrator in the Science and Technology Bureau, Deputy Mission Director in Sri Lanka (1978-80), Mission Director in Thailand (1986-90), and head of Center for Development Information and Evaluation (1990-95). On retirement, John received the Administrator's Distinguished Career Service Award. After USAID, John went on to serve, and still serves, as a consultant for the World Bank. Prior to joining USAID, he taught economics at Arizona State and Williams College. John received a PhD in economics from UC Berkeley in 1966.

John's main occupation for many years, apart from his professional work, and the reason for his selection as the 2018 Alumnus of the Year award for international activities, is Global Peace Services USA. As GPS president and co-founder since 1998, John has played a central role in shaping the organization whose purpose is exploring, catalyzing, initiating, and communicating diverse approaches to peacebuilding and peacemaking, across the age spectrum and encompassing diverse ethnic, religious, cultural, and class perspectives.

Through John's concerted efforts, the GPS board has been a microcosm of the world's diverse ethnic, religious and cultural traditions. Some of GPS's successes include:

- *Peace Power 2000*, a comprehensive month-long program focusing on different fundamental components of peace-building, and held in Washington, DC, with 22 participants from 13 states and across the age spectrum.
- Two decades of collaboration with a wide array of academic institutions, introducing students, faculty, and community members to diverse peacebuilding perspectives.
- Special presentations for GPS members and the broader public by both U.S. and international individuals who have played significant roles in peacekeeping.
- Engagement of professions with significant impact on both individual and community life in peacebuilding and peacemaking activities worldwide.
- A semiannual newsletter that provides an open forum for a wide range of ideas and non-violent approaches on conflicts, violence, and reconciliation and that introduces new voices into the peacebuilding and peacemaking conversation.
- A Web site that makes available the GPS newsletters and a compilation of bibliographic and other resources.
- A monthly *Peace Dispatch* publication which highlights noteworthy publications, events, and news of interest regarding peacemaking.

While John Eriksson has formally left USAID, in his ongoing work with Global Peace Services USA in furthering human development, reducing violence, and strengthening collective action in support of social justice, he powerfully continues the agency's mission.

John and his wife Lois, an ordained Lutheran minister, have two children. They reside in Sarasota, Florida and may be reached at rjmuscat101@gmail.com.

Early in the new year, UAA will again be conducting the annual survey of alumni concerning what is of most interest to you, in order to guide association efforts in 2019. It will be somewhat shorter than prior years, and focused on opportunities for member participation and volunteering. We look forward to your responses!

- Carol Dabbs and Bette Cook, Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

Newsletter schedule

The next UAA newsletter will be sent to you on **January 7, 2019**. In the meantime, the UAA Board and Executive Committee wish you a joyous holiday season with family and friends. We would welcome your sharing with us for the newsletter photographs of any recent gatherings, including over the holidays, of USAID alumni. We request that you send **office@usaidalumni.org no later than Thursday, January 3, 2019, a picture with caption identifying alumni names, event date, and location or purpose of gathering.**

Make Your 2018 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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

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