



# USAID Alumni Association

## January 2019 UAA Newsletter

### Best Wishes from the UAA Leadership Team

The USAID Alumni Association Board and Committee members wish you a happy and healthy Year 2019 and beyond. To facilitate alumni contacting us, we are providing a link [here](#) to a list of all Board and Executive Committee members, as well as a collective [email list](#) for these members. We welcome hearing from you about how we can improve our services and how you would like to help.

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Friday, January 11, 12:00-2:00 pm** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue luncheon to honor Andrew Herscovitz and the Power Africa Team, USAID's 2018 "Sammie" award winner, held at DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. (See more details below.)

**Monday, February 4, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue meeting at which **Kenneth Wollack**, recently retired long-time President of the National Democratic Institute, will speak on "U.S. Foreign Policy and Assistance: Interests and Values" at DACOR Bacon House.

**Sunday, February 10, 4:00-7:00 pm** - UAA Winterfest will be hosted by Frank and Antoinette Almaguer at their home, 1503 Dulcimer Court, Vienna, VA. UAA members and spouses are invited to share wine and appetizers with alumni friends and former colleagues. Please RSVP by February 4 by [clicking here](#). (See below for more details.)

**Monday, March 11, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue luncheon where **Tony Barclay**, widely admired former CEO of DAI and Board Member/Chair of several Washington area development organizations, will speak at DACOR on the future of USAID from the contractors' viewpoint. Barclay is also the author of "50 Years of Development: How Private Companies Adapt and Deliver."

#### Save the Dates for other UAA events scheduled later this year:

- Sunday, May 26, Spring Reception, hosted by Malcolm and Tish Butler
- Saturday, September 7, Summer Picnic at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA
- Friday, October 25, Annual General Meeting at the Center for Global Development

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** A number of recent additions have been posted to the [In Memoriam](#) page.

- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) the debate about the adequacy of future food supply: quantity vs. quality; 2) a World Bank review of the past year in 14 charts; 3) the US pledge to provide billions in aid to Central America as a means to curb illegal immigration; 4) John Bolton's concern-driven review of the adequacy of US aid to Africa in the face of Chinese ascendancy on the continent; 5) some questions raised by MFAN re. the new USAID Transformation strategy; 6) an Administration caution to USG employees re. discussion of impeachment or resistance; 7) thoughts about the future adequacy of aid structures; and 8) Trump efforts to maintain aid to the Palestinians.
- In [Web Links](#), take a look at the new ForeignAssistance.gov site that offers a view of U.S. Government foreign assistance funds across agencies.
- The [Forum](#) page has a number of new offerings: 1) a Q&A on the impact of the USG shutdown on FS retirees; 2) a notice from the Administrator entitled USAID's Response to Great Power Competition: The Clear Choice Framework, 3) an overview of The Inaugural Pearson Global Forum Featuring USAID Alumni Nancy Lindborg and Rick Barton; 4) some recent SFRC clearances of senior USAID staff; 5) comments made by A/AID Green at the 2018 Global Leadership Tribute Dinner; 6) a message to USAID from SecState Pompeo; and 7) another installment in Joe Ryan's Development Assistance History think pieces.
- In [Papers Recently Published by USAID Alumni](#), read a new Jim Michel study entitled "Institutional Integrity: An Essential Building Block of Sustainable Reform."
- The [UAA Book Club Reviews](#) is a new addition to usaidalumni.org. It provides an archive of insightful overviews of the occasional book review sessions held by the UAA Development Issues Committee. To inaugurate this feature, two new reviews are available. These are "Why the West Rules-For Now," by Ian Morris, and "Agricultural Development and Economic Transformation," by John Mellor. Take a look!
- There are two new additions to [Resources for UAA Mentors](#). These are: 1) USAID's Mentoring Program Participant Handbook (for the Agency's in-house program), and 2) the Agency's April 2018 Understanding the New Foreign Service Performance Management Process.
- A correction has been made to the link provided in the last newsletter to the most recent update of the [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#).

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.

## Annual UAA Member Survey

As has become customary this time of year, the UAA Board and Committees seek your opinions on what UAA should undertake and what role you would like to play in UAA during 2019. We do this by means of a survey, which can be [accessed here](#).

This year's survey has been substantially shortened from the version used in prior years. We've removed multiple questions we have used for several years which have had consistent answers. Also, instead of asking you to volunteer for one or more of dozens of specific activities, we are just asking on which committees you are interested in participating.

We look forward to your responses, and will post a report on the survey results on the UAA website. Reports for last year's survey can be accessed [here](#).

## UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue

**On Friday, January 11, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm**, UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue hosts a luncheon to honor **Andrew Herscowitz and the Power Africa Team**, USAID's recipients of the Partnership in Public Service's 2018 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for National Security and International Affairs, affectionately known as the "Sammie" award. Event will be held at DACOR, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006 with reception at 12:00-12:30, lunch at 12:30-1:10, and remarks by Andy with Q&As at 1:10-2:00. Reservations are required and should be made ASAP by clicking [here](#) or email at [intern@dacorbacon.org](mailto:intern@dacorbacon.org) with a copy to [ashakow@comcast.net](mailto:ashakow@comcast.net). Please note that the cost of the lunch is \$30 per person. Cancellations not received by DACOR by 9:00 am the day before the event and "no shows" will be billed.

**On December 3, 2018, Larry Garber**, former Senior USAID Official and Co-Leader of Observer Team for the recent Zimbabwe election, presented to an attentive audience at the DACOR Bacon House his observations on "Zimbabwe Déjà vu: An International Observer Returns After 33 Years."



Garber makes presentation at UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue event

## UAA Winterfest

### JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL WINTERFEST!!

This is the fifth year of our casual late afternoon gathering to get us through the remainder of the cold winter weeks. UAA members and spouses are invited. This is a free event for UAA members and those eligible to become members.

Date: Sunday, February 10, 2019

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Residence of Frank and Antoinette Almaguer, 1503 Dulcimer Court, Vienna, VA

Note: The Almaguer's home is located very near Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts, off Exit 15 of the Dulles Toll Road. If lost, call: Tel. 703-938-3289.

Dress: Totally Casual

Please send acceptances no later than Monday, February 4, by [clicking here](#).

If weather threatens, the snow date is Sunday, February 18. Please check the UAA website for any change in plans.

## Call for Alumni to Host Future UAA Social Events

Over the past few years, we have all enjoyed annual UAA social events, such as the Winterfest, Spring Reception, and Summer Picnic. These events have been graciously hosted by Frank and Antoinette Almaguer, Malcolm and Tish Butler, Dave and Connie Eckerson, John and Nancy Pielemeier, and Alex and Patricia Shakow. They happily continue to open their homes to entertain former colleagues and friends of the UAA. We invite a broader segment of the alumni community to volunteer to help host activities of this or a different nature in the future. If you are interested, please contact UAA Membership Committee co-chairs Carol Dabbs ([carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com)) or Bette Cook ([bettecook@cox.net](mailto:bettecook@cox.net)).

## UAA Development Issues Committee

The Development Issues Committee will hold its first meeting of 2019 on Thursday, the **31st of January, from noon to 2:00 pm**, in the 8th floor rooftop meeting room of Arizona State University (ASU), 18th and I (eye) Streets, N.W. (across the street from the Farragut West Metro stop). Our guest discussion leader will be **Andrew Natsios**, former USAID Administrator and currently Executive Professor at the Bush School of Government and Public Service and Director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs. This will be a bring-your-own-brown-bag-luncheon meeting. Multiple lunch options are in the immediate vicinity. Please let Development Issues Committee Co-Chairs Steve Giddings ([Sgiddings5@gmail.com](mailto:Sgiddings5@gmail.com)) and Jim Fox ([jameswfox@cox.net](mailto:jameswfox@cox.net)) know if you will be attending no later than c.o.b. Monday, January 28, to expedite the ASU check-in process.

## UAA Book Club Reviews

On October 19 and December 5, 2018, the UAA Book Club met to review Ian Morris's book, *Why the West Rules-For Now: The Patterns of History and What They Reveal About the Future*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011 (750 pages).

Morris defines social development as "societies' abilities to get things done - to shape their physical, economic, social and intellectual environments to their own

ends." Asking why the West rules, Morris argues, involves finding answers to two questions: (1) Why the West is more developed, i.e. more able to get things done than any other region of the world; and (2) Why Western development rose so high in the last two hundred years that for the first time in history a few countries could dominate the entire planet?

Civilizations throughout history waxed and waned, usually for reasons rulers were powerless to influence. A common pattern was for civilizations to climb the development ladder, only to crumble when they hit a "hard ceiling," usually inflicted by climate change, migration, famine, epidemics and/or state failure. The failure of one civilization frequently has allowed another to rise up somewhere else. Morris acknowledges in his last chapter that the patterns established in the past suggest that power and wealth will continue to shift from the West to the East. However, he is more worried about our common fate, arguing that the current competition between East and West is about to be disrupted by some powerful forces - nuclear proliferation, population growth, global epidemics, and climate change. We are, according to Morris, "approaching a new hard ceiling" and are facing a completely new kind of collective turning point, and "the next 40 years will be the most important in history."

Note: Roberta van Haeften prepared a comprehensive review of the Morris book, *Why the West Rules-For Now*. UAA Book Club reviews of this book, as well as some past and future book reviews, will now be available on the new Development Resources section for Book Club Reviews that has been established on the UAA website for interested members by [clicking here](#).

## Mentoring Program

Call for Mentors for the 2019 Cohort of Payne Fellows:

The Donald M. Payne Fellowship Program is now accepting expressions of interest for its mentoring program. The Payne Fellowship is a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program, administered by Howard University, which seeks to attract and prepare outstanding individuals for careers as USAID Foreign Service Officers (FSO). Payne Fellows receive support for graduate school, professional development opportunities, and gain employment with the Agency as a Foreign Service Officer.

The Mentoring Program is the result of strong collaboration between the USAID Alumni Association (UAA), Agency leaders who have championed the Payne Fellowship Program, and Howard University staff. We need the collective wisdom of retired and current FSOs and Agency staff to help develop the next generation of FSOs.

Potential mentors should know they will have access to mentor training and resources, should they want it. New and continuing mentors for Payne Fellows are invited to join UAA's annual mentor orientation program, have access to UAA mentoring resources, and have the support of ongoing mentors to help support their own mentoring efforts.

Responsibilities of Mentors:

- Contribute to the development of the next generation of FSOs.
- Clarify expectations and boundaries of the mentor-mentee relationship.
- Commit to spending time with the mentee to develop the relationship.
- Encourage the mentee through constructive feedback.
- Create an environment that allows the mentee to ask questions without being intimidated.
- Offer advice by sharing life experiences.
- Be prompt for meetings and scheduled calls and use the time efficiently.



The 2019 Payne Mentors will be selected by early May and matched with their mentees before their D.C. summer internship starts. If you have any questions, or are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Maria Elena Vivas-House, Director of Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program at [maria.vivashouse@howard.edu](mailto:maria.vivashouse@howard.edu).

## Public Outreach

New Public Outreach Committee Co-Chairs Beth Hogan and Jim Bever would like to hear from UAA members who are currently teaching about international development or related topics or are otherwise engaging with their local communities (civic groups, local elected officials, journalists, religious groups, et al) in sharing the importance of international development and related U.S. foreign assistance. Email Jim at [bentonboy@gmail.com](mailto:bentonboy@gmail.com) and he will share with Beth. Your examples will help them strategize on how to extend our reach in the communities where we all live!

## USAID History Project Update

John Norris, author of the UAA-sponsored independent history of USAID's nearly 60 years of development experience, continues to draft chapters for the book while he and his agent seek a commercial publisher for the volume. The next meeting of the small UAA advisory committee with John will be held in mid-January.

## Members Holiday Gatherings



Tumavick Hosts Happy Hour for USAID/Ukraine Alumni

Early in November, on the occasion of senior FSN Victoria Marchenko's presence in D.C. for a trainer-of-trainers program in democracy, a group of USAID alumni from the USAID/Ukraine Mission gathered for a very long happy hour. Shown in the photo (left to right) are Barbara Lipman, Steve Silcox, Nancy Tumavick, John Gunning, Victoria Marchenko, Nancy Silcox, Steve Hadley, Sherry Grossman, and Robin Schwartzman. Missing from the occasion due to difficult weather conditions that evening were Anne Aarnes, David Sprague, Earl Gast and his wife Sibel Berzeg.

## Alumni Profiles: Larry Heilman



In nearly twenty years since his retirement, Larry Heilman has continued to demonstrate the energy, passion, intellect and relentless curiosity in contributing to his community that he did during 25 years in international development. The results have been impressive strengthening Walter Reed's program for wounded warriors, improving local governance in Chevy Chase Village, boosting Latin American studies and research at local universities

and the Smithsonian, and supporting Rotary International projects around the world.

Larry's work in Chevy Chase Village was based on what he learned while working with USAID missions. These activities included creating an elections committee to honor democratic practices, creating an energy and environment committee and a public safety committee, and working on the budget committee to effect efficiencies -- all committees developed to provide spaces for broader citizen participation in the democratic process.

Diagnosed with melanoma and being treated himself at Walter Reed Medical Center, Larry joined the hospital's active chapter of the nongovernmental organization, Wounded Warriors, with many veterans who were more than 50 years younger. At 78, he became a member of the kayak team (pictured above) organized to give soldiers who lost their legs in combat a chance to regain a sense of control. He brought wisdom and organizational talent to the group, helping to raise funds, improve administration, and open programs to the children of participating veterans.

He has been an intellectual leader in Latin American studies, sharing his life-long interest and experience by teaching courses in history, archaeology and culture at Montgomery College, Johns Hopkins, and University College, University of Maryland. For over a decade, he has taught pro bono a course at American University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on "The Evolution of Civilization Meso-America." Meanwhile, Larry has continued as a research associate in anthropology, volunteering at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum, and has recently published a comprehensive book on USAID in Bolivia, "Partner or Patron," the culmination of more than a decade of research.

Larry has also been active in Rotary International, working on a range of programs with both national and international impact. Sometimes as a member of the project team, but more often as a team leader, he has helped identify, design and carry out more than 50 projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia, involving health, education, micro finance and democracy. He has served as President of the Friendship Heights Rotary Club, played a lead role in establishing foundations for humanitarian assistance and development grants for three Rotary Clubs, and has been working on a national and international disaster assistance capacity for the national organization. In recognition of his outstanding work with Rotary, he has received awards for leadership from three different Rotary Clubs-Metro Bethesda, Friendship Heights, and San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Larry and Anne live in Maryland and enjoy hearing from friends. He may be reached at 301-657-3943 or [lcheilman@verizon.net](mailto:lcheilman@verizon.net).

In 2019, the UAA plans to continue increasing its membership while also expanding and extending the reach of activities of interest to our members, no matter where you reside. To make this happen, we need your active participation, ideas, and generous financial support.

We encourage you to become a **contributing member** of the UAA for calendar year 2019 by making a tax deductible financial contribution in one of two ways:

1. Contribute electronically. [Click here to make your contribution](#)
2. Or **mail a check** to: **USAID Alumni Association, DACOR House, 1801 F Street, NW (4th Floor), Washington, DC 20006**

The **suggested contribution levels for 2019** are:

- \$75 Those who live within 50 miles of Washington, DC
- \$25 Those who live elsewhere in the United States
- \$25 Residents of foreign countries
- \$25 Former FSNs, wherever they live, or
- \$25 Associate Membership

And, of course, we welcome you to join with UAA and other "angels" who have generously **contributed \$100 or more as "Friends of UAA"**.

So don't delay! Make your 2019 annual membership contribution today, and encourage your friends and former colleagues to sign up and contribute to UAA as well! Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or comments, or if you know of other alumni who are eligible to join the UAA. Everyone is welcome, including former FSOs, Civil Servants, FSNs, PSCs and other contract personnel, and political appointees.

**Note:** Contributions are attributed to the year in which they are received, unless the contribution is received on or after December 1, and the member: (i) requests in writing that the contribution be attributed to the following year, and (ii) has already made his/her contribution for the current year.

## Newsletter schedule for 2019

We hope you enjoy receiving this news of your fellow alumni activities. Please let us know if you have information you would like to share by sending a brief narrative or picture with a caption of the event, date, and people shown to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org). The newsletter is usually sent the first Monday of the month or early in that week if Monday is a holiday.

**[Make Your 2019 UAA Membership Contribution](#)**

**USAID Alumni Association**



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