

USAID Alumni Association

December 2013 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, January 15, 2014: "The Post-2015 Development Agenda" - Homi Kharas, currently senior fellow and deputy director for the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution; most recently served as the lead author of the UN S-G's High Level Panel's report on the post-2015 development agenda. **USAID Learning Center, 10 am to noon.**

Thursday, January 30, 2014: "Extending the American Revolution Overseas: Little-Known Origins of U.S. Foreign Assistance and Their Lessons for Today"- John Sanbrailo, currently Executive Director, Pan American Development Foundation and retired longtime USAID official. **10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Organization of American States Building, 1889 "F" Street, NW, Terrace Level, Padilla Vidal Room, in Washington, D.C.** (next to DACOR-Bacon House, George Washington University and the World Bank). It is located near the Farragut West and Farragut North Metro stations.

Wednesday, February 26, 2014: UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "The Challenges and Opportunities in the Collaboration Between the State Department and USAID." Maria Otero, former Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights ([click here for bio](#)).

Do you have an idea for a person or topic that you believe would be of interest to your alumni colleagues? If so, please send them to Alex Shakow at ashakow@usaidalumni.org.

New on USAIDALUMNI.org

- Check out the website's new [**archive of alumni profiles**](#) that have appeared in previous UAA newsletters.
- Catch up on what has happened at the most recent [**UAA/DACOR Development Dialogues**](#). And [**listen to the audio of the recent presentation of the Gates Foundation's Geoffrey Lamb**](#)
- Take the opportunity to [**review the results of a survey**](#) taken of attendees at the 2013 UAA Annual General Meeting.
- See what's new on the [**UAA Event Calendar**](#)
- In the [**Forum**](#), view the obituary of three recently deceased colleagues and take

the Pew Research Center's quiz on Science and Technology.

- Read **Articles** about 1) plans to end USAID assistance to Ecuador; 2) a critique of foundation and other private-based aid to Africa; 3) Warren Buffett's son's view of the Charitable Industrial Complex; 4) Senate questions regarding the independence of the USAID IG; 5) continued efforts to secure the release of a USAID contractor held prisoner in Cuba; and 6) a plea from al-Qaeda kidnapped USAID alumnus Warren Weinstein, who is being held in Pakistan.
- In the **Web Links** section, take a look at the latest edition of Front Lines

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 volunteer? Express that interest on usaidalumni.org. If you would like to post a job or volunteer opportunity, please email us at office@usaidalumni.org, Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

UAA Looks Back: 2013 in Review

In 2013, the UAA celebrated its 5th anniversary. Since 2008, the Association has grown to include over 800 registered alumni residing throughout the United States and around the world. 73 new alumni, including an increasing number of FSNs, joined the Association in 2013.

Even more impressive, the number of Contributing Members more than doubled in the past year, with more alumni than ever choosing to support the UAA by making an annual membership contribution. Due to the generous support of alumni, the UAA was able to host a number of social events throughout the year, including the 5th anniversary reception to honor the founders of the UAA and the 2nd Annual Summer Picnic.

In 2013, the UAA also undertook several ongoing projects, including:

- The **Development Issues Committee**, working with the USAID Urban Team and the Woodrow Wilson Center, co-sponsored a popular series of panel discussions focusing on how development issues are impacted by the global urbanization phenomenon. [Click here to view the archived webcast of the July 29, 2013 panel - Asia: Urban Spaces, the Local Environment, and Global Sustainability](#)
- The **Strengthening USAID Committee** and the USAID E & E Bureau successfully completed a pilot mentoring program. The program is moving forward with a phased expansion based on conclusions and recommendations from the pilot program evaluation. A new "class" of mentors and mentees was recently launched and more such partnerships are in the pipeline.
- Taking advantage of USAID's generous offer of its new Crystal City Training Center, UAA was able to offer a greater number of presentations and dialogues of interest to its member alumni. Featuring both current USAID employees and

alumni and encompassing a wide-range of issues, the UAA looks forward to continuing these dialogues in 2014

Alumni Profile: Jock Conly

Jock Conly works as a full-time gardener in Granby Massachusetts. The job doesn't pay much (a few tomatoes), but it rewards him with tangible results. Before his gardening career, Jock was a USAID Foreign Service Officer for 29 years (1977-2013). A former PCV in Sierra Leone, Jock joined A.I.D. as an IDI after earning his MPA in economic development at Princeton.



Inspired by David Shear's work in the drought-ridden Sahel, Jock requested Niger as his initial FS assignment. Tours in Bangladesh (1980-84) and Egypt (1984-87) followed. He returned to Washington for two years to work in the Office of Southern Africa Affairs. In 1989 Jock left for Pakistan to head the program office. A year later, he returned to AID/W for personal reasons. After eight years of developing strategy for a new assistance program to Eastern Europe, heading the CDIE evaluation division and directing the program office in the ENI Bureau, he attended the National War College. In 1998 he left for Kenya as mission director. He and his family arrived less than a week before Al Qaida bombed the embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam. Jock, Buff Mackenzie and Steve Wisecarver were the only USAID officers in the chancery when the bomb went off and were among the lucky ones. USAID awarded colleagues Lee Ann Ross and Mike Trott the Distinguished Honor Awards for their roles

in the recovery effort. In 2001 Jock returned to AID/W. He retired two years later.

Jock worked for Save the Children and then joined Booz Allen Hamilton. In 2009 USAID asked Jock to return as mission director in the Caucasus. In 2011, the Administrator asked him to be mission director in Pakistan. Jock agreed to a one-year assignment. It was his most difficult assignment. "Challenge #3 was the inability of the USAID staff to travel widely to monitor projects, due to the security situation. Challenge #2 was endemic corruption and the unwillingness of the local political leadership to make important reforms. And challenge #1 was the redundant layers of leadership in USAID and the State Department who wanted to do my job for me."

Jock retired "for the last time" in July. He and Laurie have retired to Granby, Massachusetts, eight miles south of Amherst and one mile from Mount Holyoke College. Their colonial farmhouse, built in 1746, gives an old project officer plenty of projects to keep him busy. Daughter Claire (a business consultant in San Francisco), son Matthew (a lawyer in New York) and daughter Gillian (a third grade teacher in Washington, DC) all visited for Thanksgiving and plan future R&Rs from their own demanding careers in Granby. The house, by the way, has three guest rooms for visiting USAID alumni. Contact: conlyjock@gmail.com.

Alumni are not only in the D. C. area but scattered across the country and overseas. We would be pleased to share your latest news with former colleagues in the upcoming newsletters. Brief and breezy is the style we enjoy. Alumni interested in sharing what they are up to are encouraged to send a paragraph or two to [**office@usaidalumni.org**](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org)

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