

USAID Alumni Association

November 2013 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Friday, December 13, 2013: "The Future of USAID - A Conversation with Two Counselors - Bambi Arellano and Susan Reichle". This discussion with two current senior USAID officials, moderated by UAA Board Co-Chair and former Agency Counselor Carol Peasley, follows on the very interesting September 6 session with former Counselors Dave Eckerson and Jim Michel. **USAID Learning Center, 10 am to noon.**

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, Padhila 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.

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

- On the main page, read updates on the expanded and extended **UAA/USAID Mentorship Program**.
- Read the overview of the **October AGM and Election Results** .
- Take the opportunity to go through the recently updated **Where in the World** lists of USAID employee transfers, promotions and retirements.
- In the **Forum**, view 1) obituaries of six recently deceased former colleagues; 2) a novel published alum Mark Wernling; 3) an article on the suicide of USAID officer; 4) a Pew News IQ quiz; 5) a report on the terrorist killing of a USAID/Nairobi FSN spouse; 6) a test of your knowledge on toilets of the world; 7) a Daily Show piece on food aid reform; 8) Mala Yousafzai's essay winner; 9) a

letter to the FSJ on the role of returned alumni in USAID; 10) recently released data on the progress of USAID Forward; 11) an opportunity to purchase USAID-branded items; 12) the results of the USAID Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey; 13) a Washington Post profile of an OFDA officer; and 14) a snapshot of USG assistance to the Philippines typhoon disaster.

- In **Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities**, there are three newly posted job/volunteer opportunities along with some still open, but previously available, positions of interest.
- Read **Articles** about 1) the World Bank's policy shift to "extreme poverty" and the impact on overall development; 2) the role of aid in foreign policy; 3) how Africa's most successful economies do not rely on oil or mineral exports; 4) the economics of sexual inequality; 5) perceptions of democracy in Latin America; 6) the effectiveness (or lack of it) of providing aid directly to the poor; 7) "Trends in the Practice of Development Cooperation - Strengthening Governance and the Rule of Law," a paper by UAA Board member Jim Michel; 8) procurement reform - is local spending better?; 9) USAID looks to business for funding; 10) eliminating poverty is no longer a dream - records prove it; 11) a GAO report on Food Security; 12) the delivery man: the role USAID's Mark Ward in aid to Syria; 13) USAID's first known war-zone-related suicide raises troubling questions; 14) a former senior USAID officer settles on conflict of interest charges; 15) new USG food aid policy implications for Philippine disaster assistance; and 16) how aid policy and programs have evolved in the post 9/11 world.
- In **Links**, check out 1) a Congressional Research Service report on the role of Multilateral Development Banks; 2) a new World Bank Group strategy that shifts focus away from individual projects; 3) an updated Global Gender Gap report from the World Economic Forum; 4) an updated Global Peace Index from the Economist Intelligence Unit; 5) a list of current USAID Mission Directors; 6) USAID 101 - an Agency online course on what it does, how and why; and 7) the most recent 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.**

5th Annual UAA General Meeting held on October 25, 2013



Alumni gather for lunch at the Woodrow Wilson Center

The 5th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the UAA membership was held on October 25 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC (to see the full report, [click here](#)). The Center kindly offered their excellent space near the USAID Ronald Reagan Building headquarters, providing the Association with a convenient location and a great cost savings.

The theme for this year's AGM was Revitalizing USAID. USAID has been investing in re-building its staff and programmatic capabilities. There appears to be significant creative thinking on tackling current and future development issues. The organizers of the AGM concluded that it would be of interest to alumni to hear observations and concerns from the Agency's "new blood," exemplified by the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) program, which has brought on board some 800 junior officers in the past four years. The agenda for the AGM was organized around six panels, each with two or three representatives of a new generation of USAID development professionals. A summary of key issues raised in these panel discussions is provided [here](#).



UAA Board Co-Chair Alex Shakow confers with USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah

The morning's discussion with the junior officers was nicely complemented by the remarks after lunch by USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah. In his talk and in the Q&A session that followed, he outlined the progress made in restoring USAID's leadership role on development issues and highlighted priorities for the future, including commitment to working with our partners towards the elimination of absolute poverty by 2030.

[For the Administrator's full remarks, click here.](#)

The AGM also offered an opportunity to bring the membership up-to-date on UAA initiatives in the past year - especially the pilot mentoring program and the substantive program policy contributions the organization is beginning to provide USAID. These initiatives keep our alumni engaged in current development issues, while helping USAID meet its needs for experience and expertise in a number of program areas. This is discussed in more detail [here](#). More membership engagement with the four UAA standing committees (Public Outreach, Strengthening USAID, Development Issues and Membership) was encouraged.

For additional information on these committees, click here.

UAA Elects New Board Members

The USAID Alumni Association (UAA) Annual General Meeting took place on Friday, October 25 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, DC. Elections to fill five (of the seven) UAA Board positions took place. 138 contributing members voted electronically and 14 voted in person, for a total of 152 votes cast (the most ever in the Association's five-year history!).

At the end of the Annual General Meeting, results were announced, and they are as follows:

- **Jim Michel** was re-elected to the Board (without opposition) for a one-year term ending October 2014. (As previously shared with all registered alumni, this one-year position was created on an exceptional basis to adjust the election cycles that should result in having only three or four of the seven Board positions open at the end of each year.)
- **Frank Almaguer** and **Alex Shakow** were re-elected to the Board for two-year terms ending in October 2015.
- **David Eckerson** and **Carol Peasley** were elected to serve two-year terms ending in October 2015.
- **David Cohen** and **Nancy Pielemeier**, who were elected in the 2012 cycle for two-year terms, will continue to serve on the Board until October 2014.

We thank all who took time to vote and all who placed their name in nomination.

Click here to view the officers for the 2013-14 cycle and co-chairs of the standing committees of the Association.

We also thank out-going Board members Margaret Carpenter and George Hill for their many contributions to the UAA. We are confident that the Association will continue to enjoy the benefit of their active participation in UAA activities in the years to come.

Updates from Strengthening USAID Committee

The Strengthening USAID Committee welcomed **Marilynn Schmidt** as a new co-chair, replacing Pam Mandel, who will continue as an active committee member. The **UAA/USAID Mentoring 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. A major challenge of the expansion is to match Agency field officers in the program with a mentor who brings relevant experience to share. Specifically, the committee needs to enhance its corps of mentors to include folks who have the field

experience in the full range of backstops operational in today's USAID - technical, managerial, legal, program development, contracting, etc. While the major focus of the mentoring relationship is on professional development and career growth, the sharing of relevant career experiences helps build the base for a solid, trusting relationship.

For further information on committee membership or serving as a mentor, please contact **Marilynn Schmidt** at SchmidtMarilynn@aol.com or **Jerry Wood** at jerryjwood@gmail.com.

Alumni Profile: Ann Van Dusen



Ann Van Dusen left USAID at the beginning of 2001 to be Executive Vice President of Save the Children in Westport, Connecticut with the certainty that this would be the next step in her move northward toward her beloved Vermont. Three years later she was back in Washington, getting reacquainted with this wonderful and exciting city and its preoccupation with all things political. The next few years were a wonderful combination of new adventures - philanthropy (both NGO Board work and consulting with foundations); political campaign activity (after years of being "Hatched" it was a total revelation); and teaching graduate classes at Georgetown and SAIS. And yes, occasional trips to Vermont!

In 2011, Carol Lancaster, Dean of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, made Ann an offer she couldn't refuse: come to Georgetown and design a new, practitioner-oriented Master's graduate program in Global Human Development that addresses the knowledge and skills required of development practitioners in the 21st century. Oh yes, and get the program up and running in short order. Along the way, Ann consulted with many USAID alums and colleagues who have offered not only sound advice but also internships for students, guest lectures, and teaching (USAID faculty include Steve Radelet, Holly Wise, Maureen Lewis, Carol Lancaster and David Sprague). Lest anyone doubt it, Ann is ready to testify that the USAID alumni community is vibrant and generous! And the first Masters class in Global Human Development graduates In May 2014.

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

USAID Alumni Association

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