



USAID Alumni Association

April 2015 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday May 11, 2015, 10:00 to 12:00 noon - **Dr. Lilian Pintea, Vice-President of Conservation Science, Jane Goodall Institute**, will speak at this Development Dialogue on "**Adapting to Climate Change at the Community Level**". He will be introduced by our long-time colleague David Shear, former Chair of the Jane Goodall Institute Board. This event will take place at DACOR, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Friday, May 15, 11:30-2:00 - **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "Reassessing United States' Leadership of the Global Economy."** **Javed Burki, former Finance Minister of Pakistan** and long-time senior World Bank official, believes that the deep concern of some prominent economists for the decline of U.S. economy is very misleading. He will discuss why the future development of technology and new corporation types gives the U.S. enormous advantages which will lead the global economy in an entirely different - and positive - direction.

Sunday, May 31, 2015 - **Annual UAA Spring Reception - 5:00 to 7:00 pm**, at the home of Pat and Alex Shakow, 4001 Dresden St., Kensington, Maryland 20895.

Friday, July 24, 2015, 11:30-2:00 - **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "The Arab Spring Four Years On: Has the bloom faded?"** **Masood Ahmed, Director of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia Department of the International Monetary Fund**. There is growing disillusionment, violence and sectarian strife in the region while the most fundamental structural weaknesses in the economic frameworks of these countries are yet to be addressed. Mr. Ahmed will discuss these topics as well as the economic outlook for the region.

Saturday, July 25 - **UAA Annual Picnic** - Since the site was so popular last year, we are returning to **Fort Hunt picnic grounds in Alexandria**. Details closer to the date.

*****Save the Date! 2015 UAA Annual General Meeting*****

We're excited to announce that the 2015 UAA Annual General Meeting will be held on October 23, 2015 at the **Center for Global Development headquarters in Washington, DC**. This year's meeting theme is:

"Building a new consensus for development and the role of foreign assistance."

Death of Warren Weinstein

The UAA -- and broader USAID family of current and former employees -- was saddened to learn on April 23rd of Warren Weinstein's death while being held captive by Al Qaeda in Pakistan. We sent condolences to his wife Elaine and his daughters -- see link -- and have offered to help in any way we can in memorializing and celebrating Warren's many accomplishments. We will let you know when we learn more about the family's wishes.

For those who may not have seen it, here is a link to a very nice *New York Times* article on Warren's lifetime of

service: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/24/world/asia/warren-weinsteins-devotion-to-pakistan-was-part-of-a-lifetime-of-service.html>

RSVP Today for the UAA Spring Reception May 31, 2015

UAA Annual Spring Reception

Sunday, May 31, 2015
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Residence of Alex and Pat Shakow
4001 Dresden St.
Kensington, Maryland 20895

Board Co-Chair Alexander Shakow and his wife Pat will host this year's UAA spring gathering. As in previous years, we are also inviting some of the current USAID senior

managers with whom we have worked closely this past year. We hope that you, and your spouse or partner, will be able to be with us. We also hope the weather will cooperate so we can all enjoy the outdoors at the Shakows, but this event will proceed rain or shine. Please come dressed comfortably

Please RSVP ASAP
to office@usaidalumni.org ccashakow@comcast.net if you
plan to attend

Directions from Washington: Take Connecticut Avenue. The Shakows are 3.7 miles north of Chevy Chase Circle, about a mile beyond the Beltway. After passing under the Beltway, proceed through three traffic lights. The second is Beach Drive, and the third is Saul Road. Dresden Street is the second left that you can take after Saul Road. There is a Baptist Church on the left on the far corner, not to be confused with an Episcopal Church you will have passed earlier on the left. After turning left onto Dresden Street, proceed to the second house on the right after the church where there is a bright red mailbox at the front of the long driveway. Please park on Dresden Street.

From the Beltway: Take Exit 33, Connecticut Avenue, heading north toward Kensington, and proceed as above.

Metro: The closest Metro Station is the Red Line's Grosvenor-Strathmore, a six minute car ride to the Shakow home. There are usually taxis available at the station.

UAA to Honor Two Outstanding Alumni For Post-USAID Service

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At our 2014 Annual General Meeting, the UAA presented awards to three outstanding USAID alumni for their significant contributions at home and abroad since their retirements - Anne Dammarell, Mary Kilgour, and Satish Shah. Their inspirational work was covered in the November 2014 Newsletter; in case you missed it, you can find it here: <http://www.usaidalumni.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/November-December-2014-Newsletter.pdf>

The UAA would like to continue to salute the outstanding accomplishments of former USAID employees - and we are now starting this year's search for **two truly innovative and outstanding "Alumni of the Year"** who have made unusual and significant contributions since leaving USAID. One will be for contributions overseas and the other for contributions in the US. These two individuals will be honored at UAA's Annual General Meeting on October 23, 2015.

Please help by nominating a friend or colleague - or apply yourself (don't be shy about your own achievements). Just send an email message to awards@usaidalumni.org describing what you or your nominee have done since leaving USAID that represents unusual, creative and transformative service in some aspect of development work overseas, or in community work or the arts in the US. Tell us about the impact of the contribution and why it might be inspiring to other USAID alumni or those contemplating life after USAID. Include contact information and if possible a brief narrative bio covering both USAID and post-USAID activities. If nominating yourself, please include the names of two references knowledgeable about your post-USAID contributions.

The deadline for nominations and applications is July 1, 2015.

Applicants/nominees must be US residents able to attend the UAA AGM on October 23, 2015. UAA can help defray domestic U.S. travel expenses for winners who live outside the Washington area. **Applicants/nominees must also be in one of the categories eligible to join UAA** (See the UAA website for membership information: www.usaidalumni.org):

- Those who worked for USAID for at least eighteen months, including former Civil Servants, FSO, FSNs, TCNs, AD and Schedule C appointees; and
- Those formerly employed through interagency service agreements (PASAs, RASAs), fellowship programs (e.g. AAAS Fellows, Population Fellows), and personal services contracts (PSCs).

Please note that this is not another lifetime achievement award. **We especially want to celebrate the new paths taken by alumni to explore service and contributions in new arenas, with different partner organizations, or on their own.** The Outstanding Alumni of the Year may have built on USAID experience and skills but will have shown passion for new activities and made significant and lasting contributions.

What have YOU been doing since leaving USAID?

Advancing UAA Goals from Outside the Beltway

"How can I help the UAA advance its goals if I don't live within the DC Metropolitan Area?"

While there are many answers to the question and many good examples, the USAID Alumni Association Executive Committee would like to highlight two individuals - John Heard and John Champagne -- who prove that members can actively contribute to the UAA from afar. We hope their examples will inspire all of our members, regardless of where you live.

John and Ann Heard in New Mexico

*John Champagne and daughter
Kristen last year in Thailand*

John Heard and John Champagne joined USAID in April 1970 as International Development Interns. Both headed to their initial USAID assignments later that year -- John and Ann Heard and family to Costa Rica, and John and Penny Champagne and family to Thailand. Both retired after outstanding careers - and both have been exceptional contributors to the UAA from afar, John Heard from New Mexico and John Champagne from Western Massachusetts.

John Heard has been a key member of the UAA's Strengthening USAID Committee, as a mentor and as a program manager and evaluator. He has participated in meetings by phone and via the Internet - and took the lead in organizing, conducting, and analyzing the recent survey of the four existing mentor/mentee cohorts. So, you can be, not only, a mentor from afar, but also a facilitator and a leader within the committee, helping it strengthen the mentoring program. Contact Jerry Wood (jwood@usaidalumni.org) and Marilyn Schmidt (mschmidt@usaidalumni.org) to join the committee and to help. And, yes, in his spare time, John also arranged for UAA board member, Jim Michel, to speak at the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum last year - thus providing a great forum for the UAA to talk about the importance of foreign assistance.

John Champagne has been an equally active member of the UAA's Public Outreach Committee, engaging with that committee's co-chairs, Ann Van Dusen and Bill Anderson, to find ways in which alumni can identify opportunities to do public speaking on foreign assistance. This has involved numerous phone calls with USAID/LPA and the broader committee. He has also put the Osher LifeLong Learning Institute [OLLI -- www.osherfoundation.org] on the committee's view screen. It is an organization with which we should all be familiar, as it has more than 100 total affiliates around the U.S., most associated with colleges and universities, which provide adult learning opportunities. John has used OLLI to talk about foreign assistance - and thus helped spread knowledge of USAID and its work.

As both John Heard and John Champagne have proven, you can be an active UAA participant and supporter, regardless of where you live. It is no longer the 1970's; thermofax is gone; communications technology prevails. You can participate wherever you live. Please do join us. Check out the committees on the UAA website and write to the co-chairs. Volunteer. Help to make the UAA an even stronger organization!

Position Opening with UAA - Administrative Assistant

The USAID Alumni Association (UAA), a non-profit membership organization, seeks a part-time Administrative Assistant to help support the work of the Association and its Executive Committee

Position: Administrative Assistant

Location: Washington, DC Metropolitan Area.

The candidate must be able to work from home or in his/her own office. The individual must also be available to participate in regular two-hour monthly meetings of the UAA Executive Committee. Attendance at other UAA meetings and events may also be requested, as necessary (e.g., the day-long Annual General Meeting).

Pay: Negotiable hourly rate, depending on experience.

Time: Flexible hours not to exceed 70 hours per month.

Reporting relationships:

The position is under the general direction of the Co-Chairs of the Executive Committee of the UAA. The incumbent will work closely with the Co-Chairs, the Secretary-Treasurer and the heads of the five standing committees of the UAA, in particular with the Co-Chairs of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Membership Committee.

Representative duties:

This is the only paid position of the UAA. All other officers serve on a voluntary basis. As such, the Administrative Assistant can expect to engage in multiple and varied tasks in support of the Association. Examples follow:

- Tracks alumni registrations and contributions and prepares monthly Membership Reports, in coordination with the Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee.
- Checks on the eligibility of individuals seeking to register as USAID alumni and/or to become members;
- Maintains and updates on a regular basis, from on-line registration and other sources, the contact database and directory of all registered alumni and members;
- Helps the Membership Committee to prepare the on-line Monthly Newsletter to registered alumni, including the monthly "Alumni Profiles" column in the Newsletter;
- Takes notes and prepares the first draft of the Minutes of monthly Executive Committee meetings, under the guidance of the Secretary-Treasurer of the UAA;
- Maintains the calendar of UAA events and activities;
- Assists with monthly UAA website updates and improvements (working with the contracted UAA website manager), based on guidance provided by the Executive Committee;
- Drafts and distributes periodic reminders of upcoming events;

- Facilitates the UAA's enhanced use of social media (e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn);
- Develops visuals and handouts for presentations as may be requested, including periodic updates of the UAA Brochure;
- Assists with e-mails and surveys (via UAA's contract with Constant Contact) to the main contact lists;
- Supports the communications needs of the Co-Chairs and of the UAA standing committees (Development Issues, Finance and Administration, Membership, Public Outreach and Strengthening USAID);
- Supports preparation and follow-up for UAA's Annual General Meeting of the membership (usually in October);
- Supports UAA's participation with DACOR in the periodic "Development Dialogue" speakers series;
- Carries out other duties as assigned by the Co-chairs.

Desired Qualifications:

- Self-motivated and initiative in managing workloads and setting priorities, with attention to details and presentational quality;
- Readiness to communicate on a regular basis through telephone and e-mail with Executive Committee members and with external groups, including USAID alumni, vendors and others;
- Able to work mostly alone with a minimum of supervision but in regular contact with the Executive Committee, providing frequent feedback on the status of pending activities;
- Solid skills in the use of Constant Contact and WordPress, spreadsheets and prior data management experience, preferably with membership-based organizations;
- Basic knowledge of website management;
- Interest in people and in the work of the Association;
- Patience and good humor!

Applying for the position: Send application letter with resume by no later than Friday, May 8 to: cochairs@usaidalumni.org

Alumni Profiles: Alan Donovan and Gerard Bowers

Steve Orr

Following his 40 years as both a USAID employee and as a USAID contractor, with experience in 75 countries, Steve retired in 2009. Since he wasn't really ready to quit, he became a contractor with the U.S. Department of State as an English Language Officer. In this role he accompanied international diplomats and other international dignitaries all over the United States. By 2013, after working in 29 states and 66 cities, he actually did retire.

Steve enjoyed meeting all the people from such a variety of countries. He is happy that he was able to introduce many of them to the American way of life and still stays in touch by e-mail with scores of them.

Now Steve speaks publicly on what he calls the USAID-Peace Corps Nexus. He was a Peace Corps Volunteer (Panama 64-66). Steve was nominated for the 2014 UAA Alumni of the Year award.

He would be happy to be in contact with his friends from his days with USAID and may be reached at exmultifaceted@msn.com.

Ronald Venezia

After 30 years of USAID, Ronald F. Venezia retired to form an international consulting firm - Ronald F. Venezia Associates, Inc. As a subcontractor he provided services to the World Bank (WB) as a certified procurement advisor to WB activities in the former Soviet Union (1994-2000), and as director and advisor to Abt Associates for projects funded by the US Department of Labor (USDOL).

Ron served as Project Director for six-country Central American Occupation and Health Improvement project (2000-2003). This project provided training on occupational safety and health (OSH) to the region's labor ministries, trained trainers in various civil society organizations and developed tools for apparel factories to learn the actual return on OSH investments. The toolkit was translated into Korean. The project's own steering committee solicited and received funding from other donors after DOL funding ended.

Ron served as a subcontractor to Abt Associates in the design and implementation of another USDOL funded project for modernization of Labor Inspection Services in Central America and the Dominican Republic (2004-2010). The passage of the United States-Central America - Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) focused attention on the region's labor inspection services. Ron possessed a unique insight into the dynamics of the labor inspection services. When the USDOL sought bids on CAFTA-DR project, Ron proposed that Abt Associates and the Costa Rican Foundation for Democracy (FUNPADEM) submit a joint proposal administered in FUNPADEM's San Jose offices. They agreed. Ron oversaw the development of the project, which independent evaluators gave high marks.

Ron was cited as a "visionary". Due to its success, the project received additional funding and was extended twice for a total of seven years and total financing of \$23 million.

Ron's provided near and long term vision for increasing the capacity of the labor ministries of the region, ultimately benefiting the citizens of six developing countries, and supporting US policy objectives. His photo also testifies to Ron's long term vision. It was taken during a visit to the Compalapa Credit Coop that he founded in Guatemala as a PCV in 1964. The Coop now has over 8000 clients and over \$3 million in savings.

In 1996 Ron was asked to participate in the Department of State Oral History project. (see www.adst.org). Ron retired from development consulting in 2012. He was a finalist for the 2014 UAA Alumni of the Year award. He would welcome hearing from his colleagues at veneziar@comcast.net.

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

It's time to make your 2015 Membership Contribution

Thank you to everyone who has already made their 2015 UAA Membership Contribution. Your support allows us to continue strengthening the array of services and programs of interest to alumni. No matter where you reside, we need your active participation, ideas, and generous financial support.

If you've not already made your tax-deductible contribution to the UAA for calendar year 2015 (January 2015 - December 2015) we encourage you to do so today. You can [make your contribution electronically through our secure payment system by clicking here.](#)

Or, if you prefer, you can mail a check to

**USAID Alumni Association
DACOR House
1801 F Street, NW (4th Floor)
Washington, DC 20006**

Contribution amounts for 2015 are:

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

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

So don't delay! Make your 2015 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 for us, or if you know of other alumni who should be on our mailing list. Everyone is welcome -- former FSOs, Civil Servants, FSNs, PSCs and other contract personnel, and political appointees.

Make your 2015 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)