



USAID Alumni Association

March 2015 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday, April 13 - 11:00 am-12:30 pm - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - "Climate Change and Development" - Andrew Steer, President, World Resources Institute, and Rolf Anderson, USAID's Office Director, Global Climate Change.

Friday, May 15, 2015 - 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 - 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Annual UAA Spring Reception - Residence of UAA Board Co-Chair Alex Shakow, 4001 Dresden Street, Kensington, Maryland, 20895

Friday, July 24, 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**. The tentative theme for the meeting is:

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

New on USAIDALUMNI.org

- Obituaries: There are several recent obituaries that have been added to the **Tributes** page. Recent obituaries (those appearing since the previous UAA Newsletter) are marked as "New!".
- On our recently created page **Books and Papers Recently Published by USAID Alumni**, three new papers are available: "Climate Change Negotiations in 2015 - The UN Framework", by Stephen Klein; "Rethinking Foreign Aid for Fragile States", by Kiertisak Toh; and "Economic Support for Developing Countries", by Jim Fox.
- The ever-popular **Where in the World** section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. is now updated through February.
- Want to check if your UAA membership is paid up for 2015? You can find out **here**.
- In **Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities**, there is one newly posted opportunity.
- On March 6, Dr. Scott Radloff, Project Director of PMA2020 at the Gates Institute led a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue discussion on "50 Years of US International Family Planning Assistance - Where Have We Been & Where Are We Going?" You can listen to the full discussion **here**.
- In the **Forum**, view USAID's just released Action Plan for Cross-Sectoral Democracy, Rights and Governance Integration and 52 Reasons for Never Dating an Aid Worker.
- Read **Articles** about 1) whether having too many UN Sustainable development goals is the same as having virtually none at all, 2) a retired State Department FSO's views on positive changes in the Foreign Service over the past 4+ decades, and 3) the UN goal of ending poverty by 2030 is worthy but increasingly out of reach.
- In the **Web Links** section, take a look at the most recent Frontlines.

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.

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 graciously offered to host the annual Spring Reception at their home in Kensington, Maryland. We hope many of you will decide to join us for an event.

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

UAA to Honor Two Outstanding Alumni For Post-USAID Service

UAA to Honor Two Outstanding Alumni For Post-USAID Service

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?

Become more involved with the UAA today!

If you're interested in becoming more involved with the USAID Alumni Association, we encourage you to volunteer for one of our committees:

- Development Issues
- Membership
- Public Outreach
- Strengthening USAID.

Contact information for committee co-chairs can be found on the UAA Website at: <http://www.usaidalumni.org/about-us/board-of-directors-executive-committee/>

If you would like to join the Public Outreach Committee, or have suggestions for ways that the UAA can strengthen its public outreach efforts, please contact Public Outreach Committee Co-Chair Ann Van Dusen (avandusen@usaidalumni.org). Ann will be scheduling a meeting by Skype or conference call for those interested in joining the committee, so **you don't need to be in the Washington, DC area** in order to participate. Any questions regarding what participation in the committee entails can be directed to Ann van Dusen at avandusen@usaidalumni.org

Alumni Profiles: Alan Donovan and Gerard Bowers

Alan Donovan

Alan Donovan joined USAID in October 1966 as a Management Intern and served in both Washington and Nigeria. He left the Agency in 1969 energized by the African spirit and culture and moved to Kenya to work on the preservation of African culture and national identities. Along with Joseph Murumbi, first Foreign Minister and former vice president of Independent Kenya, Alan founded the African Heritage Gallery in 1972. The first Pan African Gallery on the continent, the Gallery once had 500 artisans and 51 outlets worldwide. Through the Gallery's annual African Heritage Festival, African art and crafts were internationalized. In 1995, the World Bank described African Heritage Gallery as "the largest, most organized craft retail and wholesale operation in Africa ". Architectural Digest's article described the building as "... a vision of usefulness informed by the African genius for decoration." Alan had got his inspiration for the house from the mud mosques of Mali, the mud castles of southern Morocco, and the coral buildings of East Africa's coastal

strip. The house has recently been gazetted as a Kenyan national monument.

As Chairman of the Murumbi Trust, Alan has secured a Ford Foundation grant to restore, interpret, preserve and label the Murumbi historic collection of political, artistic, textile, material and cultural artifacts, displayed now in permanent glass showcases at the Kenya National Archives and at the new Murumbi African Heritage Collections at the Old Provincial Commissioners Office in downtown Nairobi. Alan is presently compiling an autobiography of Murumbi based entirely on transcripts Murumbi left behind that will provide an important insider's view of independent Kenya's early history.

Alan also worked closely with the Friends of Nairobi National Park and organized several fund raisers for this organization after he closed African Heritage in 2003. The African Heritage has stunning views of the park.

Alan is now looking to preserve the collection, house and vision through collaboration with an American institution. A delegation from American University recently visited African Heritage House to discuss creating a center to promote African history and politics, conservation and sustainability, development and heritage as well as African art and culture.

Alan was nominated for the UAA Alumni of the Year award in 2014 and was one of the finalists. He welcomes hearing from his USAID friends and may be reached at ahalan@africaonline.co.ke

Gerard Bowers

Jerry Bowers served in USAID for 27 years, retiring as a member of the Senior Foreign Service. He was USAID Deputy and Acting Mission Director in Haiti and USAID Representative in Mexico. He also served as a Health/Population Officer and General Development Officer in Pakistan, Thailand, Morocco and Bolivia. In the private sector, he

has been a Project Director for two USAID projects, and has undertaken over 30 short-term consulting assignments. When their son and daughter-in-law urged them to move to rural New Jersey in 2006-"to be closer to your [eventual] grandchildren"--Jerry and his wife Maureen left DC moving to bucolic Holland Township. Suffering from a severe case of acute WDS (Washington Deprivation Syndrome), Jerry sought relief by plunging into a wide range of civic and voluntary activities, including membership on the town's zoning board and utilities and environment committees and as a district chairman for the Hunterdon County Democratic Committee.

In 2007, Jerry joined his town's volunteer fire company as a fire police officer. This year, he was accepted into the county/NJ state firefighter training program - a rigorous, four-month certification course. His academy instructors said he is probably the oldest person in the county and likely the state to successfully complete that program. Jerry admits that the punishing physical demands of the program (e.g. crawling through dense smoke in 60 pounds of gear during live fire/search & rescue exercises in the academy's burn building) took him to the limits of his capacity. Prior to training, he prepared by "slogging up and down the stairs in my house for an hour a day with 25 pounds of kitty litter in my backpack, while carrying a 50-pound sack of rock salt." He evidently succeeded. "Most of the 18 and 19-year old trainees", he said, "were able to keep up with me." Jerry was elected to his fire company's executive board in 2014.

Despite this intense "retirement," the Bowers spend the largest portion of their time in the exhausting, but happy realization of the true meaning of that "closer to your grandchildren" invitation - spending four days a week looking after Erin, 5 and Nate, 3. Jerry now claims to be cured of WDS - with the possible exception of ending his role in an institution staffed largely by other UAA members, the Arlington-based longest-running poker game in Agency history.

Jerry was one of the finalists for the 2014 UAA Alumni of the Year award. He welcomes hearing from his colleagues and can be reached at gerard.bowers@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

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!](#)