



# USAID Alumni Association

## December 2015 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Friday, January 22, 2016 11:30-2:00 pm** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **Amar Bhattacharya** will speak about "**The Road from the Paris Climate Summit: The Critical Role of Sustainable Infrastructure**". Bhattacharya is now a senior fellow at Brookings, following a long career at the World Bank. He has long been deeply engaged in issues of the global economy, development finance, global governance, and the links between climate and development.

**Saturday, February 20** Save the date for the UAA Winterfest, our casual late afternoon gathering to get us through the remainder of the cold winter weeks. UAA members and spouses are invited. Details to follow.

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** One recent obituary has been added to the [Tributes](#) page. The most recent ones (those appearing since the previous UAA Newsletter) are marked as "**New!**"
- In the [Forum](#), read 1) the departure note from PPL Chief, Alex Thier, 2) the new OPM data breach website, 3) important information on the Health Insurance Open Season, and 4) a USAID invitation to alumni to participate in a beta test of its Global Innovation Exchange Program.
- The ever-popular [Where in the World](#) section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. is now updated through October.
- In November, **Ed Abel and Suneeta Sharma** offered an interesting Development Dialogue presentation entitled "**Is Family Planning Assistance Still Needed in the 21st Century?**" See the PowerPoint presentation the speakers used (click [here](#)) and hear the audio [here](#).
- The **Bibliography of USAID Authors has been updated**. New "additions" are identified in blue. Check it out [here](#). On December 2 Ambassador Jonathan Addleton initiated what we hope will be a series of talks by USAID authors in a UAA/USAID sponsored event at the USAID Learning Center. Look for the link to the audio of this talk on the website soon.
- In [Articles](#), read 1) the long awaited confirmation of Gayle Smith as A/AID, 2) Alan Gross' 60 Minutes interview on his experience as a captive in Cuba, 3) problems China has encountered in its Africa development efforts, 4) the USAID Ebola coordination experience, 5) USAID's experience in trying to achieve its 30% local spending goal, 6) the USAID contractor killed by terrorists in Mali, 7)

Congressional efforts to overcome obstacles to the confirmation of A/AID-designate Gayle Smith, and 8) the continued small size of Africa's middle class.

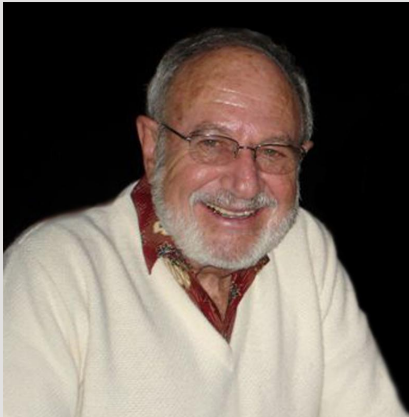
- Under [Web Links](#), view the USAID Public Affairs Office's new "telling the story" page.

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.

## Alumni Profiles

### David Shear



During his 22-years with USAID, colleagues considered David Shear an innovative development leader. He and Don Brown received the Rockefeller National Public Service Award in 1976 for their work on the creation of the Sahel Development Program and special legislation.

Upon retirement in 1984, David built on his USAID experience. As a company executive, consultant and NGO leader, he has provided guidance to those dedicated to social and economic development in Africa.

He persuaded InterAction and its broad membership to support enactment of the African Recovery and Development Act in 1988 - the best legislative framework (DFA) within which USAID Africa missions were ever able to work.

In 1989, David used his extensive relationships in Senegal to mobilize broad local public, private support, and donor support, for the Agence d'Exécution des Travaux d'Intérêt Public contre le Sous-emploi (AGETIP) to generate investment in infrastructure and jobs for young people.

In 1999, the newly elected President of Nigeria asked for help in establishing an independent organization to provide economic development assistance in the Niger Delta. David and Roy Stacy helped create the New Nigeria Foundation, a new entity independent of the federal government, which continues today and works with donor and private sector support, to foster community-based development activities.

In addition to his Africa activities, David guided General Electric as it restructured employment levels for its investments in Hungary, ensuring that equal attention was given to reemployment of those who were displaced and to network building with mayors and union officials, thus avoiding civil and political disruption.

He encouraged - and provided a framework for - the OECD to play a central role in guiding and coordinating the demobilization of 300,000 Russian Army officers, thus avoiding confusion as multiple donors began to provide funding for this purpose. David also taught at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School for 8 years, arranging for students to get hands-on experience in economic development and conservation.

For the past 15 years, David has served as Chairman and member of the board of the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI). Partnering with Jane Goodall, he helped coordinate with Tanzanian leaders and the World and African Development Banks to develop alternative transport routes and thus avoid construction of a major road through the Serengeti National Park.

Perhaps we should all be asking David to embark on a new path - could Congress use a new member from Virginia? Skills learned during a USAID career could be very useful there! And, since David is not slowing down, he may need some new challenges. David lives in Alexandria with his wife, Barbara. They have two daughters: Jessica, a Michigan resident, and Liz Bredin, who lives in Bangkok with her foreign service husband and three children. David enjoys staying in contact with his USAID friends and can be reached at [david@dshearassociates.com](mailto:david@dshearassociates.com).

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