



# USAID Alumni Association

## March 2016 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Monday, March 7, 2016** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - 10:00 a.m. to noon - Our own **Jim Michel** will speak on "**Beyond Aid: The Integration of Sustainable Development in a Coherent International Agenda**", the title of his highly praised [book](#) just published by CSIS.

**Tuesday, March 15 2016** - UAA Luncheon Book Club at Circle Bistro Restaurant. (See details below).

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - 11:30 - 2:00 - "**To Feed Everyone, We Need Everyone: Food Security in the 21st Century**" - **Mr. Alan Bjerga**, global food correspondent for Bloomberg News, analyzes food-production trends and the challenges of feeding the world in the 21st century, including climate change, food-fueled political unrest, and the twin challenges of hunger and obesity.

**Wednesday, March 30, 2016** - 11:00 to 12:30 - **Eric Chetwynd** (USAID 1962-92) speaks about his forthcoming book "**USAID's Pioneering Work in Urban Development**" at the Woodrow Wilson Center in the Ronald Reagan Building. This is the second talk in the USAID Authors Series arranged by John Pielemeier.

**Sunday, June 5, 2016** - Save the date! UAA Spring Reception will be held this year at the DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F St. NW, Washington, DC. from 5:00-7:00 pm.

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** On the [In Memoriam](#) page, there are several new notices of deceased alumni.
- In the [Forum](#), read about the nomination of a new AA for the DCHA Bureau and other timely items.
- The ever-popular [Where in the World](#) section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. is now updated through January.
- In the [Perspectives](#) section (scroll to **New!** At the bottom of the page), read an interesting Joe Ryan response to Ken Lanza's piece "USAID and Economic Growth - Elevating Institutional Development."
- On [Resources for UAA Mentors](#), review a recent Agency document on tips for

Mission Directors (marked as **New!** on the page).

- In [Articles](#), take a look at topics on 1) the earliest days of US foreign aid by John Sanbrailo, 2) the world of air travel in Africa, 2) the kidnap and death of Warren Weinstein, 4) the largest 2016 recipients of USAID grants, 5) the economics of corruption, and 6) USAID actions to address the severe drought in Ethiopia.
- Under [Web Links](#), view statements on foreign aid by the presidential candidates.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), there are several newly posted job offerings.

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.

## Winterfest event

The February weather was balmy enough the weekend of February 20 to entice a group of almost 80 Alumni and guests to attend the second Winterfest at the home of Dave Eckerson and Connie Hansen. We appreciated the gracious hospitality with a wonderful assortment of finger foods and a specially selected tasting of wines and beers. We would like to continue this UAA tradition and seek a venue for next year. If you are able to offer your residence, with costs reimbursed by the UAA, please contact Nancy Tumavick at [tumavick@aol.com](mailto:tumavick@aol.com).

## New Initiative : UAA Luncheon Book Club

For those of you in the Washington, D.C. area, UAA's joint subcommittees on Economic Growth and Institutional Strengthening are holding informal reviews of books or publications. At present the venue of choice is the Circle Bistro Restaurant at Washington Circle NW, Washington, DC 20037. The next session is planned for **March 15** at noon.

The format for the luncheon and discussion is informal. A speaker opens the session with a 15 or 20 minute presentation on the selected reading material (book or publication) and then opens the general discussion. For the coming March 15 session the group will be discussing the book "**Why Nations Fail**" by **Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson**.

The restaurant is in the Washington Circle Hotel and is about a block and a half away from the Foggy Bottom Metro station (just cross the Washington Circle and walk along New Hampshire Avenue). There are three public parking garages within a block radius on L Street and there may be available parking spaces along New Hampshire Avenue. Each person will order from the menu and pay for his/her consumption.

Attendance is open and we welcome all colleagues interested in the topic. If you plan to attend please respond to [jbuttari@verizon.net](mailto:jbuttari@verizon.net) by **COB March 11** to secure adequate reservations.

## Announcing the 2016 UAA "ALUMNI OF THE YEAR" Awards Program

In 2016 the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by USAID alumni. The **"Alumni of the Year"** awards are intended to celebrate the work undertaken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and make lasting contributions to others. Since its inception in 2014, this awards program has honored five outstanding alumni whose contributions to their communities at home and abroad have inspired us all. Many alumni deserve recognition and the UAA Awards Committee needs your help in identifying individuals whose post-USAID activities are truly exemplary and highlight the quality of our alumni community.

The list below provides examples of service that are appropriate for consideration.

- Service with NGOs and other groups (profit or non-profit) that work closely with communities with special needs, at home or abroad or both. Examples may include legal services or advocacy for disadvantaged groups, foster parenting, medical service in underserved areas, etc.
- Service with groups that promote education (at any level), the arts and sciences (e.g., museums, community theatre, music appreciation, etc.).
- Support for civic programs of any kind (e.g., scouts movement or projects promoted by groups such as the Lions, Rotary or similar).

**Who can nominate?** Anyone in the UAA registered alumni community may do so. This includes registered alumni, contributing members and members of the UAA Executive Committee. Only Awards Committee members are ineligible to nominate candidates.

An upcoming notice to our alumni community will provide additional details on the nomination process. The Awards Committee will begin to accept nominations as soon as the notice is published and until **July 31, 2016**. The UAA Awards Committee will review nominations and make final decisions in August and September. The Alumni of the Year awards will be announced at the 2016 AGM in October.

**We ask everyone to consider nominating (or self-nominating) someone you know is deserving of this recognition. Watch the Notice for details.**

## Vacancy: Co-Chair, UAA Public Outreach Committee

UAA is looking for an Alum who would be interested in serving as Co-Chair of the UAA Public Outreach Committee, with Bill Anderson. The purpose of the Public Outreach Committee is to sponsor activities that will inform the American public and the professional development community on successful and sustainable development by drawing upon the wisdom and collective on-the-ground experience of UAA's membership. Recent activities have included the reestablishment of a Speakers Bureau, media training for alums provided by USAID/LPA, and outreach to USAID alumni currently teaching or associated with colleges and universities in the US. Interested alum should send an email to [outreach@usaidalumni.org](mailto:outreach@usaidalumni.org).

## Alumni Profiles

# DIANNE TSITSOS



Dianne Tsitsos retired from USAID in 2003 as a Senior Foreign Service Officer, Director of the Europe & Eurasia Program Office. Her last overseas assignment was as Mission Director in Armenia, following a stint as Deputy Mission Director for the Central Asian Republics. In an earlier Washington assignment, she was in charge of the Russia Desk, and prior to that she was a Housing Officer, serving as Division Chief for Urban Development and Housing in the new ENI Bureau. Earlier in her career she was deputy Director and then Director of the RHUDO for Central America and a Housing Officer in Sri Lanka.

After retiring to Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, she worked for FXM Associates, a small consulting firm owned by an old friend, where she focused on local and regional economic development projects for a wide variety of public and private sector clients. After 5 years of this, she panicked at the thought of never doing international work again and fled to short-term USAID assignments, mainly in the former Soviet states, but also in Morocco, her first overseas post. After about 5 years of this, the travel became too onerous to bear, so she stopped work for an entire year, undertaking no volunteer or other socially useful activities. Then her old friend and former employer lost staff and dragged her back to work, which she accepted on the condition it involve no human interaction. On that basis she has been happily employed part-time at FXM. Friends who said she was the only person they knew who, when on her deathbed, would say she regretted not spending more time at the office, are vindicated.

She enjoys home life with husband Rick Ernst, who also continues to undertake consulting assignments, their two dogs, and three cats. Dianne is active with UAA and is a member of the 2016 Awards Committee. She also serves on the Town Democratic Committee as Treasurer and is a new member of the Town's Tree Committee. In addition, she relishes working around the house, gardening and reading. Although travel -mainly to Europe since Rick was born in Germany - is certainly a part of her life, her bucket list contains only books.

She is happy to be contacted at [dtsitsos@mac.com](mailto:dtsitsos@mac.com) or (508) 758-1308

**Make Your 2016 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

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