



# USAID Alumni Association

## May 2016 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Monday, May 9, 2016** - 10:00 to Noon - **Don Steinberg**, former USAID Deputy Administrator and now President/CEO of World Learning, will speak on "**Trading Places: USAID Forward and the Global Development Environment: A Partner's Perspective.**" Join us at this Development Dialogue at DACOR as he reflects on his remarks to the UAA AGM three years ago, this time from the vantage point of the leader of a mid-sized NGO

**Sunday, June 5, 2016** - 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. **See below for details and the link to RSVP today!**

**Monday, June 6, 2016 - 10:00 to Noon** - USAID FSO **Daniel Miller** will speak at DACOR on "**Photos and Tales of Asian Nomads - The Experience of a USAID Author.**" Miller has published numerous books about his experiences with nomads in the Himalayas, the Tibetan Plateau and Mongolia. This is the third in a series of book discussions with USAID authors drawn from the UAA bibliography.

**Saturday, August 6, 2016** - Save the date! Fifth Annual UAA Summer Picnic will be held again this year at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Friday, August 19, 2016** - Will you be in Vermont this August? Join other USAID alumni for a picnic hosted by Steve and Monica Sinding on Wednesday, August 19th, at their home in Manchester, Vermont. For more information, contact Steve at [ssinding@gmail.com](mailto:ssinding@gmail.com).

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** Several recent notices have been added to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- In the [Forum](#), read about 1) an Agency ethics reminder on post-employment limitations and 2) a recent statement made by his family on the occasion of the one year anniversary on the death of Warren Weinstein.
- On March 23, at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue, Bloomberg News global food correspondent **Alan Bjerga** gave a talk entitled "**To Feed Everyone, We Need Everyone: Food Security in the 21st Century**". Hear his talk and the follow-up Q&A's [here](#) and see the associated slides [here](#).

- In [Articles](#), take a look at items on 1) the damage food assistance can bring, 2) the brutal slaying of a USAID/Bangladesh FSN, 3) the importance of people rather than commodities to Africa's future, 4) IG testimony on the administration and management of aid, 5) two generals' positive assessment of the policy value of aid to national security, 6) improvements made to USAID's evaluation practices, and 7) a congressman's ideas on how future legislation can strengthen foreign aid.
- Under [Web Links](#), view the most recent editions of Front Lines and the USAID Impact Newsletter.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), there are several newly posted job offerings.
- Looking for old friends and colleagues? Check out our ever-evolving [Alumni Directory](#). Note: To get the password to view the Directory, you must first request to be included in it.
- The UAA Board has approved an updated **Statement of UAA Strategic Goals and Implementation Plan for 2016-2018**. Take a look at it [here](#).

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.

RSVP Today for the UAA Spring Reception June 5, 2015

## UAA Annual Spring Reception

Sunday, June 5, 2016  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The DACOR Bacon House  
1801 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.

We are returning this year to DACOR for our spring reception. USAID Alumni with spouse or significant other are invited. Invitation has also been extended to senior USAID leadership and a group of Mission Directors who are in D.C. for a training seminar. We hope many of you will decide to join us for the event. Please note there is a \$10 per person charge for those Alumni who are not contributing members.

Please RSVP by [clicking here](#) or to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org) if you plan to attend

The Santa Fe World Affairs Symposium: Crisis in Migration : A New World of Walls.

On April 18 and 19 the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum hosted a symposium dedicated to the crisis in Migration world-wide. UAA was a partner organization

for the symposium and members could attend at the member price, a considerable savings (\$85 vs \$110). This forms part of the UAA effort to extend the benefits of membership to those outside the Washington D.C. area. The symposium, which was sold out, was a great success in terms of the quality of presentations and the excellence of the give and take during the Q&A periods following each session. Of particular note were addresses by Dr. Demetrios Papadementriou, President and Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute, University of Maryland, who gave an excellent Global overview of migration Patterns and the overall refugee crisis; Ambassador Joseph Wilson on Turmoil in the Middle East, and Salvador Gutierrez, Regional Liaison and Policy Officer at the IOM office for Central and North America and the Caribbean, who covered the migration crisis in our own hemisphere. In general, the symposium provided a rich and comprehensive understanding of the migration crisis and the complex policy challenges it presents to all major players. This is a model for collaboration with other organizations dedicated to foreign affairs and development that could be replicated in other regions to enhance UAA benefits to members around the country.

## 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 format for the luncheon and discussion is informal. On March 15 the group discussed "Why Nations Fail" by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson. Bobbie van Haeften provided an overview of the book and its main theses. Her opening was complemented by shorter presentations by Paul Mulligan and Juan Buttari on how the book approaches the evolution of institutions in Africa and Latin America respectively.

The next book-group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 26 and will be a presentation by Jim Fox on the Robert Gordon's much talked-about book "**The Rise and Fall of American Growth**" in which Gordon argues that we in the U.S. are condemned to slow growth in the future.

The group aims for meetings every six to eight weeks. Attendance is open and we welcome all colleagues interested in the topic. If you plan to participate or want additional information please respond to Juan Buttari at [jbuttari@verizon.net](mailto:jbuttari@verizon.net).

## 2016 Membership Survey-Report on Results

As in prior years, in order to continue strengthening the array of services and programs of interest to alumni, the Executive Committee sought to evaluate alumni interest in a variety of UAA activities by means of a survey of the membership. Based on the prior year surveys, with updated information about the current UAA strategic plan and questions modified for the current situation, we emailed all 905 registered members in late January 2016 to request their participation. Ninety-four responses were received, a 10.3% response rate. Respondents reflected a continuing increase in participation from those outside the metro DC area, which has increased from 37% in 2014 and 47% in 2015 to 51% in 2016.

Overall, the tenor of comments was positive and constructive, reflecting a high

level of participation by those who are engaged with the organization. Notable findings include that 45% of respondents had participated in at least one UAA event during 2015; 48% of respondents expressed interest in speaking publicly about international development; and 60% expressed interest in participating in at least one UAA committee's work.

The report is organized by the categories of questions asked, which focused on the newsletter; website; 2015 events; opportunities outside the DC area; public speaking on international development; interest in participation in UAA activities linked to our strategic plan; and other ideas for UAA activities.

The questionnaire was managed by Ven Suresh, UAA Administrative staff, with guidance and report analysis provided by Membership Committee member Carol Dabbs. [Click here for the full report on the survey](#). Comments and ideas for next year's survey are welcomed.

## 2016 UAA "Alumni of the Year" Awards Program

In 2016, the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by USAID alumni. Since its inception in 2014, this awards program has honored five outstanding alumni whose contributions to their communities have inspired us all. The UAA Awards Committee is now starting its search for the "2016 Alumni of the Year."

The "Alumni of the Year" awards are intended to recognize and celebrate new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and make lasting contributions to others. For full details about the Award and how to make nominations, click [here](#).

## 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

### JOHN & ANNE HEARD

John Heard likes to say that his wife Anne robbed the cradle. They met while at Stanford and married the following year on John's 19th birthday. Upon graduation, the two



John and Anne Heard

headed off to Japan with the Air Force and began their international careers. After four years, they returned to Phoenix, Arizona for graduate school, John at Thunderbird and Anne at ASU for a Masters in Social Work. John's thesis took him to the Dominican Republic to evaluate an AID Sector loan. In 1970 he joined USAID as an IDI, along with UAA's present Executive Committee Co-Chair Carol Peasley.

In 1977, after serving in Costa Rica and Washington, D.C., John left the agency to become a small farmer in California and do contract work with USAID. John and Anne decided to join the Peace Corps in 1980 and became Co-Directors in Nicaragua and in Paraguay. Upon returning to Washington, John returned to USAID and worked in Africa and LA Bureaus and Anne started at State Department's Family Liaison Office until she joined USAID as an IDI. They were assigned to El Salvador as a tandem couple: John as Associate Mission Director for Operations (AMDO) and Anne as assistant EXO. Their next and last posting was the Philippines. They retired in 1994. But not for long. Two years later, they went to Bosnia as PSCs.

They retired in 2000 and John has been the consulting game ever since. He and Anne went to Colombia for the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) in 2003 for four years to manage a large program in alternative development (war on drugs) and the reintegration of displaced people. Back in the USA, John continued consulting in Colombia: "...[I am] passionately in love with this amazing country and its people."

They now live in New Mexico. Both are heavily involved in board activities with non-profit organizations: Friendship Force International and the Santa Fe World Affairs Forum. John is also Field Rep for the Southwestern states region of Friendship Force and Co-President of the New Mexico club. They both are active in Sister Cities and Global Ties (the international visitor program), stay in close touch with good friends in and from Colombia and have been assisting two families with critical education programs.

Recently John has been involved in the UAA mentoring program, both as a mentor and participation in management of that valuable activity. He is now in his first year on the UAA Board, continues with mentoring management and hopes to be able to assist UAA with outreach to those beyond the beltway.

John and Anne are proud to report that their grandson Andre, a Peace Corps Returnee and presently at The Fletcher School, intends to pursue a career in international development.



Grandson Andre with colleague at Peace Corps site in Namibia

**Make Your 2016 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

USAID Alumni Association, 1801 F Street, Washington, DC 20006

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