



USAID Alumni Association

December 2016 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 - UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR will feature **Ishrat Husain**, currently a Public Policy Fellow at the Wilson Center, formerly Pakistan's Central Bank Governor, Chair of the National Commission for Government Reforms and long-time World Bank economist, who will speak on "**Governing the Ungovernable**" - how to bring about improved governance in societies' with entrenched bureaucracies and rigid social structures.

Friday, February 10, 2017 - Newly retired **Ambassador Jonathan Addleton** will speak at a UAA/DACOR lunch meeting about his new book [The Dust of Kandahar: A Diplomat Among Warriors in Afghanistan](#). This Development Dialogue is the latest in the series of talks by USAID authors featured in the **Bibliography of USAID Authors**.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** Recent notices have been added to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- View the [table of responsibilities of the post-Board election UAA Executive Committee](#).
- In the [Forum](#), see: 1) a 2008 Front Lines article describing the genesis of the UAA, 2) a note from alumnus Joe Ryan on some important historic aspects of US development assistance not touched upon at the AGM, 3) a memorial announcement for alumnus Curt Farrar, and 4) a USAID notice on the designation of Mission civilian-military coordinators.
- Take a look at the latest update [USAID Alumni Bibliography](#). It includes several new books from the Foreign Service Journal and 5 from a former USAID chief economist, Constantine Michelopoulos.
- In [Articles](#), take a look at items re. 1) Chemonics' penalization for "racist" hiring practices, 2) alumnus Ken Smith's article on monitoring the financial aspects of project performance, 3) 5 questions about foreign aid under Trump, 4) aid under Trump's 'America-First' doctrine, 5) alumnus Mark Wentling's article on Africa's hunger handicap, 6) second thoughts about in-kind shoe aid, 7) the disrepair of many roads built under the multi-billion dollar USAID Afghanistan program, and 8) a CGD blog based on the A/AID lessons learned panel at the AGM.
- In [Web Links](#), [USAID Impact Newsletter](#) and [Front Lines](#).
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), several new job offerings have been posted.

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.

UAA Associate Membership

The UAA is very pleased to announce that its Board, at the October 13 meeting, approved an amendment to the Bylaws to establish an Associate Membership category. The Board also approved a related proposal that widows, widowers, and former spouses or partners of USAID Alumni who were eligible for UAA membership will now be eligible to apply for Associate Membership. The annual Associate membership fee will be \$25.

The amended Bylaws now read, "Associate Membership is an eligibility category established to include individuals who do not meet the specific criteria for full UAA membership but who otherwise have provided service and support to USAID, remunerated or not, over a period of time which indicates commitment to the Agency's objectives. Associate Members do not have voting privileges and are not eligible to serve on the UAA Board, but may directly participate on any of the established committees." To view the bylaws in their entirety, [click here](#).

We hope that many others will join our ranks as Associate Members in the coming months and actively participate in the UAA. Please share this information with those who are eligible to take advantage of this new category and encourage their participation in the UAA.

USAID Author Talks - We need your inputs

The Bibliography of USAID Authors was compiled in 2015, now has 190 titles and is updated quarterly with new books by former and current USAID staff, family members and FSNs. Visit the USAID authors page [here](#).

Flowing from the bibliography, this past year we have inaugurated a series of "Author Talks" with four presentations: Amb. and Mission Director Jonathan Addleton, Eric Chetwynd (in conjunction with the Wilson Center Urban Program), photographer Daniel Miller, and **Endangered Threads** creators Paul and Kathleen Vitale (in conjunction with the DACOR's Newberry Cultural Series).

Looking forward into 2017 we would like to receive your suggestions on future speakers in our Author series. Please scan the bibliography and let us know who you would suggest. Send your ideas to John Pielemeier at Jpielemeie@aol.com.

Seeking Manager of the UAA LinkedIn Account

UAA is seeking a Manager of the UAA LinkedIn Account. This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for a member to become more actively engaged in the work of the Association whether or not you live in the D.C. area. UAA established its LinkedIn account about 5 years ago and has attracted more than 1,000 current and former USAID staff, including many FSNs. This volunteer work, which is neither labor intensive nor requires geek skills, can be done remotely. The incumbent manager is available to train and assist. For further information please contact **Nancy Tumavick** at tumavick@aol.com.

Marcy Bernbaum



On September 30, 1996 Marcy was one of 100 USAID FSOs "chosen" to be RIFed. On April 26, 1997, nearly 7 months later, her husband Eric Zallman, recently posted as USAID Director to Peru, died of heart failure. Not a good 7 months.

Both the RIF and Eric's death threw Marcy into a sea of ambiguity, something that ISTJs do not like. No scope of work. No daily to do list. Marcy first expected that after Eric died, she would sink into a vortex of depression. Instead, Marcy decided that every day is to be lived to its fullest given that it could be one's last and that her guiding light would be her values -- honesty, integrity, and caring.

For 15 years Marcy combined doing USAID consultancies overseas (primarily heading teams to evaluate USAID education and civil society programs) with one of her passions: doing case studies of grass roots programs that promote leadership and empowerment. In April 2012 Marcy's life took a new turn. Instead of earning additional income via consultancies, she decided to dedicate the rest of her life to living two other passions, human rights and social justice, by helping the underserved in her own city, Washington DC. This time a deliberate move into the realm of ambiguity.

Marcy became a court appointed special advocate (CASA) for an abused Guatemalan youth who had entered the US without a visa. Interested in getting to know DC's homeless population, she began volunteering at a soup kitchen that serves 150 guests daily. Rather than using her skills, she spent the first two years listening and learning.

Today, 20+ years post USAID, Marcy is living all of her passions. She is a proud member of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC), a group of homeless and formerly homeless whose objective is to end homelessness in DC. She is mentor and advisor to PFFC's Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative whose aim is to persuade the Mayor and DC City Council to install and maintain clean, safe public restrooms open 24/7 in areas of need in downtown DC. She has helped create PFFC's home page (www.pffcdc.org) and is training PFFC members to administer the site. And she is advocating to end homelessness in DC: lobbying DC City Council members, delivering testimonies at key hearings, and educating housed

friends and colleagues on the realities of being homeless. And she is carrying out a case study of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless.

Marcy is a very happy camper. While she still misses Eric, she is living her values and her passions. She has gained a deep appreciation of the inequities and challenges faced by individuals who lack stable housing. She has several wonderful friends in the homeless community. She is the proud mother of a teacher (Shana, age 41) and a doctor (Leah, almost 37), a prouder grandmother of Isa (6), Eli (5), and Kay (2). And she has a wonderful partner for life, Mel.

Make Your UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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