



# USAID Alumni Association

## February 2017 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Friday, February 10, 2017, 11:30 am-2 pm** - 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.

**Saturday, February 11, 4-7 pm** - The weather got you down? UAA **Winterfest** is the cure. Share wine and snacks with friends eager to partake of your wisdom and/or devilish sense of humor. Once again, this event will be held at the home of Dave Eckerson and his wife Connie. See details below.

**Friday, February 17, 2017 - 12 noon**. The UAA Economic Growth & Institutional Development book group will hold its next meeting on the topic of **India's development challenges based on "Why Growth Matters"**, a book by **Jagdish Bhagwati** and **Arvind Panagariya**. The session will take place at the Circle Bistro Restaurant at Washington Circle N.W. For further information and to reserve a space please contact Juan Buttari at [jbuttari@verizon.net](mailto:jbuttari@verizon.net).

**Friday, March 10 - 11:30-2:00** - Development Dialogue at DACOR - "**2017 Prospects - New Challenges - Corruption, Foreign Aid and Security.**" A co-founder of Transparency International, **Frank Vogl** has been engaged with global economics, banking, governance and anti-corruption efforts for more than 40 years, as a journalist (London Times, Reuters), World Bank Director of Public Affairs, an anti-corruption civil society leader, and a top level adviser to financial institutions.

**Sunday, May 21 - 5-7 pm** - Save the date! UAA Spring Reception will take place at the home of Alex and Pat Shakow who have graciously agreed to host again this year.

**Saturday, July 22, 2017** - Save the date! Fifth Annual UAA Summer Picnic will be held again this year at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia.

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** A number of recent notices have been added to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- In the [Forum](#), see: 1) an introductory notice from the Acting USAID Administrator; 2) a retiring State FSO's Love Note to America; 3) a rumored candidate to be Trump's selection as A/AID; 4) from AFSA, what you need to know when you disagree with US policy; 5) an Agency Notice on the hiring freeze; and 6) an additional comment from Joe Ryan on development assistance history.

- In [Articles](#), take a look at items re. 1) a Washington Post editorial on the risks of the reimposition of the Mexico City policy on women's health; 2) the potential harm that could be caused to aid delivery by the Administration's immigration policy; 3) the possibility of an enhanced NSC role for USAID; 4) alum Emmy Simmons thoughts on the relationship between climate change and the potential for conflict; 5) the increased use of impact evaluations on development programs; 6) the enhanced re-set of limits on health and pop aid to organizations that have any programmatic link to abortion; 7) the appointment of Warren Wade as acting A/AID; 8) a listing of Agency interim leadership following January 20; 9) alum Jose Garzon's intriguing thoughts on the role of followership; 10) the management challenges of reconciling interagency priorities; 11) how, under planned Trump legislation, federal employees could be fired without cause; 12) the vision of the new SecState on US assistance abroad; 13) eight ways to rationalize US foreign assistance and increase effectiveness; 14) grumbles over Britain's generous foreign aid budget; 15) State apologies for past discrimination against LGBTI employees/applicants; 16) The Economist's Crony Capitalism Index; 17) USAID innovation in fighting Zika; 18) the restoration of a House rule that would permit reducing the pay of any USG employee to \$1; 19) Gayle Smith's exit memo to Obama; and 20) Raj Shah's new job as head of the Rockefeller Foundation.
- In [Web Links](#), there are several new additions. These include: 1) The Economist's Democracy Index (which downgrades the US to the category of "flawed"); 2) an update to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index; 3) an update of the Fund for Peace's Fragile States Index; and 4) the latest edition of Front Lines.
- In a [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#) on January 25, 2017, **Ishrat Husain**, formerly Pakistan's Central Bank Governor, offered a presentation describing **how and why governance weaknesses lie at the root of his country's economic malaise**. Hear the **audio** of this event [here](#).
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), one new job offering has been posted.

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.

## UAA Winterfest

Please join us for the UAA Winterfest - back by popular request, the third year of our casual late afternoon gathering to get us through the remainder of the cold winter weeks. UAA members and spouses are invited. This is a free event for UAA members and those eligible to become members.

Date: Saturday, February 11th  
 Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m  
 Location: 2700 South Ives St, Arlington VA 22022  
 Dress: Totally Casual  
 Call if lost: 571-216-0590

Please send acceptances no later than Tuesday, February 7, by clicking [here](#).

If weather threatens, please check the web site for any change in plans.

## 2017 Membership Contributions

We encourage you to become a **member** of the UAA by making a **tax deductible financial contribution for calendar year 2017** (January 2017 - December 2017), if you have not already. You can make your contribution electronically.

[Click here to make your contribution.](#)

Or, if you prefer, you can **mail** a check to:

**USAID Alumni Association  
DACOR House  
1801 F Street, NW (4th Floor)  
Washington, DC 20006**

The **suggested contribution levels for 2017** are:

- \* \$75 Those who live within 50 miles of Washington, DC
- \* \$25 Those who live elsewhere in the United States
- \* \$25 Residents of foreign countries AND Former FSNs wherever they live
- \* \$25 Associate Membership - (This is a new membership category approved for widow/widowers, ex-spouses, or ex-significant others of those who are, or were, eligible for membership.)

And, of course, we welcome you to join with UAA's other "angels" who have generously **contributed \$100 or more as "Friends of UAA"**.

## Amendment to the UAA Bylaws - 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.

## Alumni Profiles - Mark Wentling

Mark Wentling continues building on 50 years of humanitarian service that began in 1967 as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Honduras and Togo. Since arriving in Togo in 1970, he has been dedicated to working for the betterment of Africa. His work and travels over the past 46 years have taken him to all 54 African countries. He says he was born and raised in Kansas but made in Africa.



Following stints as Peace Corps Director in Gabon and Niger, he began working for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Niger in 1977, and served as USAID's principal officer in Guinea, Togo/Benin, Angola, Somalia and Tanzania. He was promoted into the Senior U.S. Foreign Service in 1988.

Since his formal retirement from USAID in 1996, he worked under contract as USAID's Senior Advisor for the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa and as a specialized consultant in Malawi, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia. He also served as USAID's

country manager in Niger and Burkina Faso in the 2006 to 2010 period.

Mark has also applied his extensive development experience to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), CARE and World Vision, in Niger and Mozambique. In his last position with World Vision, he covered all of Africa from his base in Maputo and worked in a number of African countries. In 2011, he accepted a position as Country Director for Plan International in Burkina Faso.

In 2015, he moved with his family to Lubbock, Texas where he assisted Breedlove Foods, a producer of humanitarian relief foods, and taught an honors course in international development at Texas Tech University. Most recently, he began working as a senior agricultural advisor with USAID's West Africa Regional Mission in Accra, Ghana.

Mark was honored in 2014 with Wichita State University's annual alumni achievement award. He's also a graduate of Cornell University and the National War College. He has published three books ... his African Trilogy...and numerous professional articles. The publication of his fourth book, "Dead Cow Road - Life on the Front Lines of an International Crisis," is forthcoming this year. He likes learning about other cultures and speaks a number of languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, Ewe, Hausa and Kiswahili. He tries to reside as much as possible in Lubbock with his wife and three of his seven children. He plans to continue working as much as he can for as long as he can. Mark wishes to be known as a father, a humanitarian, an author and a teacher, and as someone who has a good and generous heart.

**Make Your 2017 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

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

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