



USAID Alumni Association

January 2017 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, January 25, 2017, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm - 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, 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.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** Several recent notices have been added to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- In [Perspectives](#), discover a new piece by **Juan Buttari** and **Paul Mulligan** that offers a proposal for **development assistance in middle income countries**. Included is a **response by Joe Ryan**.
- In the [Forum](#), see: 1) some notes about current staffing in the field by alum Joe Ryan and 2) an Agency notice re. the appointment of a new Chief Economist.
- In [Articles](#), take a look at items re. 1) questions on the global health position of the incoming Administration, 2) a new OECD-DAC review of US development assistance, 3) the Heritage Foundation's views on US foreign aid, 4) eight possible Trump picks for USAID Administrator, 5) five things the Trump Administration should know about foreign aid, 6) why USAID's new approach to

development assistance is stalled, and 7) a Natsios/Atwood piece on a new role for international development.

- In [Web Links](#), view the latest edition of the **USAID Impact Newsletter**.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), one new job offering has been posted.
- On the [Resources for UAA Mentors](#) page are links to the new **USAID evaluation form and employee training plan**.

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 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 Monday, February 6, by clicking [here](#).

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

USAID Oral Histories - Special Search for Former FSNs

USAID recently entered into a contract with the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) to conduct oral history interviews of former USAID staff. The UAA is helping ADST to identify interviewees - and also to conduct interviews. USAID is especially interested in capturing more career stories from former FSNs. If you know of former FSNs who have made significant contributions to their countries and to USAID more generally, please share their names and contact information with us (cpeasley@starpower.net). We will also share your recommendations with the Agency's FSN Advocacy Council (comprised of FSN representatives from around the world) which is working with the UAA to help identify candidates. We appreciate your support on this; together we will be able to incorporate a very important perspective into our Agency's history.

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.

USAID Administrator Honors Janet Ballantyne

At her final Town Hall Meeting as Administrator, Gayle Smith saluted the many dedicated career employees with whom she has worked over the years - in the 1990's as a contractor and in later years at the National Security Council, and over the past year as Administrator. She also initiated a new tradition that she hopes will be followed by her successors - a certificate to honor the career of a former USAID officer. Administrator Smith, after consulting with her four immediate predecessors, selected Janet Ballantyne as the initial awardee. It was greeted with a standing ovation by current USAID staff, the Executive Committee of the UAA, and three former Administrators - Peter McPherson, Andrew Natsios, and Alphonso Fulgham. We couldn't be prouder and more thankful for all that Janet has done!!!!



GOOD NEWS For Alumni Outside the D.C. Area

The UAA Board has approved a new lower membership amount for Alumni in the U.S. who live outside the 50 mile radius of Washington, D.C. As of January 1, 2017 you may become a member for only \$25 per year!! We hope that this reduced fee will encourage a further growth in the number of members and a broader base of participation in the UAA.

The lower level has been made possible by the generosity of members who have continued to contribute annually over the course of the last year or two. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals who are listed in the [2016 Member List on the web site](#), in particular the "Friends of the UAA" who have contributed \$100 or more.

With your Membership Contributions the UAA can continue to provide the website services (including the Alumni Directory, the Forum, articles, website links, alumni bibliography, profiles, In Memoriam, etc.), the monthly newsletter, the Annual General Meeting, events in the D.C. area and elsewhere in the U.S., and our annual UAA Alumni of the Year Awards.

Contributions are due each January for that calendar year. Shortly, you will be receiving the email reminder for payment of your 2017 membership. However, why wait? [Contribute now!](#)

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.

Alumni Profiles - Carol Grigsby



Carol Grigsby retired a little earlier than most USAID senior managers, leaving the agency in 2011 at the age of 57. Her son was almost 18, autistic along with other developmental challenges. He had a few more years of guaranteed school-based services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Carol and her husband knew that after the age of 21 those would end. In the fifty states and DC, adult supports are largely delivered through Medicaid funding, and each has its own qualifying requirements and

systems of delivery. So retirement, for Carol, meant the launch of an intensive campaign to learn all she could about the world of adult disability services and what it would take for him to qualify in the District of Columbia which her family calls home. This involved a grueling application process and two appeals, alongside a significant struggle to get the school system to ensure a smooth transition. Carol knew the time and effort had been worth it, though, when Alexander graduated with a high school diploma in 2014 and came home to his own apartment and support staff on Wisconsin Avenue.

She had collected information along the way about disability supports in D.C. that would be extremely valuable to other families. So once her son was settled, in August 2014 she launched a blog, www.DDinWDC.blogspot.com (Developmental Disabilities in Washington, D.C.), in which she helps guide others through the system while pointing them toward opportunities to improve the state of disability rights and supports. Her blog readership has grown, and she is often looked to not only by families, but by those inside the D.C. government and city council, as a voice of reliable, reasoned advocacy and a spokesperson for issues confronting families of citizens with disabilities. She also serves on the board of the Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, which monitors the quality of services provided to persons with disabilities in D.C. and provides thought leadership on local and national disability issues. In December she was named by Mayor Bowser to D.C.'s State Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Consistent with her interests, Carol has structured her independent consulting around inclusive development, focusing on the nexus of education, gender and disability inclusion. She led recent SID/Washington panels on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal for education and she often tweets on these issues. She has also rediscovered her musical chops, appearing in regular public appearances around the area with the women's a capella Capital Accord Chorus. Carol's successful post-retirement pivot has ensured her regular appearance on panels at FSI to guide newly minted USAID and State retirees through their own career transitions. .

Make Your 2017 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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

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