



USAID Alumni Association

April 2017 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday, April 24, 10:00-Noon Join us for a **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue, - "Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala in Conversation with Ambassador Princeton Lyman"**. **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, former Finance Minister and Foreign Minister of Nigeria, longtime World Bank senior manager and named "one of the 50 greatest world leaders" by Fortune Magazine, will explore African and global development issues with UAA member and distinguished career **Ambassador Princeton Lyman**.

Friday May 12, 2017 - Noon The UAA Economic Growth & Institutional Development book group will hold its next meeting on **Thomas Friedman's** book **"Thank You for Being Late"**. The leading **discussant will be Jim Fox**. The session will be held at the Circle Bistro Restaurant Washington Circle N.W. To reserve a space, please contact **Juan Buttari** at jbuttari@verizon.net.

Sunday, May 21 - 5-7 pm - Alex and Pat Shakow are again hosting the annual Spring Reception. We hope you will join us for this special social occasion in a lovely garden setting. Plenty of food and drinks for all. This event is free of charge to Alumni and their spouse or partner. See below for details. Respond today!!

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:** The [In Memoriam](#) page has a number of new additions.
- **[Bibliography of USAID Authors:](#)** Are you interested in the very early days of USAID programs - some of our most successful? This [update](#) includes a number of items that will interest you.
- In the [Forum](#), discover how you can get a free subscription to PRISM, a National Defense University foreign policy publication.
- In [Perspectives](#), read a thought provoking piece by Steve Klein that assesses the potential for a carbon tax or carbon dividends under the new Administration.
- In [Articles](#), read pieces on: 1) additional FY '17 cuts to USAID that may be added in the CR, 2) how the Trump budget will impact aid to Africa, 3) results measurement and the case for aid, 4) how, instead of things like "safe spaces," USAID should be more focused development needs more related to US policy interests, 5) the conundrum of providing aid to fragile states, 6) a CGD primer on USAID, 7) how proposed budget cuts will undermine years of solid bipartisan aid reform, 8) what AFSA has drawn from the UAA AGM conversation with past Administrators, 9) SecState's letter to staff on budget cuts, 10) finding a program

life after the budget cuts, 11) Bill Gates' re. how USAID aids the US, 12) thoughts from Andrew Natsios on soft power and advancing the interests of the new Administration, 13) Trump's "siege" on international development, 14) George Ingram's thoughts on how US foreign aid has contributed to historic successes over the past two decades, and 15) fear and loathing in Foggy Bottom where morale is low and anxiety is high.

- At a March [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#), **Frank Vogl**, co-founder of the pioneering anti-corruption organization **Transparency International**, assessed the interwoven **Challenges of Corruption, Foreign Aid and Security**. [Hear the audio](#) or [see the video](#) of his talk and/or [read the text](#).
- 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.

RSVP Today for the UAA Spring Reception May 21, 2017

UAA Annual Spring Reception

Sunday, May 21, 2017
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Residence of Alex and Pat Shakow
4001 Dresden St. - Chevy Chase View
Kensington, Maryland 20895

Alex and Pat Shakow are again hosting the annual Spring Reception. We hope you will join us for this special social occasion in a lovely garden setting. Plenty of food and drinks for all. This event is free of charge to Alumni and their spouse or partner.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP ASAP to office@usaidalumni.org and copy ashakow@comcast.net - directions will be sent.

Announcing the 2017 UAA "ALUMNI OF THE YEAR" Awards Program

In 2017 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 seven outstanding alumni whose contributions to their communities at home and abroad have inspired us all. Many other 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 nongovernmental organizations 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, 2017. Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org. 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 2017 Annual General Meeting on November 3.

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

Subscription to PRISM offered to UAA Alumni

PRISM is published by the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University (NDU). PRISM is a security studies journal chartered to inform members of U.S. Federal agencies, allies, and other partners on complex and integrated national security operations; reconstruction and state-building; relevant policy and strategy; lessons learned; and developments in training and education to transform America's security. PRISM is a meeting place for the defense, diplomatic, and development communities to share ideas in a common discourse among policy-makers, practitioners, and scholars.

The Center for Complex Operations (CCO) was established in 2009 as a collaborative effort by DoD, DoS, and USAID. The editor was a USAID detailee to NDU for seven years. PRISM has made considerable effort to encourage development authors from USAID as well as other development organizations to ensure the journal content is holistic. PRISM currently is distributed to individuals and organizations in over 80 countries.

Subscribe and participate! The quarterly journal is published both in hard copy and online. Go to the [web site](#) to read about PRISM, review copies in the archives, request a free online or hard copy subscription, and read the specifics on contributing articles for publication.

Not sure if you paid your dues for 2017?

Check the [list](#). The list is normally updated as of the end of each month, but it takes several days after that date to organize and enter the additional names of those who paid by credit card each month. ("As of" date is noted on the list.) If you paid by check it may take several weeks for it to be recorded in the list, so do not be alarmed if it doesn't show up immediately.

Alumni Profiles - Jatinder Cheema

Jatinder Cheema reached mandatory retirement age while posted in Ghana as the Regional Mission Director for West Africa.

She was totally unprepared for retirement, but she was saved from having to figure out life after USAID for another four years when she was recalled to serve in Afghanistan and then Armenia as the Mission Director.

She started her career with USAID in 1989 as a PSC in Bangladesh.

Prior to her work with USAID, she was a consultant with the World Bank and UNICEF. She joined USAID as a USDH in 1991 in Burkina Faso. She retired as a Senior Foreign Service Officer.



Cheema (the name she goes by) retired again in 2012, moving to Madison, Wisconsin and downsizing her lifestyle into a condo with her husband Jeffrey Wright, a native of Wisconsin. Madison, a university town, was a perfect fit. She immediately volunteered for local associations and was invited to sit on the boards of the Marquette Neighborhood Association, the Greater Williamson Business Association, and the Madison Development Corporation. Besides bringing diversity to the boards, she was instrumental in expanding their activities into programs to help people with special needs and was actively engaged in progressive issues with the associations.

During her overseas career with USAID, she learned the value of dialogue, of listening and negotiating to solve problems. To apply that learning back home, she bought a historic house and converted it into a space for the community to meet, network, engage in progressive dialog, and discuss local issues. She called her conversation salon "A Place to Be" (www.aplacetobewillstreet.com). The space was also designed and decorated to house her extensive collection of African, Asian, and Caucasian art, including carpets, sculptures, paintings, and textiles.

She has immersed herself in making A Place to Be a community space, while taking full advantage of all that Madison has to offer: music, theater, festivals etc. She lives in the Marquette Neighborhood, named one of the ten best neighborhoods in the US by a national association of neighborhoods.

In 2016, however, USAID knocked on her door again for two short-term assignments in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Since last fall, she has been in Almaty, Kazakhstan as the Mission Director for Central Asia until September 2017.

In between work and retirement in Madison, she loves to travel, especially visiting her family in India where her mom lives. Cheema has just finished producing her mom's memoirs, which should be in print shortly, called "As I Remember - the Life History of Raminder Kaur Cheema."

Cheema is an avid tennis player and has convinced her husband, an equally enthusiastic player, that tennis is a perfect sport to get old with.

*UAA Alumni enjoy reading about former colleagues in the monthly Profiles. If you have suggestions for Alumni to be featured, including yourself, please contact **Dianne Tsitsos**: dtsitsos@mac.com*

[Make Your 2017 UAA Membership Contribution](#)

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