



USAID Alumni Association

February 2018 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Sunday, February 11, 2018 - 4:00-7:00 PM - Tired of the winter weather? UAA **Winterfest** is the cure. Share wine and appetizers with friends eager to partake of your wisdom and/or devilish sense of humor. This year Frank and Antoinette Almaguer have graciously offered their residence for the event. See details below and RSVP now. RSVPs are due NLT Tuesday, February 6th.

Monday, February 12, 2018 - 10:00 to Noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - **John Mellor**, former USAID Chief Economist, Director-General of IFPRI and Emeritus Professor at Cornell, will speak on key themes from his new book **Agricultural Development and Economic Transformation: Promoting Growth with Poverty**.

Wednesday, March 28, 2018 - 11:30 - 2:00 - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue **Nancy Wilson**, President and CEO of Relief International - an NGO at work in many of the most fragile countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East - will speak on "**Practicing Development in Fragile Locations - Experiences from the Field**".

Sunday, May 20, 2018 - UAA Spring Reception at Pat and Alex Shakow's residence in Maryland.

Saturday, September 8 UAA Annual Picnic at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia

Friday, October 26 - UAA Annual General Meeting at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, D.C.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** Sadly, the [In Memoriam](#) page has a number of new entries.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), there is one newly listed job offering.
- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) State IG's look into political targeting of career employees; 2) State's new program to "capture" all email traffic; 3) the impact of shutdowns on development contractors and grantees; 4) a congressionally mandated assessment of sexual harassment in State and AID; 5) the withholding of funds for food aid to Palestinians; 6) MFAN recommendations that are now embedded in new accountability guidance for U.S. aid agencies; 7) the suspension of USAID participation in the Tillerson reorganization group; 8) notes on USAID transition from the Administrator; 9) some new thoughts on how USAID can "work itself out of its job;" and 10) the principle driven resignation of the US Ambassador to Panama.
- In [Web Links](#), view Administrator Mark Green's new podcast, USAID Leads.

- There are two new items in the [Forum](#): 1) another chapter in Joe Ryan's ongoing thoughts on development assistance history and 2) a request from alum Gary Alex for contributions of financial aid to assist in the medical costs of an ex-USAID/Nepal FSN.

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.

Join us for the Annual UAA Winterfest!!

Back by popular request, this is the fourth 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: Sunday, February 11th

Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m

Location: Residence of Frank and Antoinette Almaguer
1503 Dulcimer Court, Vienna, VA

Note: Located very near Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts, off Exit 15 of the Dulles Toll Road.

Dress: Totally Casual

Call if lost: Tel. 703-938-3289.

Please send acceptances no later than Tuesday, February 6, by [clicking here](#).

If there is inclement weather, the snow date will be Sunday, February 25. Please check the UAA web site, where we'll announce if we're changing plans.

USAID History Project Update

As reported last month, the project is underway! John Norris has been reviewing vast amounts of material from all sources. Soon he will focus on materials found in the various Presidential Libraries. **If you live near one of these libraries and would like to help John's research, please let us know** (ashakow@comcast.net). Documents, notes, letters, or memos that have the president, AID administrator, or other actors (including foreign officials) speaking/writing in their own voice are of the great interest in John's research. The direct involvement of the president in decisions regarding AID is of particular interest, and has generally been under-reported in development literature. Of course, material that illuminates the behind-the-scenes decision-making related to AID and the presidents with verve and color is of terrific value.

Once again, we want to thank our generous UAA members for their tremendous support for the project. Nearly all UAA members and friends who made pledges over the past couple of years have fulfilled their pledges and in some cases provided even greater amounts. To date, over \$200,000 has been received from more than 150 donors. We continue to encourage contributions to be sure the project can be completed and to promote various post-publication educational activities drawing on the book. Moreover, we believe wider UAA member participation - at whatever dollar level - in this important project is a key to its ultimate success.

If you have not contributed, please do so now by sending a check payable to the "UAA/USAID History Project" to the UAA/USAID History Project, c/o DACOR, 4th Floor, 1801 F St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006. You will receive a grateful acknowledgment from the UAA and a receipt for tax purposes.

2018 Membership Survey Request

As a membership organization, UAA relies completely on volunteers within our community to design, develop and implement activities and programs identified in our strategic plan and highlighted on our website. Please help the UAA better represent your interests and needs in 2018 by participating in a short (5 - 10 minute) survey. Your input will help us to identify priority activities for 2018 and to finalize the 2018-20 Strategic Plan.

[Access the survey here.](#)

Survey closes on Wednesday, February 14, 2018.

Thank you for your feedback!

UAA Public Outreach

The USAID Alumni Association Public Outreach Committee is in the process of revitalizing our public outreach function. This includes coordination with USAID and active interaction with local universities, high schools and civic organizations. We want to hear from UAA members who share an interest in speaking at such venues-whether you reside in the DC/MD/VA area or elsewhere across the nation. We also plan to develop some audiovisual materials and training opportunities for members who are interested but not experienced in public speaking. If you are interested in joining this initiative, please contact Public Outreach Committee Chair **John Champagne** (at pennyandjohnchampagne@yahoo.com) or Board Liaison to Public Outreach **Tish Butler** (at tish.butler@mac.com) by March 1, 2018.

Alumni Profiles - John Eriksson



John Eriksson was a nominee for Alumnus of the Year in the international category for his work with Global Peace Services (GPS) USA, an NGO he co-founded (www.globalpeaceservices.org) in 1998.

As GPS president since its inception, John has shaped the organization, whose purpose is exploring, catalyzing, initiating, educating, and communicating diverse approaches to peacebuilding and peacemaking:

GPS collaborates with academic institutions - among them, Trinity College, Mary Washington University, Marquette University, and American University - introducing students, faculty, and community members to diverse perspectives on peacebuilding.

GPS organizes presentations by individuals with significant roles in peacebuilding: Princeton Lyman, a former US ambassador and special envoy in South Sudan and Sudan; Mel Duncan, co-founder of the Nonviolent Peaceforce; and Pastor Edgardo Palacios, a peacemaker in El Salvador, have all been GPS speakers.

GPS engages the professions in peacemaking, for example, by developing a curriculum for "Nurses as Healers and Peacemakers," and by working with the American Society for Engineering Education to highlight the role the engineering profession can play in peacebuilding.

Through its newsletter, GPS provides a forum for exploring approaches to addressing conflicts and furthering reconciliation. Newsletters have featured mental health and peace, the role of apology in peacemaking, the perspectives of Islam and Buddhism on peace, restorative justice, peacemaking initiatives in Sri Lanka and Rwanda, and the role of climate change in conflict. The most recent edition (Vol 19, No. 1) includes an assessment of the previous White House initiative to encourage American colleges and universities to develop interfaith peacebuilding programs and a review of the appalling practice of recruiting and enslaving child soldiers in conflict ridden countries.

Since retiring from USAID John has also consulted for donor evaluation departments, primarily for the World Bank and the African Development Bank. He was a senior evaluator for an evaluation of the international community's role in the conflict and genocide in Rwanda. This experience had a big impact on John and his participation in GPS.

John joined USAID in 1970. He served as an economist and office director in the Bureau for Program Policy Coordination, as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research in the Bureau for Science and Technology, as Deputy Mission Director in Sri Lanka and Mission Director in Thailand, and as head of USAID's Center for Development Information and Evaluation. On retirement from the Senior Foreign Service in 1995, he received the Administrator's Distinguished Career Award.

Prior to joining USAID, John taught economics at Arizona University and Williams College. He received his PhD in economics from UC Berkeley in 1966. His wife Lois is an ordained Lutheran minister. They have two children. Lois and John are natives of Detroit, Michigan.

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USAID Alumni Association

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