



# USAID Alumni Association

## February 2016 UAA Newsletter

### Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

**Saturday, February 20** - Save the date for the UAA Winterfest, our casual late afternoon gathering to get us through the remainder of the cold winter weeks. UAA members and spouses are invited. Details are below.

**Monday March 7, 2016** - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - 10:00 a.m. to noon - Our own **Jim Michel** will speak on "**Beyond Aid: The Integration of Sustainable Development in a Coherent International Agenda**", the title of his highly praised [book](#) just published by CSIS.

### UAA Winterfest

Please join us for the UAA Winterfest - the second 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 20th  
Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m  
Location: 2700 South Ives St, Arlington VA 22022  
Dress: Totally Casual  
Cell if Lost: 571-216-0590

[Please send acceptances no later than February 15 by clicking here](#)

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The **Tributes** page has been newly titled **In Memoriam**. To celebrate this, no new notices of deceased alumni have been received.
- In the **Forum**, 1) share insights on your life after the Foreign Service, and 2) peruse a USAID notice on the appointments of heads of the Policy (PPL) and Food Security bureaus.

- The [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#) has been updated. New "additions" are identified in blue. The January update includes books and videos by Howard Lewin, Earl Kessler, Kathleen and Paul Vitale, David Miller, David Steinberg, and Bob Berg.
- In [Papers Recently Published by USAID Alumni](#), take the opportunity to read a thoughtful new work by Jim Michel: "Beyond Aid: The Integration of Sustainable Development in a Coherent International Agenda."
- There is a new [Resource Page](#) for participants in the UAA/USAID Mentoring program. It contains program documents, surveys and evaluations, and mentoring tools from the training program.
- The ever-popular [Where in the World](#) section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. is now updated through December.
- In the [Perspectives](#) section, there is a new think piece by Gary Merritt weighing ideas for a proposed Development Initiative Committee theme of demographic evolutions and US foreign affairs.
- In [Articles](#), take a look at 1) a strongly worded 2010 employee critique of Raj Shah, 2) an assessment of the increased dangers to civil society, 3) a reference manual for new entry USAID Foreign Service Officers, 4) a discussion of the security concerns of development road warriors, 5) impressions of China's new Asia Infrastructure Development Bank, and 6) a report of a terrorist attack on a Burkina Faso hotel.
- Under [Web Links](#), view 1) the new USAID International Data and Economic Analysis website, 2) the new December issue of Front Lines and 3) the January issue of the USAID Impact Newsletter.
- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), there are several newly posted job offerings.

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.

## Vacancy: Chair Person, UAA Administration & Finance Committee

UAA is looking for an Alum who would be interested in serving as the Chair person of the UAA Administration and Finance Committee. The incumbent would oversee/coordinate the contracting and financial operations of UAA. The treasurer and our web site coordinator as well as the administrative assistant would be part of the committee. Interested alum should send an email to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org)

## Alumni Profiles

**ELZADIA WASHINGTON**

Elzadia in red sweater harvesting turnips with students from the Academics of West Memphis

Drawing on her roots in rural Arkansas, Elzadia "Zee" Washington started her career with USAID as an Agriculture Development Officer. In her 30 plus years with USAID, she served in multiple positions, lived and worked in 8 countries - Mali, Belize, Cameroon, Egypt, Haiti, Uganda, Philippines and ended her career as a Mission Director in Namibia. When asked which was her favorite country, her response is always the same - "don't have one, each Post provided experiences my family and I will always cherish."

When Elzadia retired in 2013 and relocated to Memphis, Tennessee, it was the first time in years that she, her husband and three daughters all lived on the same continent. Upon retirement, Elzadia had two dream jobs. The first was to continue to work in disaster management, which came to fruition when she signed a five-year (annually renewed) PSC contract with OFDA to serve intermittently in response to humanitarian emergencies and disasters. Prior to retiring, Elzadia brought 10 acres of land adjacent to her family farm located near West Memphis, Arkansas to fulfill her second dream: to build an 8-bedroom B&B on the land with each bedroom featuring a country she had lived in. That has yet to happen, but she has taken up farming. Today, she is the proud owner and manager of a 6-acre vegetable farm that produces high-quality, naturally grown vegetables for consumers at affordable prices. The initial start-up phase involved lots of adaptability and experimentation, however, the

second year has been a more settled phase - stable production cycles and less product variability.

Given the importance of agriculture in the Mid-South Delta Region and the need to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, Elzadia has teamed up with the Academics of West Memphis to host an afterschool program for high school students entitled " Let's Move - Protect our Agricultural Heritage." The students are learning how food is grown, the importance of healthier eating and are acquiring an appreciation for farm life. Her hope is that they will share this knowledge with family members and those in their communities. Given her passion for the agriculture sector, Elzadia is also hoping that her students will develop a love for and seek careers in agriculture, environment, natural resources management or the food industry.

In addition to other accomplishments, Elzadia is actively engaged in the UAA Mentoring Program focused on her mentee's needs and interests. Elzadia is the president of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) local alumni chapter and also is a member of the UAPB Global River Basin Imitative Advisory Council, where she provides a global perspective to the higher education experience. Friends may reach Elzadia at [elzadiawashington@yahoo.com](mailto:elzadiawashington@yahoo.com).

## **Make Your 2016 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

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

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