



USAID Alumni Association

June 2016 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, June 29, 2016 - 11:30 - 1:30 - Alex Thier, Founder and CEO of Triple Helix and until recently head of USAID's Policy, Planning, and Learning Bureau (PPL), will speak at a Development Dialogue at DACOR on **"The US Development Agenda 2020: What the Next Four Years Could (Should) Bring"**?

Saturday, August 6, 2016 - Save the date! Fifth Annual UAA Summer Picnic will be held again this year at Fort Hunt in Alexandria, Virginia.

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 - Will you be in Vermont this August? Join other USAID alumni for a picnic hosted by Steve and Monica Sinding on Wednesday, August 17th, at their home in Manchester, Vermont. For more information, contact Steve at ssinding@gmail.com.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** Several recent notices have been added to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- The ever-popular [Where in the World](#) section of USAID transfers, promotions, retirements, etc. is now updated through March.
- On May 9, former USAID Deputy Administrator and current President and CEO of World Learning **Don Steinberg**, spoke on **"Trading Places: USAID Forward and the Global Development Environment: A Partner's Perspective"**. From his unique vantage point he described the USAID he and Raj Shah found when they began their tenure, what was accomplished and how the agency looks now to the head of a mid-size NGO. Listen to Don's talk [here](#) or [read a text version](#).
- In [Articles](#), take a look at items on 1) the State Department's newly announced Foreign Service Family Reserve Corps, 2) the acceleration of China's development lending, 3) Administrator Smith's description of a very stretched humanitarian response system, 4) the challenges faced by the World Humanitarian Summit, 5) how to make better development investment choices, 6) Foreign Service Retirement Planning 101, and 7) the radical changes being made by World Bank President Jim Kim.
- The May 2016 update of the **UAA Bibliography** includes several new items (highlighted in blue) is now available. The bibliography contains books written by current and former Agency employees and their family members with descriptions of the book content and the author's relationship to USAID. To access the bibliography, click [here](#).

- In [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#), there are several newly posted job offerings.
- Not sure if you have made your 2016 membership contribution to UAA? You can check it out [here](#). Note that the most recent update is thru April 30, 2016.
- Looking for old friends and colleagues? Check out our ever-evolving [Alumni Directory](#). The Directory is now fully sortable. Just use the arrows at the top of each column. Note: To get the password to view the Directory, you must first request to be included in it.

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 Spring Reception

The UAA spring reception was held at DACOR on Sunday, June 5th, drawing a crowd of about 80 UAA members, spouses and invited USAID guests, including recently appointed mission directors and deputies in town for a conference. Co-chairs Carol Peasley and Tish Butler updated the group on the growth of UAA's membership and activities. USAID counselor Susan Reichle thanked UAA for its support of the agency through policy reviews, the mentoring program, and its efforts to document and draw lessons from history.

Search for Candidates to Serve on the UAA Board

The Board of Directors is seeking from the UAA membership expressions of interest to serve on the UAA Board for the 2016 - 2018 cycle. Please contact **Carol Peasley**, Chair of the 2016 Nominating Committee, at cpeasley@usaidalumni.org to express your interest in running and/or to share your recommendations of other candidates.

UAA Board composition: A seven-member Board of Directors governs the affairs of the UAA. Each position on the Board is filled by election from among the UAA members for a two-year term. Incumbents may serve for up to two consecutive terms.

Eligibility to serve on the Board: UAA members who have paid their annual membership contribution for the current year are eligible to vote and to run for a seat on the Board. The applicable contribution amounts for 2015 are: \$75 for those living within a 50-mile radius of DC, \$50 for those living in the U.S. beyond the DC Metro area and \$25 for those living overseas or are former FSNs.

Voting procedure: Elections are conducted on-line beginning several weeks before the Annual General Meeting (AGM). We expect all voting this year to be done on-line prior to the AGM; we do not expect to permit voting the day of the AGM. Results are announced at the conclusion of the AGM, which this year is scheduled for Friday, October 21.

Board seat openings in 2016: This coming October, two UAA Board members will be completing the two-year terms for which they were elected. One additional Board member will have completed an (exceptional) one-year term that will be followed by a normal two-year term. Hence, **three** of the seven **UAA Board**

positions will be on the ballot this year.

Slate of Candidates: A proposed slate of candidates recommended by the Board, along with all other candidates who have expressed an interest in serving on the Board, will be submitted to the UAA membership no later than the week of **September 7**, six weeks before the AGM, for the members' consideration and vote.

All ballots must be cast on-line by COB Wednesday, October 19 in order to be counted prior to the October 21 AGM. There will be no on-site voting during the AGM. Results will be announced at the AGM.

Expressions of interest: Please let us know if you are interested in running for a position on the UAA Board, or if you wish to recommend other UAA members who would be good candidates. Deadline for submission of names is August 7 so that the UAA Board can prepare and send out the ballots by the week of September 7.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in the activities of the UAA.

The 2016 UAA "Alumni of the Year" Awards Program

As previously announced, the UAA will continue to recognize at its Annual General Meeting significant contributions by USAID alumni. The "Alumni of the Year" awards are intended to recognize and celebrate new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and improve the lives of others at home and abroad. Since its inception in 2014, this awards program has honored five outstanding alumni whose contributions to their communities have inspired us all. The UAA Awards Committee is now receiving nominations for the "2016 Alumni of the Year" awards and will continue to do so until July 31. There are impressive contributions among our alumni community waiting to be recognized by our fellow alumni. Don't wait until the last minute to share those stories. For full details about the Award and how to make nominations, click [here](#).

New Initiative: UAA Luncheon Book Club

For those of you in the Washington, D.C. area, UAA's joint subcommittees on Economic Growth and Institutional Strengthening are holding in-house reviews of books or publications. The venue is the Circle Bistro Restaurant at Washington Circle NW, Washington, DC 20037.

The format for the luncheon and discussion is a presentation by designated reader(s) followed by an informal discussion of the material. On May 26 the group discussed Robert Gordon's "**The Rise and Fall of American Growth**". **Jim Fox** made the presentation and circulated a comprehensive summary and review of the book.

The presentation gave rise to various questions and exchanges on such topics as: dependability of GDP as a measure of economic growth and changes in standards of living, soundness of perceptions regarding progress in "wellness" across time and rural/urban areas, links between productivity changes and the country's human capital, and potential policies to overcome current growth challenges. Another concern raised was the link between U.S. economic growth and international development which overlapped with questions relating to the US foreign economic assistance endeavors.

In view of the interest on the topics discussed at the book-group meetings, and to leave record of the information exchanged, the Subcommittee is considering

preparing reports of the discussions and using the reports as potential inputs for the UAA Development Resources 'Perspectives' series. We'll keep you posted.

The group aims for meetings every six to eight weeks. Look for the announcement of the next session in the July Newsletter. Attendance is open and we welcome all colleagues interested in the topic. If you plan to participate or want additional information please contact Juan Buttari at jbuttari@verizon.net.

Announcing improvements to the UAA website Alumni Directory

Our alumni community is making increased use of the UAA website. A major attraction is the easy access to former friends and colleagues through the Alumni Directory. This password-protected directory now has location information on over 700 of our colleagues who have agreed to share at least some contact information. Improvements to the directory now allow users to search a person listed by first name, last name, e-mail address and/or state or country of residence. All you need to do is to go to the top of the directory and sort out the entries in any way appropriate to your search needs and chances are that you will soon find someone you have been meaning to contact for a while!

We encourage registered alumni who have not yet provided the OK to include contact information - some 200 of you - to do so in the coming weeks to make sure you are not missed in upcoming get-togethers in your community or when USAID friends try to reach you!

Reaching out to local alumni

Now that it is infinitely easier to find registered alumni near you, the Membership Committee urges all to reach out to fellow alumni near you. Perhaps a get-together over lunch or at another suitable setting can help in forming local alumni groups. A quick search of the Alumni Directory by state of residence shows that as of April 30 we had alumni living in DC and 41 states, plus 22 foreign countries. Surely there are fellow alumni near you! While over 50% of our alumni live in the DC/Maryland/Virginia region, there are significant clusters elsewhere, including California, Florida, North Carolina and Oregon. Reach out to those near you. And when you do, tell us about it, including who participated and future plans.

Finding Unregistered Alumni

To make the UAA Alumni Directory and website even more valuable to all, we need to encourage more of our unregistered alumni to register. As of April 30, the UAA had 918 registered alumni in its Directory and that number continues to grow every month. Our goal is to have no less than 1,000 registered alumni by the time we meet at the Annual General Meeting on October 21. It is an ambitious goal, but doable with the active support of all who are already registered. Most of us probably know someone who has not registered, often because they don't see the value. Please be an advocate for the UAA with them. Show them what the UAA is doing and what they miss out when they don't receive the monthly Newsletter or when they lose contacts with lifetime colleagues. This Association belongs to all of us and each one of us should be doing his or her best to contribute to its activities and to participate. Help us make the UAA the best it can be with the full support of each of us. This starts with ensuring that as many of the many eligible alumni register and participate in the work of the Association.

Vacancy: Co-Chair, Public Outreach Committee

UAA is looking for an Alum who would be interested in serving as Co-Chair of the UAA Public Outreach Committee, with Bill Anderson. The purpose of the Public Outreach Committee is to sponsor activities that will inform the American public and the professional development community on successful and sustainable development by drawing upon the wisdom and collective on-the-ground experience of UAA's membership. Recent activities have included the reestablishment of a Speakers Bureau, media training for alums provided by USAID/LPA, and outreach to USAID alumni currently teaching or associated with colleges and universities in the US. Interested alum should send an email to outreach@usaidalumni.org.

Then and Now

Marge and Jack Huxtable



Then



Now

Both Marge Balfe and Jack Huxtable joined the Peace Corps in the early 1960s. Both worked in Asia: Marge in Phuvin, Vietnam and Jack in the village of Phalane, Lao. They met, not in Asia, but in Virginia at a Peace Corps Returnees party in 1966. Like many PC volunteers, they succumbed to the lure USAID and were posted in Asia. A year after meeting in Virginia, Marge and Jack were married at the Queen of Peace Chapel in Saigon on June 24, 1967. Forty-nine years later, they returned to Asia to visit friends and familiar sites, meandering from Laos to Vietnam. These Then and Now snapshots show them standing in front of the church on their wedding day and in early 2016. Some of you may recognize the best man at their wedding, USAID colleague Max Walton.

UAA Newsletter welcomes all *Then and Now* pictures. If you have some to share just

send them to UAA Membership Committee.

Make Your 2016 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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

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