



# USAID Alumni Association

## January 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.

**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**.

### New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page has a number of new entries.
- At a September [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#), alumnus **Steve Young** presented some of his experiences in CORDS/Vietnam and related thoughts included in his recently published book: **The Theory and Practice of Associative Power: CORDS in the Villages of Vietnam 1967-72**. Listen to his presentation [here](#).
- At a December [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#), alumnus **Jerry Wolgin** spoke on the complex issues of **African Economic Growth: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**. Listen to the audio [here](#) and see his slides [here](#).
- In [Articles](#), read items on: 1) Henrietta Holsman Fore's new job as the executive director of UNICEF, 2) alumnus Bill Hammink's assessment of successes and challenges of USAID in Afghanistan, 3) harassment and assault in humanitarian aid organizations, 4) Secretary Tillerson's comments on immediate actions to be taken as the result of redesign in State and USAID, 5) Gayle Smith's blueprint for an activist humanitarian community, 6) the anticipation that the State/USAID hiring freeze will endure through FY 2018, 7) USAID reinstatement of pre-employment status of FSO candidates, 8) USAID to offer a new development impact bond aimed at reducing maternal and newborn deaths, 9) the disappearance of donated money following disasters, 10) long vacant positions on the Foreign Service Grievance Board are now being filled, and 11) thoughts from alumnus Jeffrey Cochrane that USAID needs to reclaim its original mission and stop trying to do everything at once.
- There are several new items of interest in the [Forum](#): 1) an upcoming CGD session presenting A Conversation with Former Directors of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health, 2) a very interesting Q&A for federal workers on Medicare and the FEHBP, and 3) an Agency notice on Senior Leadership Title Changes Required by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act.

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.

## 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.](#)

Thank you for your feedback!

## Alumni Holiday Reunion



During the holiday season, Alexi Panehal hosted an ENE Bureau/EPA reunion for USAID Alumni Nancy Tumavick, Bob Ichord, Ron Greenberg, Jim Bever, Sonia Hammam, and Howard Sumka with their former EPA counterpart retirees including Lee Pasarew, Gary Waxmonskey, Anna Phillips, Dan Thompson and Jane Metcalfe. Over pierogi, kielbasa and vodka, the group enjoyed lively reminiscences about USAID 1990's contributions in Eastern Europe to the energy, environment and municipal sectors.

(NOTE: Please share with us photos and captions of Alumni get togethers to include in our Newsletter.)

## UAA Winterfest

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL 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 Monday, February 6, by [clicking here](#).

If weather threatens, the snow date is Sunday, February 25. Please check the web site for any change in plans.

## CSIS Event to Remember Janet Ballantyne



On December 8, 2017, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) sponsored a well-attended seminar in memory of Janet Ballantyne. Dan Runde, Director of the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development, convened and chaired the session, noting in his introductory remarks the substantial contributions Janet had made to USAID and to the broader international development community. Four panelists spoke -- Carol Peasley, former USAID colleague of Janet; Anne Simmons-Benton, Executive Director for Global Business Strategy and Development at Arizona State University; J. Andrew Spindler, President and CEO of the Financial Services Volunteer Corps; and Ambassador John Maisto. The session was well attended -- and many of the attendees, including former USAID, State Department, Treasury, and implementing partner colleagues spoke. You can listen to the session on the CSIS website -- although the recording begins a few minutes late. You will join the session towards the end of Carol Peasley's remarks. [Here is the link.](#)

## Call for 2018 Contributions!

We encourage you to become a contributing member of the UAA for calendar year 2018 by making a tax deductible financial contribution now. UAA functions on a calendar year basis so we appreciate contributions as early in the year as possible.

There are two ways to make your contribution: You can make your contribution electronically. [Click here to make your contribution.](#)

Or you can mail a check to:

USAID Alumni Association  
DACOR House  
1801 F Street, NW (4th Floor)  
Washington, DC 20006

The suggested contribution levels for 2018 are:

- \$75 Those who live within 50 miles of Washington, DC
- \$25 Those who live elsewhere in the United States
- \$25 Residents of foreign countries
- \$25 Former FSNs, wherever they live, or

- \$25 Associate Membership

And, of course, we welcome you to join with UAA's other "angels" who have generously contributed \$100 or more as "Friends of UAA".

So don't delay! Make your 2018 annual membership contribution today, and encourage your friends and former colleagues to sign up and contribute to UAA as well.

## USAID History Project Update

Our author, John Norris, officially began work on November 1, 2017 on his 18-month writing project. He has already had quite a bit of contact with interested alumni as he does his initial sort-through of vast amounts of material. Our five-member UAA Advisory Group is working closely with him to be of help in whatever way he deems useful - while not getting in his way. We shall keep you posted on further progress as we move through 2018.

Once again we want to thank our generous UAA members for their tremendous support for the UAA USAID History 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, about \$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.

NOTE: If you made a donation in 2017 you should have received your 2017 tax receipt. If not, please email [cpeasley@starpower.net](mailto:cpeasley@starpower.net) immediately.

## UAA Development Issues Committee

The UAA Development Issues Committee will be holding its first meeting of 2018 on Thursday the 25th of January at 2:00 P.M. in the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) Conference Room, 1889 F Street., N.W. The invited guest will be **Katherine Steel**, Director of USAID's Office of Energy, who will engage with us on a discussion of Power Africa. Please advise Committee Co-Chairs [Steve Giddings](#) and [Jim Fox](#) if you will be able to participate in the discussion.

## Alumni Profiles - Stephen H. Grant

Stephen H. Grant was a nominee for (domestic) Alumnus of the Year. Since retirement, he has served in the volunteer position of Senior Fellow at the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST), where he lectures at FSI on African culture, edits oral histories, and edits diplomatic memoirs. His biography of Peter Strickland (New Academia, 2007) was an "ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Book." Strickland was the 1st US Consul to Senegal, living on Goree Island; the sea captain kept a fascinating journal with daily entries from 1857 to 1921.

Steve's second biography was *Collecting Shakespeare: The Story of Henry and Emily Folger* (Johns Hopkins Press, 2014). In it, he tells the amazing story of how a Brooklyn couple during the Gilded Age quietly assembled the largest collection of Shakespeareana in the world. The Folger Shakespeare Library that they founded in 1932--only two blocks from the U.S. Capitol--has become a world-class research institution.



Michael Dirda, Pulitzer Prize winning book reviewer for the Washington Post, wrote: "In *Collecting Shakespeare*, Stephen H. Grant provides not just a biography of the 'onlie begetters' (founders) of this astonishing library, but also an account of the worlds in which the Folgers lived. The result is a superlative book ... crisply written and packed with facts and anecdotes ..." (WP, April 24, 2014). The president of the Shakespeare Guild, John Andrews, penned enthusiastically, "This book will fill a major gap in our understanding of how one of America's most influential institutions came to be." Steve has spoken about the Folgers at historical societies, universities, private clubs, resorts, community centers, churches, book festivals, and libraries. His venues have included widely known institutions such as Library of Congress, National Press Club, National Arts Club (New York), and San Francisco Public Library. Identifying himself as a former Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Grant has given 70 presentations across the US and six in England and Scotland.

In 2015, Steve joined the Arlington Neighborhood Village, now 180 members strong. On April 1, 2017, he was the only member asked to address 150 villagers or potential villagers in an AARP-led program in the Arlington Central Library with an illustrated talk entitled "I Modified My House." As a spokesperson for the Arlington chapter of the Village Movement he has shown a strong example to others in how to deal aggressively with the issues and challenges of Aging.

**Make Your 2018 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

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

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