



USAID Alumni Association

September 2018 UAA Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Saturday, September 8, 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm UAA Annual Picnic at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road (off George Washington Memorial Parkway), Alexandria, VA. See information below and click to RSVP.

Friday, September 14, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm - Development Dialogue at DACOR - **Ambassador Rick Barton** in conversation with **Aaron Williams** (UAA-founder and former Director of the U.S. Peace Corps) about Rick's book **Peace Works: America's Unifying Role in a Turbulent World**.

Monday, October 15, 2018, 10:00 to Noon - Development Dialogue at DACOR address by **Larry Garber** on "**Zimbabwe Deja Vu: An International Observer Returns After 33 Years**". **Garber** was the co-leader of the International Republican Institute/National Democratic Institute Zimbabwe International Election Observer Mission. He has worked on and written extensively about human rights, democracy and election monitoring for several decades.

Friday, October 26, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - **UAA Annual General Meeting** at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, D.C. See information below and watch for more details in the October newsletter.

Monday, November 5, 2018 - 10:00 - Noon - UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue at DACOR. **Larry Cooley** - highly respected leader of the development community, MSI's founder and now President Emeritus, and current President of the Society for International Development - will speak on "**The Changing Role of International Development in Achieving Sustainable Outcomes at Scale**."

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** There are several new additions to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- In [Articles](#), 1) the rescission of USAID funds halted, 2) a Trump Administration \$200m cut of funds for Palestinian aid, 3) State/military alumni protest of the removal of ex-CIA Director Brennan's security clearance, 4) the Administration's consideration of a cut of \$300m from the foreign aid budget, 5) the resignation of the head of the MCC, 6) Gen. John Allen's case for supporting the strategic role of foreign assistance, 7) the record number of displaced people in Sub-Saharan Africa, 8) lessons learned from USAID engagement in Afghanistan, 9) the White House use of the MCC as "playpen" for political appointees, 10) opposition to the USAID alum nominated to head the State Dept. refugee office, 11) more on Administration use of the MCC as a repository of political appointees, and 12) USAID assistance to Christian Yazidis in Iraq.
- There are two new items in the [Forum](#). The first concerns new legislation from Sen. Shaheen to support and strengthen the U.S. diplomatic corps. The second

focuses on the nomination of a new AA for Legislative and Public Affairs.

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.

7th Annual UAA Summer Picnic

SAVE THE DATE! JOIN THE FUN!

7th Annual UAA Summer Picnic
Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA
Saturday, September 8, 2018
Noon - 3:00 pm

In order for us to have adequate water and soft drinks available, please let us know that you are coming and with how many adults and children. [Please register by clicking here.](#)

Details:

The UAA will have its annual picnic on Saturday September 8 at Fort Hunt picnic area. Our get together is scheduled from noon till 3:00pm. We hope everyone will come and bring other Alumni, children, guitars, games, etc. The parking lot is a very short stroll to the sheltered picnic area so we will proceed rain or shine. Based on the enthusiastic response the last three years, we decided to repeat our successful pot luck so that people can bring dishes to share. We will provide non-alcoholic beverages and water, table covers, paper goods, cups and plastic ware. Please bring your own wine and beer - and some to share. The area has a liquor license, but for wine and beer only.

Please bring one dish sufficient for 6 to 8 people. If you have a special dish that would be great. Otherwise, bring a dish according to the following categories:

- People with last names between A and D are asked to bring a salad or side dish.
- People with last names between E and M are asked to bring a main dish.
- People with last names between N and R are asked to bring an appetizer.
- People with last names between S and Z are asked to bring a dessert.

Directions: Fort Hunt is South of Alexandria and just north of Mount Vernon. From Interstate 395, take exit 10B for the southbound George Washington Memorial Parkway. Merge onto the parkway and continue for about 12 miles. Turn right onto Fort Hunt Road and continue to the Park and site B-001. For further details, [click here.](#)

2018 UAA Annual General Meeting

The 2018 UAA Annual General Meeting will be held on **October 26, 2018 at the Center for Global Development (CGD)** headquarters in Washington, DC. This year's meeting highlights include:

- A panel on USAID's role in the United States Government's response to fragile situations featuring USAID Counselor Tom Staal and Brigadier General

Tim McAteer, former Deputy Director, J5 Strategy and Plans at United States Africa Command (AFRICOM), and Patricia Haslach, former Ambassador and former Acting Assistant Secretary of State (invited);

- CGD's Charles Kenny interviewing John Norris, author of the UAA-funded history of USAID;
- A Dave Eckerson- facilitated conversation with AGM attending members on the future of the UAA; and
- Comments by Ambassador Mark Green (invited).

The agenda also includes alumni awards and time to catch up with old friends.

[Please click here to register for the AGM if you have not done so already.](#)

Please note that members will need to vote for Board Members electronically in advance. No voting will take place at the AGM. To be eligible to vote Alumni need to be contributing members for 2018. Note that membership offers many UAA benefits, such as attendance at no cost to several social events throughout the year and the annual general meeting, voting privileges to select Board members, nominating your friends and colleagues for the Alumni of the Year awards, and the opportunity to volunteer to help advance the UAA goals. Please check the web site to assure you are current for 2018 by [clicking here](#).

The slate of candidates for the UAA Board and the link for voting will be sent in a separate email.

[Please click here to read the UAA's 2018 Progress Report.](#) The draft UAA Strategic Plan for 2018-2020 will be provided in a subsequent email.

To defray catering costs there will be a fee of \$45 for noncontributing alumni to attend the AGM.

Center for Global Development is located at 2055 L St. NW, Washington, DC, 5th floor.

2018 UAA "Alumni of the Year" Awards Program

As of the past July 31 nomination deadline, we received a number of excellent nominations for this year's "Alumni of the Year" awards. The awards committee is currently reviewing these well written narratives for all nominees for either their international service or domestic service, and we promise you a selection of winners that you can be proud of as fellow alumni and friends. We especially want to thank the members who made the effort to nominate their friends and colleagues for the prestigious UAA awards. Please join us at the Annual General Meeting on October 26 where the 2018 award winners will be announced.

Mentoring Program Recruitment Announcement - Cohort 8

This is an opportunity for you to participate in a challenging but highly rewarding program that contributes meaningfully to the success of USAID through field staff strengthening. The UAA/USAID Mentoring Program has been expanded over the past several years to include partnering arrangements with several bureaus including Africa, E&E, PPL, LAC and GH. UAA's purpose in supporting the program is to contribute to the development of the next generation of Agency leaders at all levels, including recent recruits and seasoned veterans up to the Mission Director level. To date seven cohorts of matched mentors/mentees (just over 100 pairs) have been trained and mobilized. USAID is very pleased with results of the program to date.

This is a rewarding and enjoyable activity and will keep you engaged and up to speed with what is happening in the field and the evolution of Agency policy. Excellent training is provided to the mentors and the mentees at the start of the program. We sincerely hope that those of you who are interested will respond. If you are interested, [please click here to fill out your mentor profile](#). For further information please contact johnheard2@msn.com. For those of you who received the recent recruiting email, there is a profile document attached.

Vermont Development Wallahs



The "Vermont Development Wallahs" enjoyed their 10th annual picnic, hosted by Ann and Mike Van Dusen in Rochester, Vermont on August 15. This year's get-together was attended by 23 USAID alumni, family and colleagues, including: Fritz Gilbert, Steve Sinding, Anne Tinker and John Henderson, Jim and Linda Bonner, Ray and Josette Malley, Anne Aarnes and David Sprague, Nils Daulaire and Aurora (granddaughter), Margaret and Ingrid (sister) Neuse, Peter and Jenny Berman and Jenny's mother, Jason Weisfeld and Kristy Hendricks, Ellen Frost and Bill Pedersen, and Mike and Ann Van Dusen.

Alumni Profile: Elisabeth Kvitashvili



One month shy of a 37-year career with USAID, Elisabeth Kvitashvili retired out of Sri Lanka as Acting Mission Director in fall, 2015. Two months later, she and her husband Steve landed in New Zealand for five weeks of walking/hiking both North and South islands. Elisabeth's two children joined them for family backpacking, ending the trip with a visit to Tasmania.

Two years ago, Elisabeth and Steve, a former agency Russia specialist, semi-retired to San Francisco. In this new phase of her life she has split her time among a variety of outdoor and athletic pursuits. Elisabeth and Steve enjoy what the Bay area has to offer with year-round hikes, visits to nearby

national and state parks, camping with a girlfriend from her days at USAID Disaster Assistance Office, and continuing to practice yoga regularly. But she has given up her beloved soccer due to aging ankles.

In addition to serving as a USAID alumni mentor, Elisabeth mentors some of her former students at Georgetown University, where she served as an adjunct professor of the Conflict Resolution department for several years in between assignments. She also mentors graduates of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, where she pursued her MA, and now University of California-Berkeley. Elisabeth volunteers each week to work with International Rescue Committee refugee resettlement, assisting Russian-speaking elders at an assisted living center, volunteering with the San Francisco Botanical Garden, and serving as a board member on international NGOs devoted to development and disaster preparedness. She became President of the Georgian Association, the oldest Georgian diaspora organization in the United States., and organized and ran a conference celebrating Georgia's centennial as a modern national state at Center for Strategic and International Studies in May 2018. During a two-week visit to Georgia with her children, she was interviewed by Georgian TV and pursued a long desired personal project on her Georgian family genealogy which dates to the 12th century.

Elisabeth and Steve recently were certified as Neighborhood Emergency First Responders, and Elisabeth is continuing with Incident Command and Emergency Management training. Her USAID experiences working on disasters and conflict are a driving motivator.

Elisabeth has also had several paid consulting projects, dealing with development and assistance to the Middle East, making several trips to Jordan, Lebanon and Gaza/West Bank.

Elisabeth would be glad to hear from USAID friends. She may be reached at ekvitashvili@yahoo.com.



Make Your 2018 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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

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