



USAID Alumni Association

February 2019 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Monday, February 4, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Recently retired long-time President of the National Democratic Institute **Kenneth Wollack** will speak on “**U.S. Foreign Policy and Assistance: Interests and Values**” at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue at DACOR.

Wednesday, February 6, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. The **UAA Book Club** will meet at the Irish Inn, 6119 Tulane Ave., in Glen Echo, MD, to discuss the main policy issues of Linda Yueh's book, *What Would the Great Economists Do*.

Sunday, February 10, 4:00-7:00 pm - **UAA Winterfest** will be hosted by Frank and Antoinette Almaguer at their home, 1503 Dulcimer Court, Vienna, VA. UAA members and spouses are invited to share wine and appetizers with alumni friends and former colleagues. Please see below for more details and RSVP immediately.

Monday, March 11, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – **Tony Barclay**, widely admired former DAI CEO **will speak at DACOR on the future of USAID from the contractors' viewpoint.** Barclay is also the author of the book *50 Years of Development: How Private Companies Adapt and Deliver*.

Monday, April 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – Also at **DACOR**, **Alex Dehgan**, former USAID Chief Scientist and founder of its Global Development Lab, **will describe the efforts of his Wildlife Conservation Society Team to preserve and protect Afghanistan's wildlife** as chronicled in his recent well-reviewed book, *The Snow Leopard Project – and Other Adventures in Warzone Conservation*.

NEW DATE - Monday, May 20, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon -- **George Ingram**, Senior Fellow at Brookings and former Capitol Hill staff and USAID official, and **Kristen Lord** President and CEO of IREX, have recently interviewed 88 development experts on “**What the Future of Development Holds.**” This Development Dialogue will take place at **DACOR**

Sunday, May 26, 2019 -- **UAA Spring Reception** will be hosted by Malcolm and Tish Butler at their residence in Virginia.

Saturday, September 7, 2019 -- **UAA Annual Picnic** will be held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, Virginia.

Friday, October 25, 2019 – **UAA Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Center for Global Development (CGD) in Washington, D.C.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** A number of recent additions have been posted to the [In Memoriam](#) page.
- In [Articles](#), peruse articles on: 1) the cessation of USAID assistance to West Bank/Gaza; 2) the role of evaluation of development programs, 3) reform efforts may dim the future of the UNDP, 4) an overview of what makes for effective foreign aid, 5) a possible effort by State to remove Obama era environmental reviews of development programs, 6) the overseas impact of the long furlough, 7) thoughts from Larry Garber on the demise of the West Bank/Gaza program, 8) some of the pluses of unequal growth, 9) the race for the presidency of the World Bank, 10) foreign aid in the era of Trump, 11) speculation on whether Trump will go after foreign aid to pay for “the wall,” and 12) the resignation of World Bank

President Kim.

- The [Forum](#) page has a number of new offerings: 1) Congressional approval received for the establishment of the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, 2) how to receive a free subscription to PRISM, an NDU publication, 3) the resubmission of USAID nominees for Senate approval, and 4) the taxpayer cost of the shutdown.
- The [UAA Book Club Reviews](#): The latest review is of "What Would the Great Economists Do?" by Linda Yueh.
- Want to **check if you paid your 2019 UAA membership contribution**? Easy to do. Just click [here](#).

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 Winterfest!!

This is the fifth 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 10, 2019

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

Location: Residence of Frank and Antoinette Almaguer, 1503 Dulcimer Court, Vienna, VA
Note: The Almaguer's home is located very near Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts, off Exit 15 of the Dulles Toll Road. If lost, call: Tel. 703-938-3289.

Dress: Totally Casual

Please send acceptances no later than Monday, February 4, by [clicking here](#).

If weather threatens, the snow date is Sunday, February 17. Please check the UAA website for any change in plans.

AGM Member Evaluation Report

Ninety-seven members of UAA attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 26, 2018. Thirty-seven of them (38%) responded to the online Evaluation. Respondents were, as in prior years, quite positive about the content of the program, the UAA business meeting, and Awards presentation, as well as the logistics.

The AGM 2019 Committee has already started meeting and has been provided with the full data set, including all comments and responses to the Evaluation. A summary of the evaluations can be found [here](#).

UAA Online Library of International Affairs and Development Syllabi

Aspiring Adjunct? Putting together a syllabus? Curious about how others have done it? Following up on last month's appeal from the Outreach Committee (Jim Bever and Beth Hogan), the UAA has begun to collect syllabi for courses in international affairs and development taught by practitioners. We hope to build an on-line library available on the UAA website for those interested in putting together courses of their own. So far we have close to a dozen. Feel free to contribute. If you've got a syllabus, please send it to Terry Myers at desaixmyers@gmail.com.

Development Issues Committee

On January 31, **Andrew Natsios**, USAID Administrator from 2001-2006, **shared his views with a group of about 60 USAID alumni in a wide-ranging, candid, off-the-record discussion.** This exchange took place at a special UAA meeting organized by the



Development Issues Committee at Arizona State University's Washington, D.C. headquarters. Over the course of two hours, Andrew led a dialogue with UAA colleagues covering USAID's role in global development, Congressional earmarks, the present state of the international system and global politics, migration and fragility, the emerging role of China, climate change, and more. This stimulating discussion served to remind all who attended of Andrew's deep knowledge, incisive thinking, and unflinching advocacy for the work of USAID.

USAID History Project Update

John Norris continues to draft the UAA sponsored history of USAID. While his original ambitious target date was based on delivery of a completed manuscript in 18 months, it now looks like the more realistic date is six months later, i.e., towards the end of this year. John expects to provide our Advisory Committee with a new chapter to review each month throughout much of this year. Meanwhile, John's agent continues to pursue opportunities with a number of commercial publishers.

Alumni Profile: Mary L Lewellen



Mary L. Lewellen, a retired Foreign Service Officer (1977-2003), has continued to serve U.S. students and overseas schools and communities since her retirement by teaching and mentoring college students; organizing and leading service and learning trips to rural South Africa, Nepal, Ethiopia, and Thailand; and training USAID staff around the world.

For the past fourteen years, she has taught four classes a semester at Sierra Nevada College (SNC), including terrorism and peacekeeping, international organizations, foreign policy, Africa regional studies, leadership and global management. As Chair of International Studies

and Global Business Management, she is also an inspirational teacher who was voted Outstanding Faculty Member by the students in 2015.

For the past six years, Mary has worked with African partners to organize and lead 25-30 American college students to do three weeks of Service and Learning in the rural areas of South Africa. They helped expand and renovate pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, and a HIV clinic which caters to Mozambican migrants. Mary and her colleagues also tutor (science, math, English, accounting) secondary students for their school-leaving exams. Each year, along with funds provided by American students, Mary, with her husband Ted and their families, personally provide funds for hundreds of children's books, suitcases full of school supplies, and cash for renovations. The participants all describe these trips as a "life-changing experience."

Here's a photographic example of their work at Manyangana High School library in South Africa.



In 2018, Sierra Nevada College students bought and assembled 18 bookshelves; brought and donated over 500 "readers" books; organized a previously non-functioning library; restored broken electricity; replaced both termite wooden doors;

completely painted inside and outside walls of the library (along with seven other classrooms).

Three nearby community vegetable gardens have been developed or expanded by the SNC students with seeds donated by a Stockton, California company. Over four years, these women-operated gardens have become self-sufficient in providing vegetables to the community, the local schools, and through sales to nearby safari camps. Simultaneously, SNC students take college classes for credit taught by Mary and the accompanying professors.

Besides teaching future leaders in foreign affairs, Mary has also completed numerous training assignments at USAID missions around the world in programming, project design and acquisition and assistance. She has also served as Acting Mission Director, Acting Controller and in other positions at USAID missions. In her spare time, Mary enjoys the beauty of the African bush and her grandchildren. Mary and Ted reside outside Reno, Nevada, frequently hosting friends and colleagues from around the world. They can be reached at mllafrica@aol.com or tedmorse@aol.com.

Charlie Bliss and Charley Mosley

For an update on the UAA profile of alumni **Charlie Bliss** and **Charley Mosley**, [see the recent NBC clip](#) on what the two “inventors” have been up to.

Newsletter schedule

We will send the next UAA newsletter on Monday, March 4, 2019. We hope you enjoy receiving this news of your fellow alumni activities. If you have information you would like to share, your contributions are welcomed. Please send the information, with a picture and caption of an event, date, and people shown to office@usaid.org. The newsletter is usually sent the first Monday of the month or early in that week if Monday is a holiday.

[Make your 2019 UAA Membership contribution here](#)

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