



USAID Alumni Association

February 2020 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Sunday, February 9, 2020, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. – The **UAA Winterfest**, our first social event of the year, will be hosted by Frank and Antoinette Almaguer at their home in Vienna, Virginia. UAA members and spouses or partners are invited to share wine and appetizers with alumni friends and former colleagues. Please RSVP by TODAY, February 3 by clicking [here](#). See below for more details.

Monday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon – A panel of former USAID/Afghanistan Mission Directors will lead a discussion on “**Afghanistan: Lessons Learned for America’s Future – Insights of USAID Mission Directors to Kabul.**” The panel will be moderated by **Bambi Arellano** and includes **Craig Buck, Alonzo Fulgham, Bill Hammink, and Skip Waskin**. The event, hosted by UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue, will be held at DACOR, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Reservations are required; non-DACOR members should register as “guests;” there will be a \$5.00 charge for coffee, tea and cookies. Attendance is limited to UAA and DACOR Members. Please make reservations ASAP by clicking [here](#).

SAVE THE DATES! More details will be provided later for this year’s additional UAA social events, including the following:

Sunday, May 17, 2020, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. - The **Spring Reception** will be hosted again this year by Alex and Patricia Shakow at their home in Chevy Chase View (Kensington), MD.

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. – **Summer Picnic** at Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA

Friday, October 30, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – **Annual General Meeting** at the Center for Global Development, Washington, DC

New! on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page has ten recent obituaries.
- **Articles:** In [Articles](#), you can read about new topics such as Devex’s article on the recent coronavirus (nCoV) outbreak in Africa; the future of global development in a CGD podcast with Masood Ahmed; an essay at BBVA Open Mind on the 15 Global Challenges for the Next Decades; and CGD’s piece on Congress reaching a bipartisan agreement on foreign aid spending.
- **Forum:** The [Forum](#) offers two new subjects on the 2020 Appropriations package, on retiree COLAs vs workers’ pay raises, and the new address for submitting UAA Contribution Checks.
- **UAA Book Club Reviews:** In the [UAA Book Club Reviews](#), you can read the summary of the January book, *Blowout*, by Rachel Maddow.

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. This is the spot for cross-talk and communication among our members.

Looking to post a job or volunteer opportunity, please email us at office@usaidalumni.org, Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

Join us for the Annual Winterfest!!

UAA members and spouses are invited to the sixth Annual Winterfest, our casual late afternoon gathering to get us through the remainder of the cold winter weeks. This is a free event for UAA members and those eligible to become members.

Date: Sunday, February 9, 2020

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: 703-938-3289.)

Dress: Totally Casual

RSVP: Please send acceptances no later than TODAY, Monday, February 3, by clicking [here](#). If weather threatens, the snow date is Sunday, February 23. Please check the UAA website for any change in plans.

2020 UAA Survey

Please watch your inbox for the 2020 UAA Survey! It will be sent by email to all who receive this newsletter. The survey will remain open about two weeks, after which we'll analyze your responses and prepare a short report which will be posted on the website. Your responses will help us serve you better.

UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue - Ambassador Eric Rubin



Before a full-to-capacity crowd at lunch at DACOR on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, Ambassador Eric Rubin, President of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA), gave a wide-ranging talk entitled "The State of the Foreign Service and its Future". He detailed the many steps that AFSA has taken to improve services for FSOs while at the same time reflecting on the many problems and challenges the Foreign Service face and what needs to be done to address them. Listen to Ambassador Rubin's talk and the discussion that followed by clicking [here](#).

UAA Development Issues

The Development Issues Committee held its first meeting of 2020 on January 23 at Arizona State University's Washington D.C office on the subject of USAID's "journey to self-reliance (J2SR)." The discussion was led by a USAID panel featuring Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Learning Maureen Shauket and Office Chief for Policy, Strategy and Evaluation in the Bureau for Africa, Donald Niss. The USAID presentation underlined the fundamental principles guiding the journey to self-reliance for USAID missions and included details on the USAID "Country Road Maps" and the process for the development of new Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCSs) for all USAID missions to be completed this calendar year. Notes from the meeting can be found by clicking [here](#). USAID staff indicated it would welcome further discussion with the UAA on ways to draw on the expertise and experience of UAA members as the CDCS process proceeds.

UAA Book Club

The UAA Book Club will have a temporary hiatus until we have identified a member to review and lead a discussion of another book. Please let Stu Callison (stucallison@yahoo.com) know if you are interested. Development Issue Committee members will be notified when another book review is proposed.

American University Archives as Home for USAID Alumni Memorabilia

The American University Archives offer an opportunity for USAID alumni to find a home for personal memorabilia of their USAID service. We have often been asked by UAA retirees what could be done with these materials currently stored in boxes in their basements. We now have an answer! See the website description of this program [here](#).

Alumni Profile: Susumu Ken Yamashita



Ken completed his third journey in development when he retired from USAID in December 2016, his previous journeys being completion of a PhD in public health from Johns Hopkins in 1980 and serving as a senior staff of a contractor. His 27-year career with USAID included overseas assignments in Latin America, Africa, Europe and Eurasia, and Asia. He served as Mission Director in Kosovo, Colombia, and Afghanistan. Following Afghanistan, he returned to Washington where he was detailed to the Peace Corps as an appointee of the Obama Administration, serving initially as Regional Coordinator for the Americas and later Director for Global Operations. Ken considers this last assignment as the icing on the cake of a rewarding career. He feels humbled, honored and privileged to have served in the Administration of

the first African American President of our country. Ken left Peace Corps and retired, feeling very optimistic about the future of our foreign affairs, as he saw first-hand the tenacity and resilience, the creativity and patience, and above all the compassion and humanity of the field staff of USAID and State, and the staff and Volunteers of Peace Corps.

The first three years of Ken's retirement were busy settling into their new home, caring for aging parents, and supporting Mission leadership in the LAC region. At the behest of the LAC region, Ken served as an executive mentor and coach for Mission Directors and Deputy Directors. He traveled to several countries and worked closely with the leadership teams to improve communications, leadership skills, and interagency coordination. Ken believes that an essential ingredient to successful mentoring is to provide timely feedback, so being on the ground and in real time were essential.

As he embarks on his fourth year of retirement, Ken looks forward to connecting with regions of the United States that he has never visited. His next journey will be to get to know America, and of course, to spend lots of quality time with his family: His wife of 40 years Viviana, their daughter Yuri, their son Seiji, his wife Joanie, and their children, Aodhan and Liam. Ken considers that their extended family is more than a blend of Japanese, Cuban, and Irish; it is an American family.

Ken and Viviana welcome hearing from their UAA friends. They may be contacted at kenyama7448@gmail.com.

Newsletter schedule

The next UAA newsletter will be sent on March 2. Newsletters will be provided approximately monthly throughout the year. If you have any stories or events that you would like to share with your fellow alumni, please send the information along with a picture and caption of the event, date, and people shown to office@usaidalumni.org.

[Make your 2020 UAA Membership contribution here](#)

USAID Alumni Association