Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 1:00-3:00 p.m. -- The UAA Book Club will meet to review Daniel Markovit’s new book, *The Meritocracy Trap: How America’s Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite* (2019, 286 pages—not counting extensive figures and notes), at the BISTRO 1521 Restaurant, 900 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22203, near the Ballston Metro Stop. Please let stucallison@yahoo.com know beforehand if you plan to join (but please do not "reply to all").

Thursday, April 2, 2020, 2:00-3:30 p.m. -- The Development Issues Committee will hold its next bi-monthly meeting on the formation and goals of the recently established Development Finance Corporation (DFC) with guest discussion leaders Andrew Herscowitz, newly appointed DFC Chief Development Officer (formerly Director of USAID’s Power Africa initiative) and Amanda Burke, DFC Deputy Vice President, External Affairs. (See details below.)

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

Saturday, September 12, 2020, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. – Summer Picnic will be held at Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA. Save the date: More details to come.

Friday, October 30, 2020, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Annual General Meeting will be held at the Center for Global Development, Washington, DC. Save the date: More details to come.

New! on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The In Memoriam page has eight new obituaries of USAID colleagues, including Bastiaan Schouten, Arnold Haiman, Joseph Haratani, and William Darkins.

- **Articles:** In Articles, you can read six new articles about: China’s coronavirus; Kenya’s depleted blood bank; an op-ed by Marie Yovanovitch; USAID’s spending on local partners; the effect of Trump’s budget on federal employees’ retirement benefits; and the new leadership at the new Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

- **Job & Volunteer Opportunities:** In the Job & Volunteer Opportunities, new opportunities are available with: USAID’s Office of Human Capital; the Navanti Group and the Association for Diplomatic Studies (ADST).

- **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogues:** Read on the front page of the website, a short summary of the panel discussion held February 10 at the DACOR House on "Afghanistan: Lessons Learned for America’s Future – Insights of USAID Mission Directors to Kabul."

- **Forum:** The Forum notifies an obituary and lists two new items for discussion: The recent death of State’s ADST lead, Allen “Tex” Harris; Retiree COLAs vs Workers’ Pay Raise; and an upcoming 2/24 AFSA Happy Hour on teaching at the university level.

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.

**UAA 2020 Member Survey**

The UAA is a membership organization that relies on volunteers to develop and carry out our programs. Our activities are set forth in our strategic plan and highlighted on our website. We need your input to make our programs and activities more relevant. Please take an estimated 10-15 minutes to complete the questionnaire that was sent to you on February 23 and may be accessed here. We request that you return the completed survey no later than today, March 2.

**Financial Review Initiated**

In January, the UAA Board appointed an ad-hoc finance subcommittee to review the Association’s accounting, reporting and internal control procedures. The subcommittee includes Treasurer Carol Dabbs and Board members Terry Brown, Chris Crowley, and Jim Bever. At its first meeting on February 12, the subcommittee agreed that the first priority was to focus on terms of reference for approval by the Board in April. Work on the financial review will begin in June.

**You can help:** To ensure transparency in the process, the subcommittee is seeking one or two additional UAA members outside the Executive Committee to assist in the review. Ideally, the subcommittee is seeking former Controllers, RLOs, and EXOs to add their expertise to the process. If you live in the greater Washington area and are interested in participating as a member of the subcommittee, please contact Terry Brown by phone or email (202-236-8702; t4brown99@aol.com).

**Winterfest 2020**

On February 9th, approximately 60 UAA alumni, spouses and guests enjoyed a welcomed break from the winter doldrums at the Winterfest hosted by Frank and Antoinette Almaguer at their home in Vienna, Virginia. The delicious appetizers and drinks did not interfere with the greetings and conversation among friends and colleagues during the mild winter afternoon gathering.

Here are some pictures taken during the get-together. We have identified those people who are visible in the pictures and leave to you the possible recognition of others.

![Barbara Miller & Rita Cohen (lower level); Bambi Arellano & David Sprague (upper level)](image1)

![Ann & Mike Van Dusen (lower level); Tom Nicastro & David Cohen (upper level)](image2)

![Maya Talamantes & Phoenix Talamantes (Almaguer’s grandchildren) with kitchen assistant Rosa Inga](image3)

![Nancy Tumavick with Cecilia Bazan & Linda Falimy (former FSNs from Indonesia)](image4)

![Barbara Bennett, Jim Michel, Aaron Williams, Anne Dammarell & Mary Huntington](image5)

![Aaron Williams, Nancy Tumavick, Margaret Neuse & Ann Van Dusen](image6)

**UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue**
On February 10th, a capacity crowd of UAA and DACOR members attended a highly interesting panel discussion entitled “Afghanistan: Lessons Learned for America’s Future - Insights of USAID Mission Directors to Kabul.” This panel, moderated by Bambi Arellano, consisted of Craig Buck, Alonzo Fulgham, Bill Hammink and Skip Waskin, each of whom served as USAID Mission Director in Kabul, as well as other leadership positions around the world. Click here for more information on the discussion. [Note: To promote an open discussion this session was not recorded.]

(from left) Alonzo Fulgham, Craig Buck, Bambi Arellano, Skip Waskin, and Bill Hammink

UAA Development Issues

Seeking UAA Volunteers for USAID in policy development. The Development Issues Committee is following up its recent discussion with USAID senior staff on the Agency's "journey to self reliance" by soliciting UAA volunteers to collaborate with USAID staff in lending their expertise and perspective to the Agency's review of several Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCSs). If you are interested in volunteering for or wish to know more about this initiative, please contact Development Issues Committee Co-Chair Steve Giddings (Sgiddings5@gmail.com).

Next Development Issues Meeting. On Thursday, April 2nd, the Committee will hold its next bi-monthly meeting with guests Andrew Herscowitz, newly appointed Chief Development Officer (formerly Director of USAID's Power Africa initiative) and Amanda Burke, Deputy Vice President, External Affairs, of the recently created Development Finance Corporation (DFC). Mr. Herscowitz and Ms. Burke will lead us in a discussion of the formation of the Development Finance Corporation, its goals for the first year of its operation and its relationship to USAID. The venue for the meeting will be posted on the UAA website as the Committee is in the process of transitioning its "home base."

Development Issues Committee events are open to all UAA members. Please advise Committee Co-Chairs Steve Giddings (Sgiddings5@gmail.com) and Jim Fox (jameswfox@cox.net) if you plan to attend no later than March 31.

Call for Mentors for the 2020 Cohort of Payne Fellows

The Donald M. Payne Fellowship Program is now accepting expressions of interest for its volunteer mentoring program. The Payne Fellowship is a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program, administered by Howard University, which seeks to attract and prepare outstanding individuals for careers as USAID Foreign Service Officers (FSO). Payne Fellows receive support for graduate school, professional development opportunities, and gain employment with the Agency in a rewarding career in the Foreign Service. This is not the UAA/USAID mentoring program, managed by UAA with USAID, for field-based FSOS.

The Payne Fellows Mentoring Program is the result of strong collaboration between the USAID Alumni Association (UAA), Agency leaders who have championed the Payne Fellowship Program, and Howard University staff. We need the collective wisdom of retired FSOS to contribute with current staff to help develop the next generation of FSOS. See details here.

USAID History Project Update

The USAID history being written by John Norris is almost complete. He has now completed
drafts of 12 chapters of a planned 13 and has tightened up the entire manuscript. Our small UAA Advisory Committee continues to review these chapters and provide advice and concrete suggestions to complement John’s well-written and very interesting drafts. In addition, in March four experts from the Center for Global Development will give John their reactions to the draft. We will now begin to pursue a publisher for the volume as John provides further revisions as needed to the text.

Alumni Profile: Leon S. “Skip” Waskin

Skip Waskin retired from USAID in 2018. Skip spent some 37 years with the Agency, beginning as a personal services contractor in the country then known as Zaire in 1981 and finishing with a three-year detail to the State Department as the Coordinator for Economic and Development Assistance in Pakistan. Highlights of his career include stints leading USAID missions in Thailand, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and Russia, and his service as the head of the Office of Response Coordination in Haiti following the devastating 2010 earthquake there.

Skip first retired from USAID at the end of 2010, but after two years as Senior Vice President for Stabilization and Development for Pax Mondial Group – an incredible learning experience with other donor organizations such as DFID and EU -- he was lured back to USAID in 2012. A four-month assignment to Pakistan was extended to almost six years as Skip next headed the Karachi provincial office, then assumed the role of Embassy’s Assistance Coordinator.

After leaving Pakistan and USAID service in 2018, Skip joined DevTech Systems as its Senior Director for Operations. The work there keeps him in close contact with the Agency, including supervising the company’s contracts with USAID missions in Nigeria and Zambia. His work for DevTech has taken him to London, Abuja, back to Pakistan, and to Oslo where he participated in a U.S. Institute of Peace sponsored conference.

All Skip’s work and travel are made possible by the love and support of his wife Oyuntsetseg, whom he met while she was working on a USAID-funded project in Mongolia. Oyunaa, as she is known to everyone, is an amazingly talented professional portrait artist whose work has been displayed in galleries such as the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria. Oyunaa painted the portrait of Skip shown here.

Skip and Oyunaa are the very proud parents of two adult sons and a 12-year old daughter. They reside in Burke, and divide their time between there and Staunton, Virginia, where their daughter attends school. In Skip’s words, “The two joys of my life have been my family and my work in international development. I have been incredibly fortunate.”

He welcomes hearing from former USAID friends and colleagues at swaskin@devtechsys.com.

Newsletter schedule

The next UAA newsletter will be sent on April 6. Newsletters will be provided approximately monthly on the first Monday 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