

Next PDAA Lunch Program

Tuesday, January 29, 2013

DACOR-Bacon House
1801 F Street NW,
Washington, DC

Speaker: Stacy White ,
details at right

- Cash bar 12:00 noon
- Lunch 12:30 pm
- Speaker 1:00 pm

\$35.00 members/\$42.00
non-members

Reservation deadline:
Wed. January 23, 2013

To reserve please return
coupon on page 7, or
online at
www.publicdiplomacy.org/

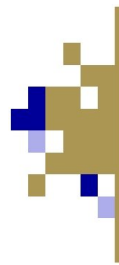
Mark your calendars

- PDAA's next luncheon program is Tuesday, **April 2, 2013**, featuring a discussion with Satu Limaye PhD, of the East-West Center in Washington, D.C.

- The annual PDAA awards dinner is Sunday, **May 5, 2013** at the China Garden in Rosslyn (Arlington), Virginia

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PDAA Today

Public Diplomacy Alumni Association

Formerly USIA Alumni Association

Community Engagement in Cultural Diplomacy Examined at PDAA January 29 Lunch Program

Stacy White, director of the State Department's Cultural Programs Division, describes how the arts help forge connections among artists and local communities in the U.S. and overseas at the January 29, 2013 lunch program of the Public Diplomacy Alumni Association at DACOR-Bacon House in Washington, D.C.

White will provide PDAA members and guests with an update of current cultural diplomacy programming and share the State Department's vision for future engagement. She and her colleagues aim to create opportunities for international artists to directly experience America, and provide opportunities for Americans to engage with world class artists, on-stage and off, focusing on youth and underserved populations.

The Cultural Programs Division, part of the Office of Citizen Exchanges in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has in recent months translated these objectives into events such as women's empowerment rap in the Middle East, classical jazz fusion with beat-box in Eastern Europe, chalk art in Latin America, and crowd-sourced and cloud-based filmmaking in Asia. In addition, White's staff hosted 100,000 Javanese visitors in a virtual tour of the American heartland through the eyes of their favorite Jogja hip hop collective.

Stacy White joined the Foreign Service in 1988 with USIA, and has served in a variety of public diplomacy positions in Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Canada, and Finland. In Washington, White has been Deputy Director of Public Diplomacy Training at FSI, desk officer for Mexico and Canada in the Western Hemisphere bureau, and the State Department's Senior Fellow at The Atlantic Council. Her most recent foreign assignment (2007-11) was in Ottawa as Information Officer .

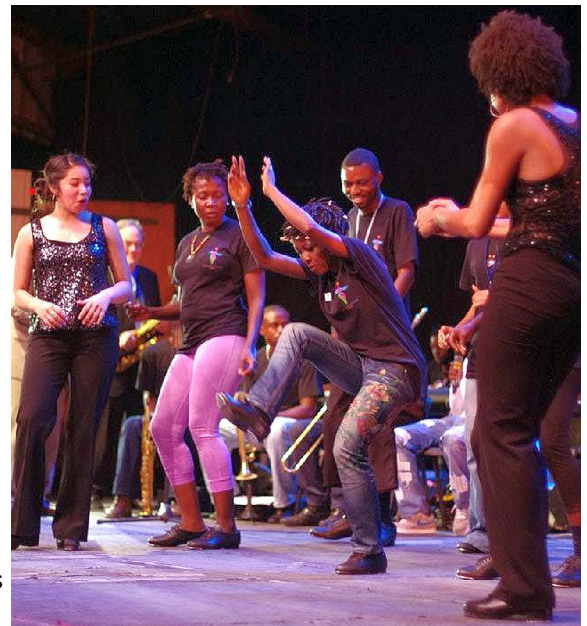


Photo: Jazz Tap Ensemble leads a master class in Kinshasa for State Department exchange program (Department of State).

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, White worked as a professional broadcast journalist in news anchor, reporter, and producer positions in Texas and Oklahoma. She holds a masters degree in international relations from Webster University in Leiden, The Netherlands, and a bachelors degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Texas in Austin.

This PDAA event will take place on Tuesday, January 29, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, at the DACOR-Bacon House, 1801 F Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Reservations are \$35.00 for members and \$42.00 for non-members -- these are new prices reflecting rising costs at DACOR; see page 4. Reservations are due by **Wednesday, January 23**. You can pay with a credit card on the PDAA Web site at www.publicdiplomacy.org, or complete and mail the coupon on page 7 with your check.

The Walk-On

Ernesto Uribe

It's all about being in the right place at the right time.

I was posted as Student Affairs Officer in Bogotá, Colombia when I was unexpectedly given a walk-on acting role in a feature motion picture that was being filmed by an American company in Colombia. *The Proud and Damned* was written, produced and directed by Ferde Grofe Jr., son of renowned Ferde Grofe, composer of the *Grand Canyon Suite*.

The year was 1969. I was the lowest ranking officer in the American Embassy, working in cultural and educational affairs. One day Ferde called on my boss to advise him that he would be filming in the remote village of Villa de Leyva in the Boyaca Mountains and would appreciate any facilitative assistance the embassy might offer. My boss picked me, as he thought that I could keep Ferde and company out of trouble with the local town officials, the local police/military and the community in general.

I helped Ferde get settled in a small inn that his company took over, helped in scouting for filming locations, and was always available for translation assistance but he rarely needed help since his wife was Colombian and was always at his side. I did assist with the rental of a dozen horses plus grooms who were from the local Colombian Army Cavalry detachment that would remain on location for the duration of the filming.

Ferde was always extremely kind and invited me to take all my meals at his table with the actors. He also offered me a free bunk with Andre Marquis, one of the principal actors who plays the military dictator in the movie. I was also invited to visit all the sets to watch any filming in process. I got to meet and have many a meal and drinks with Chuck Connors, Cesar Romero, Jose Greco, Peter Ford, son of Glenn Ford, and the whole cast and film crew.

I was watching the filming of one of the first scenes with Chuck Connors where he was supposed to get into a fight with one of the soldiers and all the "soldados" were short

Andean men no taller than five and a half feet. Chuck said that no way was he going to be filmed fighting these "little guys" and told Ferde that he wouldn't do it. Ferde said that these local fellows were all that were available. Chuck pointed to where I was standing, watching the filming and said "how about that big guy over there?" Ferde told him that I was with the American Embassy and not an actor. So Connors approached me and asked if I would be willing to play the part. I said I would give it a try.



It all happened so unexpectedly that I had no time to think about what I was getting myself into. It was only when I realized that I was going to do something I had never even dreamed of doing in front of floodlights and rolling

cameras that I began to worry. It was then that I mumbled a little prayer to myself to please not let me choke and hopefully pull off this acting bit in good form.

A part was written for me into the script on the spot, an officer's uniform was found, and I would be in the movie in five or six scenes. The fight scene with Connors was the first and it went great. While filming the action Chuck accidentally cut my lower lip with his fist when he grabbed me by the flimsy uniform lapels that tore loose; the blood you see in that scene is *real*.

Chuck was embarrassed and most apologetic when he saw blood dripping from my lip because it was not supposed to have happened. I told him it was probably my fault because I was not a stunt person and for him to not worry and forget about it.

So that was how I became part of the cast in *The Proud and Damned* and spent a lot of time in Villa de Leyva. Chuck and I became good friends and I became the provider of the Cutty Sark whiskey from the commissary and he shared the goodies from his survival box of smoked oysters, cheese, fancy cookies and crackers, jerky, etc. We had many a conversation in the evenings on the patio of that little hotel with nothing better to do.

(Continued on page 3)

The Walk-On (Cont'd)

The permanent payoff for me while filming this movie was establishing contact with Alvaro Ruiz and Fernando Pacheco, the two most popular Colombian TV and film personalities at the time, as well as with other Colombian actors. We all became and remained good friends after the filming of *The Proud and Damned*. I was invited to their private parties, the TV studios were always open to me, and I was inducted into the unofficial and very informal "Colombian actor's guild." These guys also started coming and bringing influential friends to cultural functions and art openings at the Bogotá Bi-National Center gallery and bringing their TV crews to record our events to use on their shows. It was good all around.

My being a member of the "Colombian actor's guild" got me a gig in *The Adventurers*, a movie that featured Candice Bergen and Ernest Borgnine. Here again I landed a speaking part in the role of an army officer (typecast?) in one scene. Ernest Borgnine and I were in the same scene so we met in the makeup tent before going on location. It was a night scene and they were burning a whole *hacienda* in the background. I was warned by the movie director that the background fire would only hold long enough to get two or three good takes. My line was: "They're all dead, Colonel Gutierrez." and I got it on the first take.

This time, as a "Colombian" actor with a speaking part, I was given a nice private room in the best hotel in Manizales, also a pass to the actor's dining facilities at the hotel and on location, and a car and driver while I was there during filming.

Although *The Adventurers* was a major, multinational, big budget motion picture, for me the filming of *The Proud & Damned* was a great learning experience and a lot more fun.

Brief as my non-illustrious "movie career" was, it was of enormous value to my other career as the full-time cultural and academic coordinator for the US Embassy. The contacts I made with Colombian actors and TV soap-opera stars helped me draw important personalities to cultural events supported by the United States at the Bogotá Bi-national Center where a few months later I became its director. *The Centro Colombo-Americano de Bogotá* was a place where leaders and persons in all walks of life found a window to our country.

Editor's note: Ernesto Uribe retired from the Foreign Service, as well as feature films, and is now working on his fourth novel at his home in Falls Church, Virginia. This essay first appeared in the PublicDiplomacy.org Member Blog.

Remembering Two Goodwill Ambassadors Named Ravi

Mike Anderson

I was saddened to learn of India music icon Ravi Shankar's recent death in southern California at age 92. His passing brought back memories of numerous official U.S. cultural programs in India and elsewhere that effectively brought American jazz and other musicians together with host-country performers and audiences.

In January of 2005, I remember having the privilege of spending a couple of hours with the great sitar player at his new home/performing arts center, which was close to the U.S. Embassy in the Chanakyapuri area of New Delhi. The experience had to do with the Cultural Affairs Office's programming of Ravi Coltrane, the popular jazz musician whose famous musician-father, the late John Coltrane, had named his second son after Ravi Shankar, whom he had long admired.

The younger Coltrane was visiting India as part of a Department of State-BET Jazz-MTV-Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz public-private initiative to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and cross-cultural understanding. The other jazz stars in the group were Earl Klugh, Al Jarreau, and George Duke.

As part of the jazz stars' India tour, our office arranged for the younger Ravi to meet the Indian maestro, who at the time was in his mid-80s but still performing, and to conduct a workshop for a talented group of young Indian musicians right in Shankar's institute. Shankar and his wife, Sukanya Rajan, were gracious hosts, and the younger Ravi was very moved by the opportunity to meet his namesake and to interact with a group of aspiring Indian musicians.

If I remember correctly, it was Coltrane's first visit to India and only the second time the American musician had met Shankar.

There is -- and will be -- only one Ravi Shankar. He was a unique individual, and he did so much to introduce Indian music to America and shape post-1960's global culture and East-West interaction. In many ways and over many decades, much of them spent in America, he was India's most effective goodwill ambassador. Like public diplomacy officers and performers like Ravi Coltrane, Ravi Shankar understood that sharing music can bring about greater understanding between the people of the U.S. and the peoples of the world.

Editor's note: Mike Anderson, a retired FSO and PDAA Board member, served as Public Affairs Officer in India from 2002 to 2006.

President's Notes

Wanted: New Members; Recollections of America's Musical Artists Abroad

Best wishes for the holidays and a wonderful 2013!

PDAA will enter the new year on a good footing, with some 370 members. We hope to increase that number to 400+ and seek your assistance. Please reach out to friends you have worked with to join or renew their membership (form on page 7). We seek recent retirees, former members we might enlist to re-enroll, currently active individuals in the USG or those in the exchange community who share an interest in public diplomacy.

The new year will begin with a presentation at our January 29 luncheon by Stacy White, Director of State Department's Cultural Programs Division (page 1), on the musical programs of the Department of State. Stacy will illustrate the richness of the program with excerpts on DVD. Music receives a tiny sliver of the PD budget, but accomplishes so much in sharing America's cultural diversity and fostering mutual understanding.

The recent passing of music giants Dave Brubeck and Ravi Shankar must have brought remembrances to many among us who worked with performing artists from America and other nations.

On page 3 of the newsletter, PDAA Board member Michael Anderson shares a reminiscence of his experience in India with Ravi Shankar and Ravi Coltrane, second son of John Coltrane. This vignette reveals how music builds individual understanding and friendships. Of course it does much more for cultures and societies in a conflicted world. All humankind turns to music for joy, solace, renewal, distraction -- even to construct ties that help re-weave broken relations.

American musicians convey the dynamism of our many voices, and bring back new motifs, sounds, instruments. These enter into the cultural life-stream of this increasingly nation of nations.

Mike's recollection reminded me of the Duke Ellington band visit to Calcutta, a long time ago. Undoubtedly many of our members have enjoyed similar experiences working with some of the amazing performers USIA and State have sent abroad for the past many decades.

Do you recall helping plan and organize or conduct performing arts tours abroad? Or performers who visit America under U.S. auspices? Please share your memory

with the PDAA Member Blog at our website, <http://publicdiplomacy.org/pages/index.php?page=blog>. You will add to the studies of exchanges and how they advance U.S. interests.

Regards,
Mike Schneider

Member Updates

Mike Canning, long-time movie reviewer and former president of USIA Alumni Association, has just published *Hollywood on the Potomac: How the Movies View Washington, DC*, which offers a comprehensive look at the intersection of the capital city and the movies. In examining more than 50 feature films of the Sound Era (from "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" to "J. Edgar"), the book reveals how Washington has been treated as subject, setting, or background. Also featured are "Goofs," errors in how a picture presents the city's geography or practices. The book is available from Riverby Books on Capitol Hill (202-543-4342) and Amazon.com.

2013 Luncheon Program Prices

Our hosts at the DACOR-Bacon House have advised us that, due to increased food and other costs, they will be increasing slightly the charge for our luncheon programs starting with our January 29, 2013 program.

The new prices will be:
Members and guest: \$35.00 (previously \$33.00)
Non-members: \$42.00 (previously \$40.00)

In order to keep the luncheon charge as low as possible, DACOR suggested -- and we agreed -- to eliminate the salad course. DACOR always has and will continue to include wine with the luncheon at no extra charge. Members who patronize the bar before lunch should also expect higher prices.

We are examining with the DACOR staff alternatives to the full lunch, including soup and sandwich or an entree salad. We have also explored alternative venues but have not identified any that meet our needs at a comparable cost. We will report on any further developments in a future issue of the newsletter. As always, we welcome questions and comments.

PDAA Board

In Memoriam

- ◆ Ernest Colton, 96, a retired USIA FSO, died October 25 in Springfield, Virginia. He had emphysema. Ernst Kohen was born in Berlin and immigrated in the late 1930s to New York where he changed his name to Ernest Jack Colton. He joined the U.S. Army in the 1930s and later served in the reserves. After WWII service in the Army, he joined the State Department and served as an information officer overseas. Mr. Colton moved to USIA in 1953 when it was established. During the 1950s and 1960s, he served in Germany, Austria, and South Africa. He retired in 1972. From 1974 to 1978, Mr. Colton was director of a U.S. cultural center in Freiburg, Germany. He enjoyed gardening and photography
- ◆ Harry Heintzen, 89, who retired from USIA in 1994 as director of VOA's international broadcast training center, died of a heart attack October 11 in Bethesda, Maryland. A WWII Air Force veteran, he was a reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune from 1949 to 1954. Mr. Heintzen joined USIA in 1964. During his first assignment, he established the Voice's regional office in Addis Ababa. He later worked in Ethiopia, Morocco and Tanzania as an information officer specializing in press and cultural relations. Mr. Heintzen also served as director of VOA's African division. In the last decade of his career, he helped establish and lead the organization's International Media Training Center for foreign journalists.
- ◆ Kempton B. Jenkins, 86, a career State Department FSO who served as USIA director for Soviet and East European Affairs, 1969-72, died November 18 in

Bethesda, Maryland. He died of complications from heart surgery. When Mr. Jenkins retired from government service in 1980 he was deputy assistant secretary of commerce for East-West trade. In that position, he helped negotiate the first trade agreement between the United States and Communist China. A Soviet and Eastern European specialist, Mr. Jenkins served in Berlin and Moscow and had postings in Bangkok and Caracas. After his retirement from government, he became president of the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council. He also was president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council. He was an accomplished tennis player.

- ◆ Nicholas Robertson, 62, a retired USIA FSO, died August 25 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He lived in Arlington, Virginia. He joined the Foreign Service in 1978 and was posted to South Africa, Barbados, Argentina, Ghana, Nigeria, and Venezuela. After retiring in 2002, Mr. Robertson worked in Nigeria with residents, oil companies, and the Nigerian government to clean up the polluted Niger River delta.
- ◆ Mike Saks, 72, a retired speaker programmer with USIA and a former FSO, died October 24 in Rockville, Maryland. He had bladder cancer. After serving with the Peace Corps in Togo, 1964-66, he joined USIA in 1967. Mr. Saks's overseas assignments included the Congo, Chad and Ghana. In Washington, he was a writer in the African and European sections of the USIA press service. He later worked as a speaker programmer in the Information Bureau and State's International Information Programs division. In retirement he was involved in many community-outreach programs.
- ◆ William Benjamin Stubbs, III, who served in many Asian posts, died October 21 in Ocala, Florida. The retired USIA FSO was 78. His overseas assignments included Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Hungary, China, the Philippines and Thailand. Mr. Stubbs directed U.S. refugee programs for Indochinese refugees in the Philippines and Thailand until his retirement in 1985. He later did consulting work in Washington, DC and Hong Kong. He was also a lecturer aboard cruise ships. He was involved in efforts to promote a better understanding by Americans of the culture and peoples of Asia. Mr. Stubbs served three years in the U.S. Army.

Wanted: Member News, Tributes, Appreciations

PDAA Today carries updates of one to three paragraphs each on the activities of USIA or State Department public diplomacy alumni. Any submission should include the date you retired or left USIA or State.

We will also accept short articles — up to 1,000 words — on your activities that would be interest to the membership. Topics could include continued work in public diplomacy or unrelated fields. Please continue to let us know about deaths in the USIA or State public diplomacy family. Articles of tribute and appreciation are welcome.

Please send your contributions by e-mail to Ed Scherr at: edscherr@earthlink.net

Mike Saks, An Appreciation

Dan Scherr

I first met Mike when he took over the JOT reins from me in Kinshasa in 1968. We lived in the same apartment building, but due to my seniority I was in a penthouse apartment and he was on the 6th floor. But Mike had much more experience than I did – he had been in the Peace Corps in Togo and obtained a Master's from Columbia. I had never been much beyond Brooklyn.

His rapport with many of the Congolese we dealt with blossomed into lifelong friendships – something I envied greatly.

We kept in touch over the years - visiting his art collections in Washington and Rockville. Mike was a core member of a group of lifelong friends that I made in my first post. As we got married and had families – that group grew. Our home leaves always included visits with Mike, Judy, and his son and daughter Jonathan and Nora. They even tolerated us staying in their basement in Rockville for one visit.

Generosity was Mike's hallmark. Nora recalls that after he retired Mike worked at Borders Book and Music for 13 years, but also volunteered at KEEN: Kids Enjoy Exercise Now, a program which helps disabled kids exercise and have fun. Mike was also active in adult education at his synagogue and went to many Jewish studies courses. He tutored a Russian immigrant in English pro-bono for many years, and also taught for English Now!, helping newcomer professionals improve their English skills.

Mike's basements in many ways were his personification. They were constantly occupied by friends and acquaintances Mike helped. He was a welcoming host and always an enthusiastic guest. Whenever we returned to Washington we always sought out the company of Mike and Judy.

Like the hundreds of people whose lives he touched, we'll miss him greatly.

Welcome New PDAA Members

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Member Directory Updates

Please note the following corrections and updates to the 2012 PDAA membership directory.

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PDAA membership for 2013 ... Check your mailing label for renewal status

- The annual membership fee for the Public Diplomacy Alumni Association is \$US30.00 and \$300.00 for a one-time lifetime membership. Renewals are collected annually by the first few months of the year. Because of the low fee, we cannot pro-rate memberships for a partial year.

- If your mailing label says **[2012]**, it is time to renew your membership for 2013.

Please complete the form below (indicate if any items are changed from before) and mail the completed form with your check to:

**David Whitten,
PDAA Treasurer**

**4100 S. 16th St.
Arlington, VA 22204**

No change in contact info; fill in name and date only

Name(s) _____

Street address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Date _____

Membership type, please check one: New (\$30) Renewal (\$30) Lifetime (\$300)

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Or you can renew online at <http://www.publicdiplomacy.org/pages/index.php?page=membership>

PDAA January 2013 luncheon program

January 29, 2013 - DACOR-Bacon House. 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC. See page 1 for program details.

Deadline for reservations: **January 23, 2013**. New luncheon prices in effect; see page 4.

Please complete the form below and mail with your check to:

**David Whitten
PDAA Treasurer**

**4100 S. 16th St.
Arlington, VA 22204**

No change in contact info; fill in name and date only

Name(s) _____

Street address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Date _____

Number of members/guests _____ x \$US 35.00 Number of non-members _____ x \$US 42.00

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ **Please send payments for this event only.**

Or you can reserve online at www.publicdiplomacy.org

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PDAA Today

Editor: Alan Kotok

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Editorial review: Peg McKay

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Public Diplomacy Alumni
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