BABA’s Summer Drinks Reception Showcases Scholarship Program

By Ben Cromer

What is the perfect antidote to the hot, humid days of summer in Washington? The BABA Summer Drinks Reception, of course! Hosted at the Ambassador’s Residence by Sir Peter Westmacott and Lady Westmacott, this event always draws a spirited (no pun intended!) crowd, enabling BABA members and guests to mingle inside the Residence, or outside in the Garden — all with their favorite drink in hand.

Not to be forgotten is the worthy cause this event helps support: BABA’s Scholarship Program. BABA has supported the scholarships since 1998; the scholarship recipients take part in an intensive two-week summer study tour of Britain — including visits to Shakespeare’s birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon — organized by ACS International Schools. Transatlantic airfare for the BABA scholarship recipients was provided by Virgin Atlantic Airways.

Congratulations to this year’s DC scholarship recipients: Nakfana Gidey and Shayla Summers. For more photos from this event, turn to pages 6-7.
From the President . . .

Dear Members:

I hope that you are enjoying the summer months and that you have been able to take a well-earned vacation with your loved ones.

We have certainly had a busy few months and I was really pleased to see many of you at the recent Annual General Meeting — many thanks to those that attended — where we announced that after seven years serving as our Chairman, David Marsh would be stepping down. It has been my pleasure to work with David over the years and I will miss his counsel and leadership.

Our Association is in a strong position today and much of that is due to David’s outstanding commitment and leadership. And as many of you will know David was recently awarded an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II for services to British-American business. On behalf of the entire Association I want to extend my/our sincere thanks and congratulations to David.

However, I am absolutely delighted to inform you that David’s successor is Barry Eccleston. Barry is President and CEO at Airbus Americas Inc. and is an outstanding individual with an extremely impressive track-record and all the necessary attributes to be a highly effective Chairman. I am thrilled that Barry is our new Chairman and I am looking forward to working with Barry over the coming months as we continue to further enhance our Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barry for taking on the role of BABA Chairman.

With that let me pass along my best wishes to you and your family for an enjoyable summer and I will be back in touch soon. In the meantime, if I or any member of the BABA team can be assistance please don’t hesitate to contact us; it will be great to hear from you.

Andrew C. Baker
President@babawashington.org

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Defence Security Equipment International (DSEI) – 15-18 September

The world leading defence & security event, DSEI will bring a major focus on UK, US, and international defence industry engagement, involving many BABA members and their parent companies and subsidiaries, on 15-18 September in London. The British Embassy and wider US network are working on US attendance to DSEI from the single services, administration, and state governments, networking opportunities around the US Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps annual industry events, as well as plans to mark the 75 years of science and technology cooperation since the Tizard commission of 1940. Please reach out if you spot an opportunity to work together.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Maude of Horsham

The Minister of State for Trade and Investment, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maude of Horsham visited Washington, DC, last month. He joined Reps. Richard Neal, Erik Paulsen, and Bill Keating to give the keynote address during the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) Caucus Reception on the Hill and met with US Trade Representative Mike Froman, Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, and others to underscore the importance of the TTIP, which could increase the UK-US trade relationship worth over $200 billion a year and has helped to create a million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.

Savile Row

On 14 May British Ambassador Peter Westmacott hosted 17 Savile Row Bespoke members and guest tailoring houses at his private residence to showcase the UK’s world class and historic bespoke tailoring industry. Sponsored by Huntsman, Bentley, Graff Diamonds, The Macallan, the GREAT campaign, and curated by FT Contributing Editor Nick Foulkes, “Savile Row Bespoke: A Sartorial Special Relationship” celebrated the renowned client base the Row has enjoyed for decades. The exhibition showcased over one hundred pieces including garments, patterns, pictures, accessories and fabrics from the wardrobes of Cary Grant, Kevin Spacey, Michael Jackson, John Pierpont Morgan, Benny Goodman, Ralph Lauren, Andy Warhol, and US Presidents George H.W. Bush, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan; there was a special tribute to Winston Churchill and Gregory Peck, sponsored by Huntsman.

For more information, visit www.gov.uk.
BABA Welcomes EU Ambassador at British Embassy Reception

BABA, in conjunction with the British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium, the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the Netherlands-America Chamber of Commerce, and the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce, hosted an evening reception and presentation with Guest of Honor David O’Sullivan, European Union Ambassador to the United States. Held May 12 at the British Embassy Rotunda, the event provided a forum for BABA members to hear Ambassador O’Sullivan’s thoughts on the future of transatlantic trade. The Ambassador stressed the importance of the passage of TPA for the long range prospects of a successful TTIP.

From left to right: British Ambassador Sir Peter Westmacott, EU Ambassador David O’Sullivan, BABA President Andrew Baker, and Sean Murray from the British Chamber of Commerce in Belgium.

At right, Maeve O’Beirne (l.) and Adeline Hinderer, both from the EU Delegation.

“The Energy Landscape Today:
Rising Uncertainty, Global Challenges”
Hosted by
BABA’s Energy & Environment Committee
May 27, 2015

BABA’s Energy & Environment Committee, in conjunction with the French-American Chamber of Commerce, the Netherlands America Chamber of Commerce, and the Swedish-American Chamber of Commerce, hosted a luncheon discussion on the changing energy landscape, held May 27 at the offices of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP in Washington. The panel featured David Goldwyn, President of Goldwyn Global Strategies, LLC, who is an expert on international energy issues and Bill Loveless, an energy columnist with USA Today who previously served as host of the weekly Sunday television program, Platts Energy Week. A lively Q&A followed the discussion.

Photos by Harvey & Harvey Photographers

Bill Loveless, (l.) and David Goldwyn receive their speakers’ plaque from BABA’s Mark Herlach.
Members’ Appreciation Networking Reception & Annual General Meeting

Hosted by
Arnold & Porter LLP

June 24, 2015

The Members’ Appreciation Networking Reception/Annual General Meeting, held each June, serves multiple purposes: it enables BABA to thank new and long-time members, elect/re-elect BABA directors, and provide a venue for officers and directors who may be stepping down after their service to the Association. In 2015, we said a formal thank you and farewell to BABA Chairman David Marsh (for more, see President’s letter on page 2). Farewell thanks were also given to outgoing Director Steve Trow and outgoing DATS Chair Jerry McGinn. Mr. Marsh thanked both for their service to BABA.

From left to right: incoming Chairman Barry Eccleston, David Marsh, and Andrew Baker with David’s parting gifts as BABA Chairman.

From left to right, newly-elected Directors Chris Parker, New Horizon Wines; and Carmie McCook, Carmie McCook & Associates; with Quentin Whiteree, IDEEA, Inc., who was elected to a second term.

Dave Marsh (l.) presents Steve Trow with his plaque as outgoing BABA director.

At left, Jerry McGinnn holds his plaque for his service as co-chair of the DATS Committee.
Summer Drinks Reception
Hosted by the British Ambassador, Sir Peter Westmacott & Lady Westmacott
To Benefit the BABA Scholarship Program
With Generous Support From

Ambassador's Residence, British Embassy
July 21, 2015

From left to right: Hillary Stewart, Clara Montanez, Giovanna Cilia-Wheatley, and Linda Rahal take in the festivities.

Sir Peter enjoys a Virgin Atlantic Premium Economy seat, flanked by flight attendants Francesca Kerridge (l.) and Annabelle Leszczar.

From left to right: Hillary Stewart, Clara Montanez, Giovanna Cilia-Wheatley, and Linda Rahal take in the festivities.

Andrew Kittell, ACS International Schools, with DC students Nakfana Gidey and Shayla Summers. Sophie Sipprell from the North Carolina chapter is at right.

All BABA event photos can be viewed at www.babawashington.org
Photos by Harvey & Harvey Photographers
The Summer Drinks Reception helps support BABA’s Scholarship Program, enabling worthy students to take part in a two-week British Summer Study Tour organized by ACS International Schools.

From left to right: Kari Wilner, Etta Mackay, Jennifer Rusiecki, Anastasia Choulina, and Brenda Smoak.

George Whitesides, new BABA member Virgin Galactic, with Virgin Atlantic flight attendants Francesca Kerridge (l.) and Annabelle Leszczar.

BABA Young Professional members, from left to right: Sarah Markowitz, Layne Amerikaner, and Jason Crighton.

From left to right: Jeffrey Feagin, Virgin Atlantic; Anna Pina, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; and Francesca Kerridge.

All BABA event photos can be viewed at www.babawashington.org
Photos by Harvey & Harvey Photographers
BABC Takes a Bite Out of the Big Apple at Annual Conference


The Conference brought members of the BABC’s 20 chapters together to share business insights and develop new business relationships through a high-level program of panel discussions with industry-leading CEOs and innovators and of business networking with other senior executives from throughout the US and UK. In addition to the business program, the social program included cocktails and dinner on a private yacht as it toured the New York Harbor and a Reception at the Residence of the British Consul-General in New York and Director-General of UK Trade & Investment for the USA. The Conference was held on the top floor of the Thomson Reuters building in Times Square and was sponsored by Delta Air Lines, Virgin Atlantic Airways, The Boston Consulting Group, Deloitte, BAE Systems Applied Intelligence, Berkeley Research Group, LLC, Future Foundation, and Tata Consultancy Services.

The 2016 Annual Conference, “Future Cities,” will be held in London May 11-12. For details, visit www.babc.org.
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BABA Event Listings, Committee Information, Photos & More!

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Virgin Galactic is an American-based spaceflight company within the British Virgin Group. It is developing commercial spacecraft and aims to provide suborbital spaceflights to space tourists, suborbital launches for space science missions, and orbital launches of small satellites.

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Carmie McCook Selected as a Judge for 2015 Lafayette Debates

Carmie McCook, President of Carmie McCook & Associates and a member of BABA’s Energy & Environmental Committee, served as a judge for the 2015 Lafayette Debates in April. Held in Washington, the Lafayette Debates are an academic series initiated by the Higher Education Department of the French Embassy in the United States in partnership with The George Washington University. The debate was held between student teams from the US Military Academy and France’s Ecole de Guerrer. McCook was selected as a judge for her expertise as a public speaking coach and for her experience in the environmental and energy fields.

For more information, visit http://carmie.com.

WETA Celebrates Key Milestones

WETA recently celebrated two major milestones: the third anniversary of the WETA UK channel and the 25th anniversary of Sharon Percy Rockefeller as the company’s president and CEO. Devoted to offering beloved British classics, new favorites, and contemporary series airing in Britain, WETA UK broadcasts a full schedule of entertainment programming, providing viewers free access to quality programs from across the pond — 24/7.

WETA UK has attracted a solid local audience since its premiere, including Sir Peter Westmacott, the British Ambassador. In fact, at the “Silver Salute,” which was an event celebrating Sharon Percy Rockefeller and WETA, Sir Peter said: “Thanks to WETA and the leadership of Sharon Percy Rockefeller, the best of Britain has found a home at WETA UK. This commitment to public broadcasting — one of Britain’s finest inventions — is why WETA is considered to be one of America’s greatest national treasures.”

For more information, visit www.wetauk.org.