



# British-American Business Association Washington, D.C.

Fostering valuable UK-US trans-Atlantic business relationships in the Washington, DC region

Newsletter

September 2016

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On page 4: There were many happy members and guests at our Members' Appreciation Reception in June.

## Summer Drinks Reception a Fitting Farewell to the Season

By Ben Cromer

Late summer in Washington — when the weather goes from hot to relatively comfortable — was the perfect backdrop for BABA's Summer Drinks Reception on September 15. Typically held in July, the Ambassador's Residence was in all its resplendent glory as the summer season wound to a close.

**Sir Kim and Lady Darroch** welcomed BABA members and guests to the Residence — their first as hosts of this annual event, which helps raise funds for the BABA Scholarship Program. This year's worthy scholarship recipients from DC were **Miara Bonner**, an 11th grader who attends McKinley Technology High School, and **Ifedamola Amifowose**, who attends Phelps ACE High School and is originally from Nigeria.

A special thanks to **Virgin Atlantic Airways** for providing transatlantic air travel for the DC-based students who took part in the program.

[For more photos from this event, see pages 6-7]



Harvey & Harvey Photographers

At the Reception, from left to right: BABA Chairman Barry Eccleston; Sir Alan Duncan, Minister of State for Europe and the Americas; Ambassador Sir Kim Darroch; and BABA President Eamonn Cooney.

### Mark Your Calendars!

**20th Annual Gala Christmas Luncheon at the  
Trump International Hotel, Washington, DC**

Friday, December 16, 2016

# From the President . . .

Dear Members:

What better way to see out summer than at BABA's end of Summer Drinks Party, kindly hosted by our British

Ambassador **Sir Kim and Lady**



**Darroch** at their Residence, which benefited BABA's summer scholarship program for Washington, DC students. It was wonderful to see so many BABA members and guests enjoy themselves in support of this good cause.

We do live in interesting times in the UK-US transatlantic relationship. On June 23, after BABA's interactive EU Referendum debate a month before, we witnessed one of the great changes in UK history with the 'Brexit' vote to leave the European Union.

These will mean changes to UK-US business and trade in the coming years, which BABA firmly believes will continue to grow strongly. We will monitor UK government developments on Brexit in order to deliver a series of programs starting this fall with a Brexit event.

I would also like to welcome our new Directors: **Neil Agate**, the backbone of BABA's Website over many years; **Jan Mul**, co-Chair of our new Marketing & Business Development Committee; and **Kara Sutton**, on her second term as Director and co-Chair of our Young Professionals Group. My thanks to each of you for your great work and support of BABA.

This segues into BABA's totally new Website, with full desktop and mobile versions, which is now online. A large amount of work went into its development, design, and content, so we hope members will enjoy and take advantage of the new site. For details, see page 3.

As we head into fall, a big highlight is the BABA Gala Christmas Luncheon on December 16. Always a great time, it is extra special this year as it is our 20th, and with Sir Kim and Lady Darroch as our honored guests. Do register early to be sure of attending and key Corporate Sponsorships are available as well. We hope to see you there!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**Eamonn Cooney**

*President@babawashington.org*

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*P. Rugger Smith, Administrator*

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## Post Brexit: A Period of Adjustment for the UK

The UK is well-placed to take advantage of the opportunities that leaving the EU creates to shape its economy so that it works for everyone. While it is too early to tell what the economic impact of leaving the European Union will be, we recognize there may be some difficult times ahead. But we enter a period of adjustment from a position of economic strength and we have the tools we need to address the challenges ahead. For example, the UK's corporate tax will be lowered to 17 percent in 2020, which will benefit over a million companies large and small.

Already, the Bank of England has launched a significant monetary stimulus package, cutting interest rates to their lowest-ever at 0.25 percent — and Treasury is ensuring stability by underwriting all structural and investment fund projects signed before the Autumn Statement on 23 November and EU-funded projects, like Horizon 2020, even when projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU.



### EMBASSY NEWS

**Prime Minister Theresa May** said during the G20 Summit: "The UK has always been a strong partner for the US and that will remain the case. We have a thriving economic relationship. British businesses export twice as much to the United States as they do to our next largest market, and the United States is the largest inward investor in Britain with total American investments providing more than one million jobs. We need to build on that strong foundation as the UK leaves the EU."

As a sign of the continued strength of the special relationship, we will be opening three new UK government offices in the US to grow our economic partnership between the US and UK. They will be opening this autumn in Raleigh, North Carolina; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and San Diego, California.

**British Ambassador Sir Kim Darroch** also hosted the annual BABA Summer Drinks reception on 15 September in support of BABA's summer scholarship program (see cover story).

For more information, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

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## Check Out the New, Enhanced BABA Website!

Our Website ([www.babawashington.org](http://www.babawashington.org)) has been fully redesigned to provide better information and benefits to members, including best mobile device versions and to bring it in line with other current typical leading business and association Websites in look and feel. Highlights include:

- Both desktop and full mobile view and use versions for smart devices such as iPads, iPhones;
- Continuity of a new look, logo, design, font, text, headings, added photos/graphics throughout the site;
- A fully interactive visual Home page, with written content moved to sub pages;
- Events: a more visual listing of each upcoming event with easy links to past event photos;
- Membership: stronger information on members, membership levels and why to join, to attract new members; and
- A visual listing of Officers and Directors and all 10 Committees and Groups each have their own page.

As BABA President **Eamonn Cooney** put it: "There is plenty more to see, which will be of benefit to you as members and to those new to BABA as potential members. I would like to especially recognize and thank the great team that worked so closely with me over many months to create this new Website: **Pat Karhuse** our Executive Director; our Marketing and Business Development Committee, in particular **Jill Landefeld**, **Jan Mul**, and **Neil Agate**; our Committee/Group Chairs; and our outside resource, **Mary Adkins**, President of GraphixStation.

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## Members' Appreciation Networking Reception & Annual General Meeting

*Sponsored by Airbus and*

*Hosted at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP*

*June 21, 2016*

BABA's success depends on a number of factors — from a dedicated Board of Directors and Executive Staff to our relationship with the British Embassy and the BABC. Even so, we take special pride in the quality and diversity of our membership — from Sponsoring, Corporate, and Small Business members to our individual and Young Professional members. Each year, we take an opportunity to thank ALL our members by holding our Members' Appreciation Reception in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting. At the AGM, BABA elected the following Board members to three-year terms: **Neil Agate**, President, Four Gates LLC; **Jan Mul**, Director, International Marketing, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority; and **Kara Sutton**, Policy Director, Trans-Atlantic Business Council. Congratulations to all!



*From left to right: Newly-elected Board Members Jan Mul, Kara Sutton, and Neil Agate.*



*BABA President Eamonn Cooney (l.) with James Kariuki, British Embassy, who was recognized for his service to BABA's Board, and BABA Chairman Barry Eccleston (r.).*



*Eamonn Cooney (center) with members and guests at the Members' Appreciation Reception.*



*Board Members Marisa Lino and Carmie McCook during the reception.*

**All BABA event photos can be viewed at [www.babawashington.org](http://www.babawashington.org)**

Photos by Harvey & Harvey Photographers

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## Save the Date! BABC Transatlantic Business Conference: May 10-11, 2017

Next year's **Transatlantic Business Conference**, organized annually by the **British-American Business Council (BABC)**, will focus on evolving opportunities in the USA, Canada, and Europe as transatlantic businesses absorb changes in the realities of economies, trade, borders, and governance.

Dedicated to promoting a robust dialogue between the United States and United Kingdom, the BABC draws upon the leadership of its 2,000 member companies across 22 chapter cities.

Following the most recent conferences in New York and London, the 2017 conference will be hosted by **BABC Chicago** from May 10-11, 2017. More details to follow in the coming months!



Choose Chicago

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## Shakespeare Theatre Company Recognizes Actor Charles Dance with the 'Will' Award

**Shakespeare Theatre Company (STC)** has honored British actor **Charles Dance** with the STC's William Shakespeare Award for Classical Theatre (Will Award) at the Harman Center for the Arts Annual Gala on September 25. The event was held at Sidney Harman Hall in Washington.

### MEMBER NEWS

Dance, who appeared as Lord Tywin Lannister in the HBO series *Game of Thrones*, has amassed an impressive 35-year career in film and stage. His most recent screen appearances include *Ghostbusters* and *Me Before You*. As a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, he played roles in *Hamlet*, *Henry IV*, *Richard III*, *As You Like It*, and *Coriolanus*, among others.

In appreciation of the significant impact his generosity has made on the performing arts in the nation's capital, STC also presented the Sidney Harman Award for Philanthropy to **Donald E. Graham**. For further information about STC, visit [www.shakespearetheatre.org](http://www.shakespearetheatre.org).



At left, Steve Trow of Trow & Rahal, PC, wed Robin Kessler on June 18. Trow & Rahal, PC, an immigration law firm, has been a BABA member for more than 10 years. Best wishes to the happy couple!

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## Summer Drinks Reception

*Hosted by the British Ambassador, Sir Kim Darroch & Lady Darroch*

*To Benefit the BABA Scholarship Program*

*With Generous Support From*



Ambassador's Residence, British Embassy

*September 15, 2016*



*From left to right: Natasha Chetty, Jo Diaz, Jeffrey Feagin, and Francesca Kerridge, all with Virgin Atlantic.*



*The seven British Studies scholars with Sir Kim and Lady Darroch (c.), along with Eamonn Cooney.*



*From left to right: David Short, Marisa Lino, Mark Herlach, Jeanne Lopato, and Freya Jackson.*



*Three student scholarship recipients from Baltimore take in the pleasant summer evening,*

**All BABA event photos can be viewed at [www.babawashington.org](http://www.babawashington.org)**

Photos by Harvey & Harvey Photographers



For many BABA members the Summer Drinks Reception was their first time to meet the new Ambassador, **Sir Kim Darroch**. Guests also had the pleasure to meet and to hear **Sir Alan Duncan**, Minister of State for Europe and the Americas. In their speeches, both Sir Kim and Sir Alan stressed that the UK will be more vigorously outward-facing to Europe and to the rest of the world. Brexit, they emphasized, provides an opportunity to find new trading arrangements with new partners, and strengthening of existing political relationships. The clear message is the United Kingdom remains very much open for business.



*Ambassador Darroch (at podium) with Barry Eccleston, Eamonn Cooney (c.), and Sir Alan Duncan (r.).*



*Baltimore students Akeem Lyne and Armoni Gaddy (c.) with Andrew Kittell (r.), ACS International Schools.*



*From left to right: Tatiana and Courtenay Ellis with Sir Kim Darroch.*



*From left to right: Ruth Sherlock, Debbie Moncure, Rachel Moncure, and Braxton Moncure.*

**All BABA event photos can be viewed at [www.babawashington.org](http://www.babawashington.org)**

Photos by Harvey & Harvey Photographers

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## **“To Be or Not to Be...The EU Referendum”**

*Hosted by*

**Dentons LLP**

*May 24, 2016*

**BABA** and the **World Affairs Council** held a special event on May 24 in advance of the historic UK vote, “Brexit.” When the UK voted on June 23 to leave the EU, the outcome signaled significant implications for the UK, the EU, and the USA. Our distinguished panel weighed in on the matter, providing their views on the pros and cons of this momentous ballot initiative. The panelists were **James Kariuki**, Counsellor, Head of Global and Economic Policy Group, British Embassy; **Dan Ikenson**, Director, Herbert A. Stiefel Center for Trade Policy Studies, CATO Institute; and **John Dickerman**, Head of Washington Office, The Confederation of British Industry (CBI). The moderator was **Jon Sopel**, North America Editor, BBC. A networking reception followed the panel discussion.



*From left to right: David Beck, Andy Bauer, and James Enright during the post-panel reception.*



*Moderator Jon Sopel (at podium) with panelists James Kariuki (l.), Dan Ikenson (c.), and John Dickerman.*



*Sal Tamburo (l.) from Blank Rome with Jon Payne from Intercede.*



*Philip Ellis (l.) from Western Union with David Gilson.*

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**BABA Event Listings, Committee Information, Photos & More!**

[www.babawashington.org](http://www.babawashington.org)

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# New Members

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## **SPONSORING MEMBER**

### **NEWSEUM**

*Museum*

**Jeffrey Herbst**, President & CEO

**Andrew Sloan**, Development Associate

555 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

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Tel: 202-292-6227

E-mail: [jherbst@newseum.org](mailto:jherbst@newseum.org)

Website: [www.newseum.org](http://www.newseum.org)

The Newseum, headquartered in Washington, DC, is dedicated to free expression and the five freedoms of the First Amendment: religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition. Since opening in 2008, more than six million have visited its modern building located on historic Pennsylvania Avenue between the United States Capitol and the White House. The Newseum's seven levels of interactive exhibits include 15 galleries and 15 theaters. Among the most memorable exhibits are the 9/11 Gallery, sponsored by Comcast, featuring the broadcast antennae from the top of the World Trade Center; the Berlin Wall Gallery whose eight concrete sections are one of the largest pieces of the original wall outside Germany; and the Pulitzer Prize Photographs Gallery, which features photographs from every Pulitzer Prize-winning entry dating back to 1942. In 2015, *TripAdvisor* users rated the Newseum as a Traveler's Choice Top 25 Museum in the US.

## **CORPORATE MEMBER**

### **WOMBLE CARLYLE SANDRIDGE & RICE LLP**

*Legal Services*

**David Hamilton**, Office Managing Partner

**DeDe Fowler**, Director of Administration

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## **SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS**

### **EBERSTEIN RESEARCH AND CONSULTING**

*Nuclear/Aeronautical Consultant*

**Igor Eberstein**, President

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Inventor of nuclear powered space ship. Consultant in chemical, nuclear and aeronautical engineering and remote sensing. Technical translator from German.

## **ES VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS**

*Marketing/Video Communications*

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Providing professional video marketing and communications solutions for companies of all sizes in the UK and US.

## HOW TO REACH US



The *Newsletter* welcomes information about your company's activities. Please submit news releases to **Ben Cromer**, Newsletter Editor, via e-mail to [ben@bencromer.com](mailto:ben@bencromer.com). Materials submitted are subject to editing.

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## **PUBLICATIONS STAFF**

*Benjamin D. Cromer*, Editor & Designer

*Keith Harvey*, Photographer

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# New Members

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## **SMALL BUSINESS MEMBERS (CONTINUED)**

### **LEXICAL INTELLIGENCE**

*Information Services Management, Software Services*

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**Paula Fearon**, Director of Analytical Services

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Tel: 202-643-4739

E-mail: [paula.fearon@lexicalintelligence.com](mailto:paula.fearon@lexicalintelligence.com)

Website: [www.lexicalintelligence.com](http://www.lexicalintelligence.com)

Lexical Intelligence provides software and services related to understanding and processing scientific information content.

### **PRODUCTSAVVY**

*Product Acceleration Company*

**Andrew Richman**, Partner

**Jonathan Chashper**, CEO

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Website: [www.productsavvy.com](http://www.productsavvy.com)

ProductSavvy is a product acceleration company. It supports early-stage and middle-market technology (software) companies ideate, define, and build great products that deliver commercial success.

### **SIX HALF DOZEN**

*Branding, Graphic & Web Design, Marketing/Video*

**Ben Roberts**, President

**Adam Senior**, Multimedia Designer

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Website: [www.sixhalfdozen.com](http://www.sixhalfdozen.com)

Our talented creative team delivers branding, graphic design, marketing campaigns, web design, and video production from our Old Town studio.

## **UK AFFILIATE MEMBER**

### **ALL OUT LOCATION**

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# British-American Business Association

## Washington, D.C.

*Fostering valuable UK-US trans-Atlantic business relationships in the Washington, DC region*