



USAID Alumni Association

November 2019 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. -- The **UAA Book Club** will meet at the BISTRO 1521 Restaurant, 900 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22203, which is near the Ballston Metro Stop. **Lee Roussel** will lead a discussion of **William Nordhaus's, *Climate Casino*, 2013, 325 pages + notes.** This book is in paperback for less than \$10. Please let Stu Callison (stucallison@yahoo.com) know if you plan to participate, but please respond to Stu only and not "to all."

Monday, December 9, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. - **Homi Kharas**, Interim Vice President and Director of Global Economy and Development at the Brookings Institution, will speak at DACOR about his new book, *Leave No One Behind: Time for Specifics on the Sustainable Development Goals*. He will offer practical ideas for transforming a slogan into effective actions which, if implemented, will make it possible to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. -- Jennifer "DJ" Nordquist, the World Bank Executive Director representing the United States, will discuss World Bank initiatives and policy priorities under David Malpass at the next UAA Development Issues Committee meeting. Nordquist's bio can be found [here](#). The meeting will be held at the Arizona State University, Washington, D.C. campus building, 1800 I (eye) Street, N.W. If you plan to attend, please let Jim Fox (jameswfox@cox.net) and Steve Giddings (sgiddings5@gmail.com) know no later than Tuesday, December 10. The Development Issues Committee would welcome new UAA members at its periodic discussion sessions.

Sunday, February 9, 2020, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. - UAA Winterfest will be hosted again by Frank and Antoinette Almaguer at their home, in Vienna, VA. UAA members and spouses or significant others are invited to share wine and appetizers with alumni friends and former colleagues. SAVE THE DATE.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page contains three new entries.
- In [Board of Directors & Executive Committee](#), members can see the results of the recent election for 2020 UAA officers and their roles.
- In [Articles](#), we offer a number of interesting articles on: 1) six federal employees to be honored with the 'Oscars of Government Service' including USAID/Haiti's Ryan Shelby; 2) the migrant debt cycle in the Guatemalan highlands; 3) George Ingram's piece on the USAID strategy for fighting corruption in Ukraine; 4) how the F Bureau leader calls for smarter 'strategic prevention' in fragile states; 5) the release of the Self-Reliance Country Roadmaps for FY 2020; 6) a Peter McPherson opinion piece on how US foreign aid boosts the US economy; 7) the State Department will resume \$150 million in "targeted" foreign assistance for Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras; 8) USAID Retirees sign letter of support for State Department officials under siege for their work as diplomats; 9) tens of millions of dollars for human rights programs run by State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor are now in jeopardy after bureaucratic maneuvers by the Trump administration to pare

down US funding for foreign aid; 10) USAID reprograms Central America funds for use inside Venezuela; 11) MFAN announces new co-chair, Larry Nowel, and two new Executive Committee members (Lori Groves Rowley and Susan Reichle); 12) President Trump announced at last year's UN General Assembly that the US would redirect aid money to countries that agree with his administration's policies; and 13) USAID announces key leadership designations.

- The [Forum](#) page offers two additions: (1) a copy of the Statement by USAID retirees of support for State Department Officials testifying in the Trump impeachment inquiry and (2) a message from the USAID Africa Bureau DAA on contributing to the CFC.
- The [Web Links](#) features a piece on USAID's new monthly podcast for USAID staff featuring Administrator Mark Green and specialists across the Agency.
- The [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#) Dexis Consulting is seeking a Human Resources Specialist consultant to support USAID/Mozambique for 4-6 months (12/16/19).

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.

Looking for someone with a USAID alumni background and skills to hire or as a volunteer? If you would like to post a job or volunteer opportunity, please email us at office@usaidalumni.org, Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

UAA 2019 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year was held on October 25, at the Council for Global Development in Washington, DC. A total of 124 UAA members, guests and speakers attended the event, which featured a theme of "democratic governance." Thomas Carothers of the Carnegie Endowment, a well-regarded expert on democracy and governance, chaired a panel consisting of three USAID senior leaders with extensive experience developing and managing Mission programs. Other sessions featured Peter McPherson, former USAID Administrator, Derek Gianino of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and USAID Deputy Administrator, Bonnie Glick. The meeting also included the announcement of new UAA Board members, UAA Alumni of the Year awards for Mary Lewellen and Lawrence Heilman and a special posthumous recognition of lifetime achievement awards for Peter Kimm and John Sanbrailo. As always, attendees enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues. Please [click here](#) to view the conference video and the summary report with photos.



Bonnie Glick, USAID Deputy Administrator



Democratic Governance Panel: Thomas Carothers, panel chair and panel members: Chris Crowley, Beth Hogan and Susan Reichle



Peter McPherson in conversation with Alex Shakow

UAA Development Dialogue

On October 7, **David Beckmann**, long-time head of Bread for the World, led a lively discussion exploring the reasons for the great progress made in recent decades, both in the United States and abroad, in reducing poverty and how we can help to ensure that these advances are sustained. You can hear David's comments and the discussion that followed [here](#).

UAA Development Issues Committee

Alexis Bonnell, USAID Chief Innovation Officer, led a discussion on "Innovation at USAID" at the Development Issues Committee meeting on October 11. Ms. Bonnell was one of the founding senior members of the Global Development Lab. A description of her distinguished career can be found [here](#). Notes from the meeting can be found [here](#) and a slide presentation can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

UAA Book Club

On October 23, twelve members of the UAA Book Club met at the BISTRO 1521 Restaurant in Arlington, VA, for a discussion, led by Jim Fox, of **Cass R. Sunstein**, *How Change Happens*, 2019. Jim's summary outline of this book is posted in the UAA Book Club Reviews section of the UAA website. This is a complex and difficult book, dealing with a wide range of ideas and thoughts about how we think and why we think the way we do. However, this book is not a how-to guide for producing cascades of social change. It is rather a multifaceted investigation into how people collectively develop views on important social and legal matters.

UAA Mentoring Program - Cohort 9

Through the UAA/USAID Mentoring Program, alumni have an opportunity to participate in a challenging but highly rewarding program that contributes to USAID by strengthening its field-based staff. UAA helps develop the next generation of Agency leaders at all levels, from new officers to Mission Directors through this program with partners across the agency.

The UAA seeks additional mentors for Cohort 9 of the Mentoring Program for which we have over 30 mentees in next year's UAA/USAID program. Training for mentors will be led by

Neil Levine on December 10, and training for mentees will take place on December 13. If you are interested, please contact the program co-chairs: Rose Rakas (rosetrakas@gmail.com) or Roberta Mahoney (robertacairo@hotmail.com) to fill out your member profile.

Public Outreach

The UAA continues its interest and activities to reach out to imminently departing and former **Foreign Service Nationals** both here and overseas to strengthen their joining the association. A UAA Public Outreach Committee Member and a recently elected Board member, Jim Bever, was invited to join USAID HQ's conference call on October 31st with its HCTM Foreign Service National (FSN) Unit and with the worldwide elected Members of the FSN Advocacy Council. They discussed ways to inform soon-to-leave FSNs and former FSNs that are eligible to join UAA, and to invite Mission FSN Committees to establish pilot in-country Retired FSN Chapters of UAA. The FSN Advocacy Council agreed to explore these initiatives further, together with FSN Committees, HCTM FSN Unit in Washington, and UAA.

Committee Co-Chairs Beth Hogan and Jim Bever also had a productive discussion with the policy and advocacy officers of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition to explore opportunities for UAA engagement with USGLC in the coming year for public education and advocacy supportive of U.S. foreign development assistance in the American people's interest.

History of USAID Project Book Title Suggestions?

John Norris is well along in his UAA-supported history of USAID. The History Advisory Committee has just received his draft of Chapter 10 (of a planned 13 chapters) for review. John is still tinkering with titles for the book and would welcome suggestions from the alumni community. Ideally, the title would capture the complex nature of USAID's legacy, encapsulating its successes and failures. Such a title should read neither as hagiography nor of the "The Road to Hell" or "Lords of Poverty" variety. **Have any thoughts?** Please send them to ashakow@comcast.net. **Please note that, when providing suggestions, you are waiving any intellectual property rights or compensatory claims to such titles.**

American University Archives as Home for USAID Alumni Memorabilia

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!

The American University Library has a very impressive archival program. Several years ago the AU Library Archives created a Peace Corps Community Archive in which the Library collects, preserves, and makes available materials that were created and acquired by Peace Corps Volunteers. In collaboration with the USAID Alumni Association, the AU Archives are now offering a similar program for USAID alumni. This program is not intended to collect official USAID documents which are best donated to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC). Rather, as is spelled out in detail in the information posted on the UAA website, American University is looking for "personal materials created and acquired by USAID alumni during their assignments, such as correspondence, diaries, film, photographs, memoranda, reports, scrapbooks, newspaper articles, host country documentation, presidential or other VIP visit schedules and documentation, and sound recordings ..." and much more.

Please click [here](#) to review the information provided on the UAA website and follow up with the American University Archives if you are interested in this opportunity to preserve your valuable memorabilia in a manner which will make them easily available for students and researchers of development and culture in current and future generations.

Syllabi for International Development Courses Available on UAA Website

Fresh syllabi for courses on international development are hot off the presses! See what Jonathan Addleton is teaching about international relations and development at Mercer, Neil Levine on development and conflict resolution at Fletcher, Kiert Toh on development in Africa and global issues in the 21st century at Radford, or Mark Ward on tools to end conflict and rebuild at the University of Washington. Their syllabi have just been added to the library on line at the USAID Alumni Association's website under "[Get involved](#)". This brings the total syllabi in the collection to 25.

If you're thinking of teaching a course on development, conflict mitigation or post-conflict stabilization, global issues or economics, you may find it helpful to take a look at what's already being taught by development practitioners. The website contains lots of good source material and a variety of approaches. Or if you will be speaking to a local group or organization about your USAID experience and U.S. foreign assistance, these syllabi provide excellent materials for your presentation. Finally, if you've got a course you've developed already, please consider sending us a copy of your syllabus to add to the library. Send it to: desaixmyers@gmail.com.

Former USAID Officers Sign Letter of Support for Department of State Colleagues

USAID retirees continue to mobilize support, including funds for legal defense, for Department of State colleagues now under siege from the Trump administration. More than 400 retirees, including Ambassadors, Mission Directors and senior technical specialists, representing decades of experience around the world, have signed a letter criticizing the Trump Administration both for the conduct of foreign policy and for the treatment of highly professional Foreign Service Officers like Ambassadors Bill Taylor and Marie Yovanovitch. The letter is still open. If you would like to sign, please send a note with your name and last title at USAID to desaixmyers@gmail.com.

If you would like to do more, you may want to contribute to the American Foreign Service Association's Legal Defense Fund for FSOs being called to testify and facing rapidly mounting legal costs. A link to the letter, list of signers and the AFSA Legal Defense Fund can be found by [clicking here](#). AFSA is now estimating that the costs could amount to \$25,000-\$35,000 per officer. So far, they have raised enough for two or three officers from 818 contributors since their solicitation in early October. Thirty-eight USAID retirees have donated.

UAA Says Thank You to DACOR and CGD

Each year the UAA benefits greatly from its close working relationships with two important Washington institutions – DACOR and the Center for Global Development. DACOR, "An Organization of Foreign Affairs Professionals," is well known to UAA members who attend the frequent speakers programs we jointly sponsor with DACOR in the beautiful DACOR-Bacon House. As the UAA has no physical home, the warm welcome by DACOR and its staff has been an immensely valuable and highly appreciated contribution to the UAA. Moreover, DACOR also serves as the mailing address for the UAA. A number of UAA members have joined DACOR, a step we encourage as well.

The Center for Global Development (CGD) is perhaps the premier "think tank" in Washington focused on foreign aid and broader development issues and, as such, is a great resource for all who are interested in strengthening the effectiveness of development programs of all kinds. CGD also strongly believes in the importance of reaching out to members of the community interested in these issues; many UAA members attend CGD's very interesting public programs. Of special benefit to the UAA is CGD's generosity in hosting our Annual General Meeting. This wonderful hospitality, begun by CGD several

years ago during the leadership of Nancy Birdsall and continued under that of Masood Ahmed, is often complemented as well by the participation of CGD experts in our AGM programs. Again, we encourage UAA members to support CGD and its important work.

We are deeply grateful to both DACOR and CGD for their longstanding and continuing partnership with and support for the UAA. To express our appreciation UAA Co-chair Chris Crowley recently presented a UAA gift of \$1,000 to the heads of each institution to help strengthen their own programs.

Alumni Profiles

Mary L. Lewellen, UAA Alumna of the Year 2019



Mary Lewellen, a retired Foreign Service Office (1977-2003), has repeatedly demonstrated a keen interest and competence in all aspects of international development and foreign policy. Neither retirement, cancer surgery followed by chemotherapy nor a detached retina have slowed down her active involvement. Mary has continued to serve by teaching and mentoring college students; organizing and leading service and learning trips to rural South Africa, Nepal, Ethiopia, and Thailand; and training USAID staff around the world.

For her many years of outstanding and continuous service to U.S. students and overseas schools and communities, Mary Lewellen was selected as the UAA 2019 Alumna of the Year for both international and domestic service. Here are some examples of the path of service Mary has taken in retirement.

For the past fourteen years, she has taught college classes at Sierra Nevada College. She is the Chairperson of International Studies and International Business. From Mary's inspirational lessons learned from serving abroad with USAID, the students voted her "Outstanding Faculty Member" in 2015.

For the last seven years, Mary has done the year-long planning with African partners to organize and lead 25-30 American college students to do service and learning for three weeks in the rural areas of South Africa. Students cover their own expenses, but Mary invariably donates funds or frequent flyer miles to enable under-privileged students to make the trips. They have helped expand and renovate schools, an HIV clinic, and school and community vegetable gardens. Mary and husband Ted personally provide funds for hundreds of children's books, suitcases full of schools supplies, renovation supplies, and to rebuild sports facilities.

Mary has also structured college classes in South Africa for academic credit for the American students along with their daily work and service schedule. The American students return to the United States openly stating, "This is a life-changing experience."

Moreover, Mary has continued to serve in USAID and train and mentor USAID staff around the world. She has been contracted to serve in senior positions in USAID Missions and trains around the world in USAID programming, project design, acquisition and assistance. In 2019, Mary completed her 17th training assignment in Afghanistan.



In her spare time, Mary enjoys the beauty of the African bush and her grandchildren. Mary and Ted reside outside Reno, Nevada, frequently hosting friends and colleagues from around the world. They can be reached at mlafrica@aol.com or tedmorse@aol.com.

Lawrence Heilman, UAA Alumnus of the Year 2019



clubs in the Washington area.

Throughout nearly 30 years of retirement, Larry Heilman has brought the same qualities of unrelenting energy, passion, and intellectual curiosity to his community that were manifest during his 28 years working in international development. The impressive results include strengthening Rotary International programs around the world; improving local government capacity in his community; boosting Latin American studies at universities; and working with the Wounded Warriors program at Walter Reed Hospital.

A member of Rotary International for 29 years, Larry has supported the expansion of its economic, humanitarian, and disaster assistance activities in education, health, and environment in more than 15 developing countries with over 40 projects ranging in value from \$700 in India to \$20,000 in Guatemala. He has also supported 60 Rotary

Larry served as elected Treasurer of the Board of Managers for his community. While on the Board, he promoted the creation and initially chaired public safety, environment, and elections committees with an eye to promoting greater citizen participation in local government.

Since retiring, Larry has taught Latin American history courses at Montgomery College, Johns Hopkins, and University College, University of Maryland. For 17 years, he has taught *pro bono* a course at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on "The Evolution of Civilization in Meso-America." Larry continues as a research associate in anthropology at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum. Recently, his study, *USAID in Bolivia, Partner or Patron*, was published.

Diagnosed with melanoma and treated at Walter Reed Medical Center, Larry joined the hospital's active Wounded Warriors chapter. At 78, Larry became a member of the kayak team organized to give soldiers who lost their legs in combat a chance to regain a sense of control. He helped the group raise funds to support a suicide detection program. He continues to plough the waters of the Potomac with his buddies.



Larry Heilman was awarded UAA Alumnus of the Year for 2019 based on his remarkable second career of service in retirement. The results produced continue to enrich many lives at home and abroad.

Larry and Anne live in Maryland and enjoy hearing from friends. He may be reached at 301-657-3943 or lcheilman@verizon.net.

Newsletter schedule

This November-December issue is the last of the UAA newsletters of 2019. The next newsletter – the first of 2020 -- will be sent on January 6, and 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.

UAA Membership

We have received inquiries from former USAID retirees interested in joining the UAA and seeking information about joining in November or December this year. We welcome all eligible members and are pleased to accept their membership contribution anytime during the year. Membership in the UAA is open to individuals who were formerly employed by the USAID or its predecessor agencies for at least eighteen months and who left the agency in good standing. Annual membership is on a calendar year basis, regardless of the month in which a membership contribution is made. UAA membership is tax deductible because UAA is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Thus, by becoming a contributing member in November or December, the membership is through December 31, 2019, and is tax deductible for 2019 only. Or by joining in January, the membership is through December 2020, and again is tax deductible for 2020.

To become a member online or renew your membership click [here](#) or send a check by mail to: USAID Alumni Association, DACOR House, 1801 F Street N.W. (4th Floor), Washington, D.C. 20006.

[Make your 2019 UAA Membership contribution here](#)

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