



USAID Alumni Association

July 2020 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

We are pleased to announce that on June 29 the UAA Co-Chairs, Nancy Tumavick and Anne Aarnes, countersigned the Memorandum of Understanding with USAID, as represented by the Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick and Counselor Chris Milligan. On July 13, the Deputy Administrator hosted a meeting for the Counselor, senior USAID representatives, and UAA Board members to celebrate the signing and launch our collaborative work on new agency-wide activities.

This as an historic agreement, since it is the first Agency-wide, multi-purpose MOU between the two organizations. It establishes the framework for a panoply of UAA volunteer services by facilitating USAID/UAA collaboration in the areas of leadership and mentoring; strategy, programs, and activities; public outreach and communications; and staff, operations, and administration. The MOU builds on the very successful UAA mentoring program. Co-chair of UAA's Strengthening USAID Committee, Roberta Mahoney, will serve as UAA's point of contact with the Agency for MOU activities.

As these new volunteer positions are identified, we will provide information in the newsletter, on the UAA website, or by special email, as appropriate. To view the MOU, [click here](#).

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

CANCELED. Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - The **annual alumni picnic in Vermont** planned by **Connie Carrino** and **Jeff Sharat** at Connie's home in Stowe, Vermont, has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Both Connie and Jeff look forward to hosting the get-together next year. If you have any questions, Connie can be reached at cacarrino@gmail.com.

VIRTUAL. Thursday, August 27, 2020, 2:00-3:30 p.m. -- **Andrew Herscowitz**, newly appointed Chief Development Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (formerly Director of USAID's Power Africa Initiative), and **Amanda Burke**, DFC Deputy Vice President, External Affairs, will serve as guest discussion leaders at the **Development Issues Committee** meeting on the formation and goals of the recently established Development Finance Corporation. Details on how to register for this virtual event will follow. This event will be conducted using the UAA's new Zoom account. Please note that this event will be open to UAA members who have made their annual contribution either online or by check by July 31, 2020. Check the website listing to assure that you have contributed in 2020.

CANCELED. Saturday, September 12, 2020, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. - **UAA Summer Picnic** planned to be held at Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, Virginia, has been canceled due to the coronavirus gathering restrictions. We are considering how to have this social event virtually and will keep you informed. So, please save the date.

VIRTUAL. Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. - At the **UAA/DACOR virtual Development Dialogue**, UNICEF Executive Director (and former USAID Administrator **Henrietta Holsman Fore** will speak on "From USAID Administrator to UNICEF Executive Director - Challenges and Opportunities." She is a great friend of the UAA - and was in fact the A/AID who initially suggested that USAID retirees should organize in an alumni organization. This promises to be a great treat for all, with plenty of time for a Q&A session. Details on how to register for this virtual event will follow.

VIRTUAL. Friday, October 30, and Friday, November 6, 2020 -- UAA Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on two dates. The first session on October 30 morning will address development issues related to climate change, and the second session on the morning of November 6 will cover UAA activities and priorities. More details will follow soon. Contributing UAA members are welcome to participate in both sessions but the UAA membership contributions for 2020 must be received by September 30 to ensure an invitation. Please check the UAA website listing to assure that you have contributed in 2020.

POSTPONED. Please watch for an email announcing any rescheduling details of the **UAA Book Club** virtual meeting to review **Daniel Markovits's new book**, *The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite*.

New! On USAIDAlumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The In Memoriam page has new obituaries of USAID colleagues, including Jack Shaw, Beverly Youmans, Frank Brecher, Donald Maccorquodale, John Kent Scales, Richard Lee Podol, Ken LuePhang, Dr. James Edward Blackwell, Dick Pond, Daniel Ian Stoll, Carl John Hemmer, Jr, and David Gregory Mathiasen.
- **Articles:** We feature eleven articles published in June, including pieces on: Former senior-level U.S. Government international conflict experts call for immediate action to address significantly worsening conflict dynamics in the U.S.; New Trump Appointee to Foreign Aid Agency has denounced liberal democracy and "Our Homo-Empire"; Former diplomats and civilian officials condemn Trump administration's response to protests; USAID staff demand action from Agency leaders over 'systemic racism'; Boris Johnson scraps UK's aid ministry in foreign policy shake-up; Trump administration nominates American to head Inter-American Development Bank, breaking with tradition; Opinion: A new day-solving the other epidemic of systemic racism (by Aaron Williams); Opinion: Calls for racial justice are a wake-up for the global development community (Paul Weisenfeld); Democratic senators call for investigation into USAID aides over controversial comments; A quiet revolution for women in U.S. foreign and security policy?; and Supreme Court says fight against HIV/AIDS overseas may include policy denouncing prostitution.
- **Bulletin Board (previously Forum):** Forum is now renamed as The UAA Bulletin Board and offers six items in the past month, including: A link to "Africa Memoir", a 3-volume book on retired USAID SFS Officer Mark Wentling's experiences in Africa; Ten Little-Known USAID Alumni Association Facts; "The Good American: The Epic Life of Bob Gersony, the US Government's Greatest Humanitarian" by Robert D. Kaplan; GAO Report to Congress (June 2020) on USAID Diversity; Former Senior-level USAID international conflict experts call to reduce conflict dynamics in the USA; and Former Senior-level USAID international conflict experts call to reduce conflict dynamics in the USA.

Getting to Know the UAA Website: The USAID Alumni Association website is now being updated to ensure the most current, relevant and readable content in a user-friendly format for our readers. Look for changes over the next few months,

particularly under many of the navigation tabs. We are seeking ways to make the reader's experience easy, such as the alphabetical directory introduced by John Pielemeier for the Bibliography of USAID Authors. We welcome feedback from readers with suggestions to enhance this process. Please send your ideas to office@usaidalumni.org.

2020 Annual Awards Program - Nominations due July 31

Only 15 days remain for submission of nominations of a UAA member (or yourself) for the 2020 Alumni of the Year awards. Please send your nominations from now until July 31 to awards@usaidalumni.org. The prestigious awards will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting. The Alumni of the Year award recognizes and celebrates new paths taken in retirement by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and improve the lives of others at home and abroad. There are impressive contributions among our alumni community waiting to be recognized. Example categories of service that are appropriate, but not limited to, for consideration include:

- Service with nongovernmental organizations and other groups (profit or nonprofit) that work closely with communities with special needs, at home or abroad, or both (e.g., legal services or advocacy for disadvantaged groups, foster parenting, medical service in underserved areas, etc.).
- Service with groups that promote education (at any level) or the arts and sciences (e.g., museums, community theater, music appreciation, etc.).
- Support for civic programs of any kind (e.g., scout movement or projects promoted by groups such as the Lions, Rotary, or similar).
- Leadership excellence, including contributions to intellectual development and implementation (e.g., for sustained extraordinary achievement, dedication and passion in a leadership role).
- Service by alumni, including retirees and their spouses or partners, who are UAA members and actively support contributions in furtherance of social and economic development and humanitarian relief at home or abroad.

Don't wait until the last minute to share those stories. All nominees, including the 2020 winner(s), will be profiled in future editions of the monthly UAA newsletter. For full details about the award and how to make nominations, please [click here](#).

Development Dialogue/DACOR



Gayle Smith, guest speaker, and Alex Shakow, UAA host

On June 30, the UAA and DACOR held our first virtual Development Dialogue at DACOR. This event, with an audience of over 100 from around the country, featured Gayle Smith, former USAID Administrator and current President and CEO of the ONE Campaign. While her main topic was "Attacking Poverty in a Rapidly Changing Global Environment," in addition she answered questions for about 45 minutes on a wide array of subjects. While expressing deep concern about the impact of the coronavirus

and other discouraging developments (including at USAID), she also found important reasons to be optimistic and hopeful. See the video and hear her comments and responses to more than a dozen questions [here](#).

UAA Development Issues Committee and UAA Book Club

Meetings have been postponed since March for both the UAA Book Club and the Development Issues Committee. However, the UAA is in the process of procuring online meeting software which will enable the sessions once again. Stay tuned for the dates.

Oral Histories

As reported previously in newsletters, the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST), thanks to a grant from USAID and the help of UAA volunteer interviewers, added 77 new oral history interviews of former USAID officers to its collection. In addition, earlier this year, UAA helped ADST prepare a new grant proposal to USAID to add significantly to the number of USAID oral history interviews. We still await a decision from USAID.

In the interim, we are pleased to see ADST using its expanded USAID collection to provide some great development stories to its "Moments in Diplomatic History" web series. Recent issues have covered such topics as humanitarian relief after the Aceh Tsunami in Indonesia; food security in West Africa; an FSN perspective on the Rwandan genocide; supporting human rights in apartheid South Africa; and economic reform in Jordan.

We encourage UAA members to check-out the ADST website www.adst.org to see these stories - and those of your former diplomatic colleagues. Their website also includes video series, and podcasts; ADST even has six lesson plans for educators available to the public. So, check out their website and sign up for their mailing list to receive their weekly American Diplomatic Oral History email - and even consider donating to become a member to this very worthwhile organization. For those on social media, follow ADST on Twitter: @adstNEWS or on Facebook. You will enjoy these lively historical accounts!

Bibliography of USAID Authors

Based on reader suggestions for the UAA Bibliography of USAID Authors website, we have provided a table of contents with all authors listed alphabetically. Now you can easily find and access our summaries of the 285 memoirs and books written by your colleagues or favorite authors. Just go to pages 2-14 of the document. New books highlighted in light blue, include two books by former USAID Chief Economist, Constantine Michalopoulos including the intriguing *Ending Global Poverty: Four Women's Noble Conspiracy*. Others are *Reflections and Remembrances*, a book of poetry by Michael Hacker; *Mongolian Countryside*, a book of photographs by Daniel Miller; and *Africa Memoir*, a memoir and reference compilation of three books by Mark Wentling. For a true summer getaway book, I suggest you look on Amazon for *The Last Rhino*, by Ambassador (ret.) Robert Gribbon, author of *In the Aftermath of Genocide: The US Role in Rwanda*. Please send info on any new (or old) books by USAID authors, family members, Foreign Service nationals, and public service contractors to John Pielemeier at Jpielemeie@aol.com. To access the bibliography on the UAA website, click [here](#).

Alumni Profile: Larry Garber

Larry Garber completed his second stint with USAID in January 2017. He initially joined USAID in 1993 and played a leading role in establishing the Center for Democracy and Governance in 1994. As part of an informal detail to the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, he advised on preparations for the first post-Dayton elections in Bosnia in 1996.

Larry was assigned to head the USAID West Bank/Gaza in 1999 and served there until July 2004 through the second Palestinian intifada, which affected all aspects of the Mission's operations. Despite the difficult times, the Mission continued to implement a broad range of programs, while maintaining the confidence of Palestinian and Israeli counterparts,



Larry Garber (right) and family (L to R) son Alex, wife Gayle, and son Josh

After a five-year hiatus as CEO of the New Israel Fund, Larry returned to USAID and led a working group that designed the new Bureau of Policy Planning and Learning (PPL). After heading PPL during the start-up period, he was assigned to the Africa Bureau where he focused on the Agency's support for the 2011 independence referendum in South Sudan. In 2015, he was detailed to the Eisenhower School of National Security and Resources Strategy where he served as an adjunct professor for two years.

During his first stint with the Agency, Larry met Gayle Schwartz, who was working in the Africa Bureau, and they married in 1997. Alex, their older son, was born before they left for their overseas assignment. Josh, their younger son, was born in Jerusalem, eight days after 9/11 and during the height of the intifada; fittingly, he graduated high school in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Since leaving USAID, Larry has worked as a short-term consultant with USAID missions in Mozambique, Serbia and Tunisia, served as the head of election observer missions in Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, and as an adjunct faculty teaching courses on international development. He enjoys serving as a UAA mentor for a USAID Deputy Mission Director and convening his six fellow former West Bank/Gaza Mission Directors for conversations with their former Palestinian counterparts.

Currently, he is bringing the lessons of his work overseas back home by serving as a founding Board member of the Election Reformers Network, which provides global expertise in support of U.S. electoral reform, and by participating in the National Task Force on Election Crises, which seeks to ensure a free and fair 2020 election in the United States.

Larry now lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, where he has been sheltering with Gayle, who works in USAID's Middle East Bureau, and their two sons, who will both attend the University of Maryland this fall.

For further details on Larry's very interesting career, see his ADST Oral History by clicking [here](#).

Kudos to USAID FSO Debra Mosel

On June 5, in a virtual ceremony for the National War College class of 2020, Debra Mosel (USAID), along with Nancy Leou (State Department), was presented the George Kennan Writing Award. This exemplary award is presented annually by the American Foreign Service Association to Foreign Service graduates of the National War College whose research projects and writing have demonstrated excellence throughout the year.



Debra Mosel is now serving as the Deputy Mission Director for USAID/Sri Lanka and the Maldives. She also served as Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Operations in the Middle East Bureau and as the Director of the Program Offices in Zambia, Namibia, and Romania. Ms. Mosel's thesis paper, "Decreasing Migration from Central America to the United States through Addressing Violence against Women and Children," describes violence against women and children as a key factor driving immigration. Her paper argues that restarting bilateral assistance to countries in need, creating ways to measure protection from violence and establishing a new body of international law would ultimately lead to a

reduction in illegal migration.

UAA Membership: Renewed Call for 2020 Membership Contributions

This year, the UAA has continued to increase its membership while also expanding and extending the reach of activities of interest to our members, no matter where you reside. This has been particularly challenging, given the coronavirus pandemic restrictions. To make this happen, we need your active participation, ideas, and generous financial support.

We encourage you to become a UAA 2020 contributing member by making a tax-deductible financial contribution now. All annual memberships are on a calendar year basis, regardless of the month in which you make your contribution, and half of the year remains for you to enjoy the full benefits of membership. The suggested contribution levels are:

- \$25 for U.S. residents who live 50 miles outside the D.C. area, residents of foreign countries, former FSNs wherever they live, or Associate Members
- \$75 for those who live within 50 miles of the D.C. radius

And we welcome you to join with other "angels" who have generously contributed \$100 or more as "Friends of UAA."

To become a member or renew your membership electronically by credit card, please [click here](#). Or you may contribute by check made out to USAID Alumni Association and mail it to: Treasurer, USAID Alumni Association, P.O. Box 16723, Alexandria, VA 22301.

So, don't delay! Make your 2020 annual membership contribution today, and encourage your friends and former colleagues to sign up and contribute to UAA as well.

Newsletter Schedule

During the remainder of this year, the UAA newsletter publication will be as follows: **September 8** (covering July 17-Sept 8 post-holiday), **October 12** (Sept 9-Oct 12 focused on pre-AGM), **November 23** (Oct 13-Nov 23 focused on post-AGM), and **January 4, 2021** (Nov 24-Jan 4 end of year). In 2021, we will resume newsletter publication on the first Monday of each month. If you have information you would like to share with your fellow alumni, your contributions are welcomed. Please send the information, with a picture and caption of the event, date, and people shown to office@usaidalumni.org.

[Make Your 2020 UAA Membership Contribution here](#)

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