



USAID Alumni Association

June 2021 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

We are all excited about getting out and about, as we get vaccinated and our country starts to open up. Several important UAA events occurred in the past month.

- On May 13, USAID Counselor, Chris Milligan, chaired a very productive meeting of UAA primary contacts with our counterparts at USAID to assess progress in implementing activities under the USAID/UAA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The next joint update meeting will take place in September.
- On May 23, we had a fun virtual Spring Reception, planned and executed by the superb Spring Reception team. Thanks to all who planned and participated in it.
- Finally, let us take this opportunity to remind you that the election of two new members of the UAA Board of Directors is coming up soon. We urge UAA contributing members to consider nominating themselves or other UAA contributing members for Board and committee positions, as described in the notice below in this newsletter.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 2:00-3:30 p.m. – At the **UAA Development Issues Committee** next meeting, the topic for discussion will be "U.S. Assistance is More Valuable than One Belt, One Road: A Conversation about Competition with China." The guest discussion leaders will be **former USAID Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick**, now Senior Advisor to the CSIS Project on Prosperity and Development and **Justin Finnegan, former USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) for Food Security**, now with Bloomberg Media. The meeting is open to all UAA members who have made a contribution to the UAA in 2021. Please **register for this event no later than COB Monday, June 14**, by clicking [here](#). All those who register will be sent information on how to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesday, June 15.

Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 1:30-3:30 p.m. -- The **UAA Book Club** will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom for which **Joe Ryan** will lead a review of *The Authoritarians*, 2006, by Bob Altemeyer. The meeting is open to all UAA members who have made a UAA contribution in 2021. A registration link for the Zoom session will be circulated later.

Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 12:00-1:00 p.m. -- The **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue** will feature **Greg Starr**, lead author of a recent American Academy of Diplomacy report, *Changing the Risk Paradigm For US Diplomats* at a virtual meeting. Starr is former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security and UN Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security. Brief comments will be provided by two UAA board members and former mission directors, **Jim Bever** and **Chris Crowley**. Effective diplomacy

and development to meet national interests requires a method to engage more broadly even in high-threat locations. Starr will highlight several suggested changes to address the growing level of risk intolerance experienced in U.S. missions abroad.

Saturday, September, 2021, date/time/location TBD -- The UAA annual **Summer Picnic** will be held in the D.C. area or virtually via Zoom, depending on the coronavirus pandemic situation nearer the planned date. A hybrid picnic, held both in person and virtually, is also being considered. Stay tuned.

Friday, October 29, 2021, time TBD -- The **UAA Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Center for Global Development in Washington D.C., if conditions permit. We hope to have the opportunity to hear from Administrator Samantha Power. We have also planned a special panel session on "Development Cooperation: Response to COVID-19 and Efforts to Advance Health Security"; a session (and book-signing opportunity) with John Norris on his new book about the history of USAID; and a session on how UAA Alumni can engage in more organized community outreach on development issues. Further details to follow.

New! on USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: The In Memoriam page blessedly features only two recent obituaries of USAID colleagues and spouses: **Bruce Monroe Blackman and Maria Carmen Naranjo.**

Articles: Under the Development Resources tab, we feature 12 articles published online, from late April through late May, examples of which include:

- [***Russian hack targeted USAID, human rights groups***](#)_(MSN News/Aljazeera, May 28, 2021)
- [***Senate hearing addresses broad USAID funding goals, few details.***](#) (Devex by [Adva Saldinger](#), May 27, 2021)
- [***Blinken announces \\$110M in new Gaza funding. Now comes the hard part***](#) (by Ryan Health, May 25, 2021)
- [***US to Pull El Salvador Funds, Has 'Deep Concerns' Over Recent Dismissals***](#) (By Reuters, May 21, 2021)
- [***USAID's Big Contracts Don't Pay Off***](#) (By Walter Kerr and Maya Guzdar of Starling Strategy, May 18, 2021)
- [***Lawmakers push US officials for details on global pandemic response***](#) (By Adva Saldinger, May 13, 2021)
- [***A Policymaker's Guide to the Global Fragility Act***](#) (By Erol Yayboke, Daphne McCurdy, Annie Pforzheimer and Janina Staguhn, May 2021)
- [***Intellectual property restrictions hamper the fight against COVID-19***](#) (By J. Brian Atwood, May 4, 2021)

Bulletin Board: We feature the ten Bulletin Board articles since the April Newsletter, which include:

- [***The U.S. Response to the 2004 Tsunami in Indonesia -- ADST conversation with Andrew Natsios***](#)
- [***ADST Interview with Andrew Natsios by Carol Peasley***](#)
- [***Combating Malaria in Ethiopia: The Early Public Health Initiatives of USAID \(Julius S. Prince's Interview conducted by W. Haven North\)***](#)
- [***First India, Next the World: Madhumita Gupta's Story of Determination and Drive \(from the ADST\)***](#)
- [***Arrival of New Principal Advisor to the Administrator, Deputy Chief of Staff, and Additional Political Appointee Leadership and Staff***](#)

- [Joe Ryan's new post on "Development Assistance History"](#)

Job and Volunteer Opportunities: Under the Get Involved/Job & Volunteer Opportunities tab, we currently feature three jobs:

- Director, Global Human Resources at the International Youth Foundation (Baltimore, MD)
- TDY Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Officer (USAID/Haiti)
- Vice President for Strategic Development at the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (Arlington, VA)

UAA Board Elections 2021: Requests for Nominations by June 30, 2021

There are two vacant positions on the UAA Board to be filled by vote of the membership prior to the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October. The Board Nominations Committee is seeking to broaden the selection of candidates to fill these two vacancies by soliciting current members to consider self-nominating. The only firm nominating criterion is that you must be a 2021 contributing member of UAA as of the June 30 deadline for submission of expression of interest as a candidate for the Board. Candidates can have worked under any USAID hiring authority eligible for membership in UAA. For more details on Board nominations, please see additional information on the UAA website by clicking [here](#).

2021 UAA Awards: Nominations due July 31

This year, the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by UAA members through its signature Alumni of the Year awards. Since the inception of the Awards Program in 2014, the UAA has recognized and celebrated new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and to make lasting contributions to others at home and abroad. There are impressive contributions among our alumni community waiting to be recognized.

Your help is requested in identifying individuals (or yourself) whose post-USAID activities are truly exemplary and highlight the quality of our alumni community. Please send your nominations now until July 31 to awards@usaidalumni.org. The prestigious awards will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting on October 29. All nominees, including the 2021 winner(s), will be profiled in future editions of the monthly UAA newsletter. The 2021 UAA Awards Program guidance is available on the UAA website. Please [click here](#) to view the guidance.

UAA Spring Reception



On Sunday, May 23, at the UAA annual Spring reception, we enjoyed a fun two-hour social gathering of 31 UAA friends and colleagues and their guests, a diverse group representing the District of Colombia, nine States, and one country (Pakistan). The virtual event offered an opportunity for everyone to participate in six separate breakout rooms where previously selected topics on experiences during the coronavirus pandemic and the renewal of Spring activities were discussed and the best stories were then shared with the larger plenary session. Open discussion encouraged others to comment or add their personal experiences as well. The two UAA Board Co-chairs gave welcoming and closing comments and six other members of the Board and Executive Committee led the breakout session discussions, providing a lively and enthusiastic exchange by both leaders and members.

More to come! For the next UAA social activity, the annual summer picnic, we are working toward a first-ever, virtual-linked, multi-city, in-person event. We will provide more details on the September activity, date and time as planning continues.

UAA/Dacor Development Dialogue



George Ingram and former USAID Administrator Mark Green

On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, the UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue series featured **former USAID Administrator Mark Green** in conversation with Brookings' **George Ingram**. Green, recently appointed President/CEO of the Wilson Center, reflected candidly on (among many other topics) his experience leading USAID during the first three years of the Trump Administration, including accomplishments of which he is most proud, as well as the disappointments. Click [here](#) for the full conversation and the Q&A session.



Dr. J. Stephen Morrison and Alex Shakow

On Friday, June 4, 2021, **Dr. J. Stephen Morrison**, CSIS Senior Vice President and Director, Global Health Policy Center, spoke at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue about “Where is US Leadership Heading in the Global Pandemic.” He succinctly reviewed the current state of Biden Administration actions in addressing the Covid pandemic, and then outlined the variety of key areas where urgent and sustained action is required, both by the United States and its partners, including, of course, the poor countries where the pandemic currently rages most severely. Click [here](#) for the full conversation and the Q&A session.

UAA Development Issues



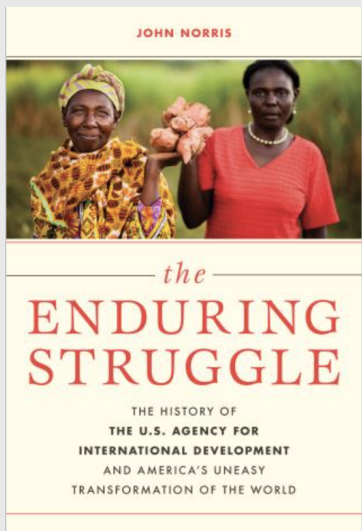
Charles North Susannah Hares

On May 19, 2021, the UAA Development Issues Committee sponsored a highly informative discussion on the “Challenges of Transforming Education in Developing Countries through the Pandemic and Beyond.” The discussion leaders were **former USAID Mission Director Charles North, now Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)**, and **Susannah Hares, Co-Director of Educational Policy and Senior Policy Fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD)**. **Susannah Hares** led off the discussion with a slide presentation of a recent CGD analysis of the impacts of the pandemic on education. **Charles North** reminded us that there was a crisis in education even before the pandemic, particularly for girls who may be forced into child marriages or into working at household chores, preventing them from attending school. The Global Partnership for Education provides grants to educational partners working at the country level to increase the capacity of educational systems, identifying and implementing transformational solutions to improve education and accelerate girl’s education. The initial presentations were followed by a robust Q & A session which addressed a wide range of issues. A more detailed summary of the discussion can be found by clicking [here](#).

USAID Book Club

The UAA Book Club held a meeting with 12 participants via Zoom on May 26, 2021, with **Bobbie van Haeften** leading a discussion of *The Third Pillar: How Markets and the State Leave the Community Behind*, by Raghuram Rajan. The author writes that markets and the state have usurped power of the communities, and the balance needs to be reset to devolve from the global and national level to the community. To see reviews of the book on the UAA website click [here](#).

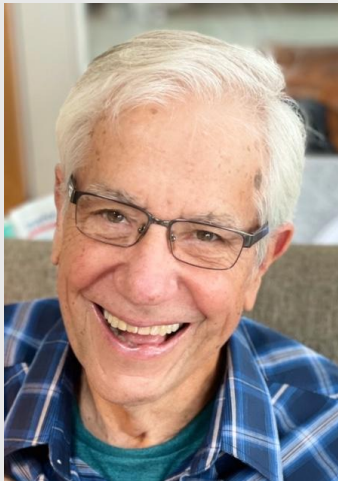
USAID History Project



The USAID history by John Norris entitled **The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World**, will be published on July 1. Complimentary copies will be mailed directly to contributors in June. This is an exciting moment for the UAA as it marks the culmination of the first stage of a major undertaking begun about three years ago. The next stage will encompass efforts to get the book out to a wide audience - encouraged by alumni and further stimulated by reviews and commentary in a wide variety of newspapers and journals.

The author, John Norris, will participate in interviews - in person where possible, virtually in other cases - to the extent his full-time job at the Gates Foundation in Seattle will permit. He will be participating in the UAA Annual General Meeting on October 29. We also hope that the book will become a key source used by professors in their courses about America's role in international development. Please buy and read the book and encourage your friends and other relevant contacts to read it as well. To buy the book from the publisher at a 30 percent discount please use the form at this [link](#).

Alumni Profile: Stacy Rhodes



Stacy Rhodes came to USAID in 1978 from the State Department's Legal Office, after a trip to Bolivia -- and a return visit to his former Peace Corps site in the Andes -- resulted in the epiphany that he was working for the wrong USG agency. He was assigned to Haiti, but wisely first asked his long-time girlfriend, Trish, to marry him. Luckily, Trish was willing to leave her career as a Washington firm's law librarian and move to Port-au-Prince and start a family! Four years later, with two beautiful little daughters, Amanda and Maggie, they were off to Morocco, and then Nepal, where he became Deputy Director and son Max was born.

Following a year of study at Duke University, Stacy served as LAC Director for Central America, before being named Mission Director for Guatemala and Central American Programs where he worked on critical human rights issues, strengthening the justice system, and implementing the Guatemalan Peace Accords. In 1998, Stacy became Mission Director in Nelson Mandela's South Africa, where USAID supported the historic transformation from 'apartheid' to democracy. Stacy completed his USAID career in 2001. While serving in these five countries, Trish maintained her career as an educator and raised their three children.

Stacy's "Life After USAID" was busy in the international development community. He worked for NGOs (IIE and Save the Children in Washington), served as Latin America Managing Director at Millennium Challenge Corporation and, to close the circle, "bookended" his career as Chief of Staff of the Peace Corps.

Stacy was part of the UAA's founding group, with the encouragement of then Administrator Henrietta Holsman Fore. After assisting in getting the UAA organized, 'legalized,' and initiating programs, Stacy has continued to be an active member, watching the UAA grow and help strengthen the Agency over the past ten years. Stacy has also served on several NGO boards in recent years, and is closely associated with Global Communities.

While it has been twenty years since formally retiring from USAID, Stacy feels like he never really left. He notes that most of his and Trish's closest friends today were colleagues or friends they first met in one of their USAID postings overseas. "In many ways, the most satisfying part of a foreign service career with USAID is the personal part, the bonds you create with people you meet as colleagues, partners or host country counterparts. These links are amazingly strong and durable, formed quickly yet intensely through a shared commitment to doing something together to address poverty and social exclusion."

Stacy and Trish today have retired to their 'shore home' in Chincoteague, Virginia, while maintaining a condo in Arlington. They recommend the slower lifestyle in a smaller town, dedicated more to kids, grandkids and friends. Having survived the pandemic and covid vaccinations, they welcome visits to Chincoteague by UAA colleagues for beach walks, bike rides, or just watching the 'wild ponies' that share the Island!"



Stacy & Trish with kids, grandkids, & pets at Chincoteague

Newsletter Schedule

The next UAA newsletter will be sent on July 12, after Independence Day and covering the months of July and August. Normally issues are published on the first Monday of each month or early that week or the following week following a holiday. We hope you enjoy receiving this news of your fellow alumni activities. If you have information you would like to share, your contributions are welcomed. Please send the information, along with a captioned picture of the event, date, and people shown, to office@usaidalumni.org.

Make Your 2021 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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