



# USAID Alumni Association

## October 2021 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

During the past month, the UAA Board and the Executive Committee focused on advancing activities under the USAID/UAA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), finding ways to support Afghan evacuees, and planning major events to take place in October. UAA Board members met with USAID senior managers to discuss progress in implementing the MOU, including information on how USAID retirees can assist in supporting USAID Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), retired USAID FSNs, and Afghan partners as they work on settling in the United States.

October will be one of the busiest months for UAA. Please take time to read the UAA Annual Report with highlights of major accomplishments when it is sent later this month. If you are a contributing member, we hope you will vote in the UAA Board elections by October 25. Winning candidates for the UAA Board will be announced at the October 29<sup>th</sup> AGM, at which we encourage your attendance.

Again, we encourage our members to consider joining UAA committees to work on: Development Issues, Public Outreach, planning for the 2022 AGM, Membership, Strengthening USAID through mentoring support for USAID staff, or Finance and Administration. Check the UAA website for names of the co-chairs of each committee and let them know of your interest by sending an email to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

### Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**VIRTUAL – Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. EDT.** Former USAID Assistant Administrator and now CEO of The Carter Center, **Paige Alexander**, will be our guest for the UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue to be held virtually. Her topic will be **"Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope – The Work of The Carter Center."** Please join us in welcoming Paige back to Washington as we learn about the extraordinary work of the Center, including, but certainly not limited to, its pioneering election observer role. To register for this discussion, please click [here](#).

**VIRTUAL -- Friday, October 29, 2021, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EDT –** The **UAA Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held virtually via Zoom. **USAID Administrator Samantha Power** will provide the keynote address followed by a Q&A session with UAA Board members. Please see the article below for more information about the meeting and to register.

**New! on [USAIDAlumni.org](https://usaidalumni.org)**

**In Memoriam:** Thankfully, the In Memoriam page this month features only two obituaries – that of **Julius Kaplan** and **Howard Raymond Handler**.

**Articles:** Our September array of articles includes fewer than usual:

- ***New! \_Gates Foundation Calls for Worldwide Health Investments*** (*Devex, by Stephanie Beasley, September 14, 2021*)
- ***New! Rejoining UNESCO is a Critical Step for Regaining Global Influence*** (*The Hill by Brian Atwood, September 18, 2021*)
- ***New! John Nkengasong, of the Africa C.D.C., Will Lead PEPFAR*** (*New York Times by Apoorva Mandavilli, September 21, 2021*)

#### **Bulletin Board:**

- [USAID Call for UAA Member Assistance for Afghan FSNs](#)
- [USAID WELCOMES NEW BIDEN-HARRIS APPOINTEES](#)
- ["Empowering USAID's Foreign Service" -- Message from AFSA Representative, Jason Singer](#)
- [Domestic Assignments: Senior Leadership Group Assignment 2022 Major Listing Decisions](#)
- [#On This Day in history, the US Government authorized the Agency for International Development.....](#)
- [Washington Demands and Disaster Assistance: USAID and the 2010 Haiti Earthquake -- Lewis Lucke](#)

#### **Job & Volunteer Opportunities:**

- USAID Global Health Intermittent Health Dev't Officer (*multiple positions*)
- PRM Consulting Group, Inc: Search for Executive Director of the Purdue Applied Research Institute's (PARI) Global Development and Innovation Division (GDI)—(09/09/21)
- Accountants and Tax Managers, Huey & Associates – (09/07/21)

#### **Bibliographies:**

- Samantha Power, "**Education of an Idealist**" (2019)
- Ted Carter, "**On the Front Lines of America's Foreign Assistance: From Seoul to Cairo**" and "**The Caribbean to the Khyber—A Memoir of the Cold War Adventures of a Foreign Service Lawyer**" (2021)
- E.J.(Jay) Ruoff, "**Making a Difference: An American Family in Pakistan, France, Vietnam, Laos, Turkey and Mali.**" (Self-published)

## **UAA Board Elections 2021**

There are two vacant positions on the UAA Board to be filled by vote of the membership NLT October 25, prior to the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 29. No voting will take place at the AGM. See list of candidates for first and second term and ballot to vote now.

[\*\*Please click here for candidates' bios and to vote\*\*](#)

The UAA Board Nominations Committee announced the 2021 Board elections in the UAA newsletter last May, seeking to broaden the selection of candidates to fill the two vacancies by soliciting current members to consider nominating, or self-nominating, contributing members. The only firm nominating criterion was that the candidate must be a 2021 contributing member of UAA. Among

the factors taken into consideration was a candidate's active participation in UAA standing committees or other programs and activities that demonstrate the candidate has contributed to the work of the UAA and is willing to invest time and energy into the activities of the UAA. Additional information for Board nominations was posted on the UAA website [here](#).

The Nominations Committee members (Terrence Brown, Chris Crowley, and Nancy Tumavick) considered all candidates nominated by the June 30 deadline, and the selections were reviewed by the Board. We have presented an excellent choice of candidates to fill the two vacant first-term positions on the Board as well as three incumbent candidates to serve a second term. Please vote electronically for the UAA Board members by October 25.

## 2021 Annual General Meeting

The 2021 UAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held virtually via Zoom on **Friday, October 29, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**USAID Administrator Samantha Power** will provide the keynote address, followed by a Q&A session with Board members. There will be a panel discussion on "*Development Cooperation on Covid – Health System Strengthening and Resilience*." The panel moderator will be **Amanda Glassman** (Center for Global Development) with observations from the field by **Madhumita Gupta** and panelists **Jeremy Konyndyk** (USAID Covid-19 Task Force) or alternate, **Sara Bennett** (Johns Hopkins University), **Mukesh Chawla** (World Bank), and **Irene Koek** (Save the Children). Author **John Norris**, Deputy Director of Policy and Strategic Insight for Gates Foundation, and author of *The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency in International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*, will discuss his book. See the full agenda [here](#).

For those of you who are 2021 contributing members of UAA, we encourage you to attend the Annual General Meeting this year, which will be entirely virtual, enabling participation from wherever you are around the world. Please register for the UAA Annual General Meeting and cast your **vote for board members by Monday, October 25**. See instructions for registration, membership contributions, and voting below.

Registration: Please **register for the October 29 AGM webinar by October 25**. You will receive email acknowledgement of your registration for the meeting, and the Zoom link will be sent after registration for the meeting closes.

[Please click here to register for AGM](#)

Membership Contribution: For those of you who are not yet 2021 contributing members of UAA, we have **extended the deadline for receipt of contributions to October 15** to allow you the option to vote and to participate in the virtual AGM.

Note: In order to be considered a member for 2021 for purposes of attending the AGM or voting, contributions must be received online using a credit card or by check (made out to USAID Alumni Association and sent to Treasurer, USAID Alumni Association, P.O. Box 16723, Alexandria, VA 22302). Both contributions made online or by check, as noted, must be received NLT October 15th.

[Please click here to contribute online](#)

Voting for Board Members: Please note that members will need to **vote for UAA board members electronically by October 25th**. No voting will take place at the AGM. Information on voting and candidates' biographies is provided above.

## UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue: John Norris and *The Enduring Struggle*



John Norris, Author and Carol Peasley, UAA

**John Norris**, author of the UAA-supported independent history of USAID, *The Enduring Struggle*, covered a broad range of topics addressed in the book in a conversation with **Carol Peasley**, UAA Histories co-chair, and in a spirited Q&A session during the September 15<sup>th</sup> **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue**. About 150 UAA and DACOR members attended this virtual session to hear John's thoughtful comments. Watch and hear this hour-long program at this [link](#).

## UAA Development Issues



Jim Bever



Amb. Earl Wayne



Hilda Arellano

The Development Issues Committee hosted a well-attended virtual discussion (with approximately 55 members) on September 22 on "Reflections on Afghanistan." The discussion leaders were **James (Jim) Bever**, former Afghanistan Mission Director (2003-2004) and current UAA Board Member; **Hilda (Bambi) Arellano**, former Coordinating Director for Development and Economic Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul (2012-2013); and **Ambassador Earl (Tony) Wayne**, former Deputy Ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul (2009-2011). Each gave observations on their experiences in Afghanistan from the perspective of the different periods in which they served – Jim Bever during the early years, Tony Wayne during the era of huge resources and staffing levels at the Embassy and USAID, and Bambi Arellano

during the era of the “military surge.” All cited the challenges of programming and managing huge amounts of development assistance in an active war zone and of a small Agency without representation at the cabinet level in navigating the interagency process among much larger organizations, including the State and Defense Departments. All three speakers felt there are worthwhile lessons to be learned from USAID’s experience in Afghanistan which should be documented. Jim Bever concluded that USAID Officers -- and the Agency itself -- can look back with pride in what was accomplished in Afghanistan in terms of health care, education, infrastructure, and institution building despite the recent assumption of power by the Taliban. A lively question-and-answer session followed the speakers’ opening remarks. A more complete summary of the discussion can be found by clicking [here](#).

## UAA Book Club



On September 29, Joe Ryan led a virtual discussion with eight participants of *Higher Education in Developing Countries, Peril and Promise*, by the World Bank Task Force on Higher Education and Society, 2000. Joe's presentation notes and a pdf copy of the book itself can be found on the UAA book club website by clicking [here](#).

## Oral Histories at ADST

On September 30th, USAID and the Association of Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST) signed a new three-year grant to do at least 70 new oral history interviews by former USAID officers. Within a few weeks, we expect UAA representatives to join ADST in a meeting with USAID to determine the priority issues USAID would like covered in the interviews to be conducted over the next 2-3 years. Once those priorities are identified, the UAA will help ADST reach out to former FS, GS, and FSN candidates to be interviewed, as well as potential new volunteer interviewers. Keep your eyes open for more information over the coming months.

## Strengthening USAID: UAA Mentoring Program

The UAA Mentoring Program is beginning its 11<sup>th</sup> Cohort! Join Us! The program partners UAA volunteer mentors and USAID Foreign Service Officer (FSO) mentees. It remains wildly popular and successful with participants. USAID FSOs value UAA mentors, their experience, and their capacity to listen and help to put mentee issues into perspective; mentors derive deep satisfaction from their conversations with USAID FSOs and camaraderie with other UAA mentors.

To participate, please complete the Mentor Profile form found here: [Mentor Profile UAA Cohort 11](#). Contact Roberta Mahoney ([robertacairo@hotmail.com](mailto:robertacairo@hotmail.com)) or Alicia Dinerstein ([aliciadd100@gmail.com](mailto:aliciadd100@gmail.com)) with any questions, or visit the UAA website Get Involved/Mentoring Section, found [here](#)!

## Alumni Profile: Miles Toder





Miles Toder with daughter Chelsea, technical advisor for UAA virtual social events

Miles Toder retired from USAID in 2019 after leading Democracy and Governance Offices in Zambia, Kosovo, Iraq and Indonesia, followed by Senior Management Group positions in Pakistan and Beijing for a total of 18 years. Before working directly with USAID, he served as a chief of party for U.S funded initiatives in Afghanistan, Poland, and Zimbabwe; and provided technical assistance to the United Nations Development Program and Asian Development Bank.

His international career was built on ten years of U.S. experience researching, teaching, and applying strategic planning tools and techniques at the state and local levels in Wisconsin, Michigan and Florida.

Miles managed to juggle work, family and fun through tennis, squash, golf and horseback riding. His wife Jeanine, an English as Second Language teacher, joined him abroad and taught in the international schools or served as a Community Liaison Officer at our embassies in Indonesia and Beijing. His two daughters grew up and attended schools in Peshawar, Islamabad, Warsaw, Lusaka and Harare before returning to the United States and careers far afield from international development, but enriched by experiences and friendships made abroad.

Miles is most proud of the some work he helped lead, including the following:

- Rebuilding Afghan agriculture after the Soviets' departure and before the Taliban's rise in the mid-1990s;
- Assistance in public finance to Poland as it prepared to join the European Union;
- Establishment of alternative dispute resolution in Zambia as an adjunct to its court system;
- Advising the first multi-party Parliament in Zimbabwe on establishing oversight of the Executive branch;
- Assistance to Kosovo with its Constitution and ethnic reconciliation processes;
- Return of governance functions to elected Iraqi leaders in Anbar Province;
- Improving agricultural research, technology, and agribusiness in Pakistan's Punjab Province; and
- Partnering with allies, especially Japan and Korea, in mitigating the negative impacts of Chinese foreign aid and development finance.

Miles was grateful for the extraordinary USAID people he served with, especially the FSNs and new officers with whom he worked and helped advance their careers. After retirement and joining the UAA Membership Committee, he returned to USAID to assist the

Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Center, support the cadre of development professionals around the world, and help recruit new officers. With the ending of this appointment, Miles has returned to his domestic roots as an urban planner. He now serves on the board of his home-owners association in Sarasota, Florida and represents his and adjacent communities with the County and its Planning Commission.



Miles with granddaughter, enjoying his favorite pastime

## Newsletter Schedule

The next and last newsletter of this year will be sent on November 15, covering the November-December period. 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](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

**Make Your 2021 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

USAID Alumni Association | 1801 F Street, Washington, DC 20006

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}.](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org)