



# USAID Alumni Association

## November-December 2021 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> birthday to USAID!

Last month began with a Strategic Planning Workshop for the UAA Board and the Executive Committee. Led by Terry Brown, the group focused on rethinking UAA's Strategic Plan to better reflect where UAA is going and how we will get there. A new framework is being developed and will be shared with members by the end of this year.

The Board met with Administrator Samantha Power and several key staff on October 19. It was an excellent opportunity to acquaint the Administrator with UAA in preparation for her participation in our Annual General Meeting. She expressed appreciation for the expertise and experience that UAA retirees can contribute to help the Agency.

UAA's most important annual event, the Annual General Meeting, took place virtually on Friday, October 29. It was attended by an audience of over 200 UAA members, guests and speakers, the largest AGM audience in UAA's history. Credit for this event goes to the AGM committee for designing and managing a stellar program that covered USAID priorities and operations; comments by Administrator Power; development cooperation on Covid-19 focusing on health system strengthening; John Norris's new book on the history of USAID; and awards to UAA members Jonathan Addleton and Neil Levine for their outstanding contributions to others at home and abroad in retirement.

We are pleased to welcome Roberta Mahoney and Denise Rollins, who have just been elected to the UAA Board, and to have Jim Bever and Carol Dabbs, who were re-elected, continue in their roles on the Board. Thanks to all who voted in the election! We heartily thank Chris Crowley and Nancy Tumavick for their outstanding service as they have reached the end of their maximum tenures on the Board. UAA's seven-member Board now consists of: Margaret Neuse and Anne Aarnes as Co-Chairs, Terry Brown as Secretary, Carol Dabbs as Treasurer, Jim Bever as Liaison for Public Outreach, and new officers Roberta Mahoney and Denise Rollins.

### Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 1:30-3:30 p.m. EST** -- The **UAA Book Club** will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom for which Tony Chan, with help from Jerre Manarolla, will lead a review of the "New Economics Curriculum" and "Instant Economics--The Real-Time Revolution" in economic analysis appearing in *The New Yorker* and *The Economist*, respectively, copies of which

have been previously distributed. Registration is open to 2021 contributing members only and may be accessed by clicking [here](#).

**Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** -- The **UAA Book Club** will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom at which Alex Shakow and the author John Norris have offered to lead a Zoom discussion of *The Enduring Struggle: The History of the Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*, 2021, 245 pages. A promotional discounted copy of the book may be ordered for \$28. See the flier on the [usaidalumni.org](#) website by clicking [here](#). Registration is open to contributing members only and may be accessed by clicking [here](#).

**SAVE THE DATE. Mid-December 2021**, Date and Time to be determined (TBD). The Agency has invited the UAA for an exciting "InterGenerational" event to answer questions about what some of our careers meant to us and how some of us see the role of U.S. foreign assistance during the future careers of young professionals. The Agency has hired a few hundred new Foreign Service and Civil Service officers this year and plans to continue such new hiring into the coming years. YP@AID currently has almost 1,000 members, which includes employees of institutional contractors who work inside Washington headquarters and plan on careers in international development. The exact time and videoconference link will be shared with UAA alumni as soon as it is available.

**SAVE THE DATE. Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. EST.** There will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue entitled "**The OECD/DAC and USAID: Shaping International Development Cooperation over 60 Years.**" This event will feature a conversation between three highly experienced leaders: **Richard Carey** (from Paris), former Director of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Cooperation Directorate and co-editor of the recently published history of the Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) first sixty years; **Brian Atwood**, former DAC Chairman (2010-2013) and USAID Administrator (1993-1999); and **Ambassador James (Jim) Michel**, former DAC Chairman (1994-1999) and USAID Counselor, among many other senior USAID and State Department positions.

## **New! on USAIDAlumni.org**

**In Memoriam:** This month's **In Memoriam** section features six obituaries, including those of: Julius Kaplan, Howard Raymond Handler, George Edward Shephard, Jr., George Gardiner Wood, Donald Mervon Harrison, and William G. Rhodes.

**Articles:** Our November-December newsletter offers seven new articles, including:

- Exclusive: Two Pathfinder Board members resign over transparency concerns (Devex by Michael Igoe and Shabtai Gold, September 27, 2021)
- 2021 Climate Readiness Plan (Devex, October 8, 2021)
- Ending Covid once and for all has to be a global fight (by J. Brian Atwood and William Fischer, 10/11/21)
- Opinion: The U.S. government is rushing to resume risky virus research. Not so fast. (Washington Post by Josh Rogin, October 21, 2021)
- Trump funding cuts hurt 80% of USAID Central America programs (By Teresa Welsh, October 26, 2021)

- USAID slow to make diversity promises come true, staff fear ambitious goals won't trickle down to the rank and file (*Foreign Policy* by Amy McKinnon and Robbie Gramer, October 29, 2021)
- USAID at 60: An Enduring Purpose, a Complex Legacy (Foreign Service Journal, by John Norris, October 30, 2021)

#### Bulletin Board:

- Terry Myers Review of John Norris' recent book *"The Enduring Struggle: The History of the USAID and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World"*
- Through Peace and Prosperity: An Armenian-American finds the American Dream: Sylvian Etian
- Fighting the War on Drugs with Bus Stops and Law Books: USAID in Bolivia
- 31st Annual Martin J. Forman Memorial Lecture featuring Henrietta H. Fore, UNICEF Executive Director
- MFAN Applauds Consolidation of U.S. Foreign Assistance Dashboards
- Launch of WorkwithUSAID.org: Recent initiative announced by USAID Administrator Samantha Power
- MFAN Announces Launch of Revitalized Organization -- with Returning and New Members Committed to Foreign Aid Effectiveness
- AFSA Urges USG Move Quickly on Afghanistan, Members Offer to Help with Processing/Hosting New Arrivals
- USAID/General Notice from the Administrator: Welcoming Our New Deputy Administrator Paloma Allen-Adams Back to USAID
- Arrival of New Political Appointee Leadership and Staff -- AID/A, October 5, 2021
- USAID Call for UAA Member Assistance for Afghan FSNs

## 2021 Annual General Meeting

The 2021 USAID Alumni Association Annual General Meeting was held on October 29, 2021, via Zoom Webinar. Due to the continuing impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was conducted virtually for the second year. All members missed getting together in person with friends and colleagues from USAID but were pleased that the virtual meeting enabled UAA alumni across the United States and in other countries to participate. The meeting was attended by over 200 UAA members, guests and speakers.

The October 29<sup>th</sup> AGM Webinar is comprised of six main sessions:

UAA Board Report. The Co-Chairs of the UAA Board, **Anne Aarnes** and **Margaret Neuse**, welcomed participants and presented a summary of UAA accomplishments during the year.



Anne Aarnes and Margaret Neuse



Administrator Samantha Power

Conversation with the USAID Administrator. A "Fireside Chat" with **Administrator Samantha Power** was moderated by the UAA Board Co-Chairs, with the audience question-and-answer session managed by **Alex Shakow**. It provided an important and much appreciated opportunity to hear about USAID's priorities in the Biden administration. Her presentation attracted the largest attendance of our virtual meetings to date.

Panel entitled "Development Cooperation on COVID - Health System Strengthening and Resilience." The panel, chaired by **Amanda Glassman** of the Center for Global Development, included the following panelists: **Jeremy Konyndyk** of USAID, **Sara Bennett** of Johns Hopkins University, **Irene Koek** of Save the Children, and **Mukesh Chawla** of the World Bank. **Madhumita Gupta**, UAA member formerly of USAID/India, contributed a pre-recorded and insightful video about the experience with the Delta variant in India. The video is available [here](#).



Amanda Glassman



Jeremy Konyndyk



Sara Bennett







John Norris

Interview with John Norris, author of the USAID history "*The Enduring Struggle*." **Alex Shakow** led a conversation with **John Norris** on this book, supported in part by contributions from UAA members. The oral histories recorded by so many UAA members were a key part of the source documents.

UAA Alumni of the Year awards. Bette Cook, Chair of the UAA Awards Committee, announced the winners of the 2021 Alumni of the Year awards, **Jonathan Addleton** and **Neil Levine**, for their extraordinary contributions to both domestic and international development activities. Congratulations to both!



Bette Cook



Jonathan Addleton



Neil Levine

Closing. **Nancy Pielemeier** and **Joy Riggs-Perla**, Co-Chairs of the AGM Committee, wrapped up the meeting, thanking the participants and the UAA membership for their support.



Nancy Pielemeier and Joy Riggs-Perla

More detailed information on the Annual General Meeting is also available at the following links:

- A report summarizing the presentation and discussions conducted during the Annual General Meeting is available [here](#).
- A video of the entire AGM can be viewed by clicking on this [link](#).
- The AGM 2021 Annual Progress Report can be viewed [here](#).

The AGM Committee looks forward to participants' feedback on the 2021 AGM. Click [here](#) to provide feedback on the webinar.

## Strengthening USAID: UAA Mentoring Program

The UAA Mentoring Program is beginning its 11th 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.

During Administrator Samantha Power's comments at the October 29th annual general meeting, she thanked the UAA for its work in supporting the history book of USAID, the oral history program, and the mentoring with Agency personnel. She described this, collectively, as "memorializing the past and mentoring the future."

To participate in "mentoring the future" of USAID, 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](#)!

## UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue



Alex Shakow and Paige Alexander

On October 13<sup>th</sup>, **Paige Alexander**, former USAID Assistant Administrator and now CEO of The Carter Center, presented a sweeping overview of the Center's array of programs in a Development Dialogue talk entitled "Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope — The Work of the Carter Center." The event, hosted by **Alex Shakow**, UAA Executive Committee member, included a large audience of numerous former close colleagues who were delighted to see and hear Paige once again. During the wide-ranging question-and-answer session, she emphasized her appreciation for their valuable support and friendship earlier in her career. Watch and hear this hour-long program at this [link](#).

## UAA Development Issues



Claudia Umana Araujo



Jonathan Fantini-Porter



Michael Camilleri

The Development Issues Committee hosted a well-attended virtual discussion on November 5<sup>th</sup> on “Economic and Social Development in the Northern Triangle as a Contribution to U.S. Immigration Policy.” The discussion leaders were **Claudia Umana Araujo**, President of El Salvador’s Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), **Jonathan Fantini-Porter**, Executive Director of the Partnership for Central America, a coalition of private sector organizations promoting economic and social development in the region, and **Michael Camilleri**, Senior Advisor to the USAID Administrator and Executive Director of USAID’s Northern Triangle Task Force. For highlights of the leaders’ comments, click [here](#).

## AFSA and UAA Celebrate USAID's 60th Anniversary

On November 10th, the American Foreign Service Association and the USAID Alumni Association co-hosted a Happy Hour celebrating USAID’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at The Hamilton, in Washington, DC. Of the 130 attendees, there was a person who worked on the Marshall Plan! At the starting point of their careers, there were many newly hired officers recently sworn in by the Agency with whom UAA members had an opportunity to meet. There were also some prominent USAID/Washington active-duty senior leaders, including Acting AA/AFR Diana Putman and DAA/Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization Teresa McGhie. Board Co-Chair Margaret Neuse gave UAA remarks. Board Member Jim Bever, Executive Committee Co-Chairs Tom Nicastro and Steve Haykin, former Agency Counselor Bambi Arellano, and many area Alumni joined the in-person tribute to USAID's 60th Anniversary.

## Alumni Profiles

The USAID Alumni Association’s Alumni of the Year awards were announced at the UAA annual general meeting on October 29, 2021. Our congratulations to the winners, Jonathan Addleton and Neil Levine for their international and domestic service.

### Jonathan Addleton

Retiring from the Foreign Service in January 2017, Jonathan Addleton has continued a pattern of service and achievement that was also a hallmark



Jonathan and Fiona Addleton

of his USAID career, a career that included assignments as Program Officer in Yemen, South Africa and Jordan; USAID Representative to the European Union in Brussels; five-time Mission Director to India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Central Asia and Mongolia; and “secondments” from USAID to the State Department as Ambassador to Mongolia and Senior Civilian Representative to southern Afghanistan in Kandahar.

Some examples of Jonathan's recognition and accomplishments, both during and post-USAID, include the following:

- In his latest book *The Dust of Kandahar: A Diplomat Among Warriors in Afghanistan*, Jonathan chronicled his Kandahar experience for which he was awarded the Christian Herter Award for intellectual courage and constructive dissent by AFSA. This book followed several other books he wrote as a USAID officer. Both before and continuing into retirement, he has written articles for a wide range of publications.
- After retiring from the Foreign Service, Jonathan gave dozens of lectures and presentations in a variety of public settings across several states, ranging from service clubs to churches, think tanks to literary festivals, universities to world affairs councils.
- He also taught courses in International Development and International Relations for three years at his hometown Mercer University in Macon, Georgia while also serving for two years as the Executive Director of the American Center for Mongolian Studies.
- His contributions were recognized by his alma mater, Northwestern University, by his induction into the University's Medill School of Journalism Hall of Achievement in 2017.
- While USAID Mission Director in Mongolia, he joined with a volunteer worker from Brazil to found a football club involving both Embassy children and street kids that continues to have impact.
- In 2019, while serving as Executive Director of the American Center for Mongolian Studies, he led sixteen American undergraduates on a volunteer service trip to Mongolia for a summer enrichment camp in partnership with an NGO for disadvantaged Mongolian children.

Born, raised and educated in Pakistan, Jonathan's USAID career started as an IDI in Islamabad in 1985 where he met his wife Fiona who later became the mother of their three children, all raised overseas, and all now involved in international service-oriented careers of their own. He returned to Pakistan in 2006 as USAID Mission Director and has now returned for a third professional work assignment as president of Forman Christian College in Lahore, a historic university dating back to 1864 and offering American-style higher education in Pakistan and which has received past support from the USAID.



In accepting the UAA award, Jonathan acknowledged that his challenge in Pakistan mirrors the challenge that all USAID officers face, whether formally or informally: to work in difficult circumstances and, despite these difficulties, to make the world a better place, one in which diverse communities are represented and multiple voices are heard.

Jonathan welcomes hearing from his friends and colleagues. He may be reached at: [jonathanaddleton@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathanaddleton@hotmail.com).

---

## Neil Levine



Neil Levine was awarded the UAA 2021 Alumnus of the Year award for his international and domestic service in recognition of his sustained, selfless commitment to strengthening, expanding, and professionalizing the UAA Mentoring Program to the benefit of U.S. development programs around the world.

Neil is a certified, professional coach with significant experience combining coaching, strategic planning, facilitation, conflict resolution, and active listening skills. He has

connected these skills to his prior USAID career to become not just an invaluable asset to the UAA Mentoring Program, but the essential component of the program's success to the benefit of U.S. development programs around the world.

This program has provided mentors to some 160 mentees – nearly 10% of USAID's Foreign Service labor force – over the last three years. At least 100 UAA members have participated as mentors. The combined impact of Neil's efforts on the UAA, on USAID, and through the families and communities of mentors and mentees, both in the United States and overseas, is significant.

Neil is acclaimed for three major accomplishments:

- For over four years, Neil has devoted sustained and selfless commitment to building and professionalizing the mentoring program. He leads the entire training program for mentors and mentees – all aspects of which are conducted globally and flawlessly.
- Neil brings together his personal experience as a USAID officer and his post-USAID career as a professional coach to significantly improve the effectiveness and desirability of the program among both mentors and mentees and to enhance the program's reputation and popularity among UAA members, USAID staff, and others around the world.
- While the principal beneficiaries of this program are the UAA mentors and USAID mentees, most benefits accrue in the United States and to the mentors and mentees who are dispersed around the world. The skills Neil helps both mentors and mentees develop in his training sessions -- careful listening, well-timed questions, clarifying conversations – do not

stop in the office and are important tools in dealing with family, friends, colleagues, other associates, and country counterparts.

After a stint as a Hill staffer, Neil joined USAID in 1993 through 2016, where he served as a Congressional Liaison Officer for the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs, Deputy Director for Central American Affairs and various leadership positions in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, including leadership of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation and the Center of Excellence for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance. Neil also enjoyed two excursions as a student and faculty member at the National Defense University, first as a student at the National War College (2007-08) and as a faculty instructor at the Eisenhower School (2013-14).

After retirement from USAID in June 2017, Neil began his “encore” career by becoming a certified professional coach and started Levine Strategies, his own consulting practice, in October 2017. His first client was the USAID Alumni Association where he volunteered to facilitate the all-day mentor training for the cohort of UAA mentors. Along with coaching and consulting, Neil serves as Vice Chair of the Board of CDA Collaborative Learning (Cambridge, MA) and the alumni council of Earlham College.

Neil and his wife, Kate Brennan, enjoy their home in Beverly, Massachusetts with frequent visits to their “northern holdings” – a camp in Rangeley, Maine. They welcome hearing from their USAID friends and may be reached at [nelevine37@gmail.com](mailto:nelevine37@gmail.com).

## Newsletter Schedule

This November-December issue is the last UAA newsletter of 2021. We take this opportunity to wish you happy holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year) throughout the remainder of the year. On January 3, 2022, we begin a new year of monthly newsletter publications 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 and, if possible, include a captioned picture of the event, date, and people shown to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

**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