



USAID Alumni Association

February 2022 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

The new year got off to a busy start. On January 7, UAA and DACOR co-hosted a very interesting session on corruption and on January 26, the Development Issues Committee hosted a lively discussion on issues associated with localization. See the summaries below describing speakers and key points. A hard-working special UAA committee has developed an updated UAA strategic framework, which is now under review by the Board and Executive Committee. We expect that it will be in final form in the next few months when it will be shared widely.

On January 28, the Board had a very productive meeting via Zoom with the new Acting Agency Counsellor, Ken Yamashita, to introduce him to UAA's activities, particularly those under the UAA/USAID MOU. He promised to continue to share his views, remain engaged with UAA's present and future activities with USAID, and rally support among USAID staff.

Please note that the UAA Winterfest this month has extended its registration deadline to February 10th. More information on this event, and a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue presentations in March on key sustainable development issues are provided below. We hope to see you at these events! We are keeping a close watch on the latest news regarding the Covid pandemic and will tailor activities to protect the safety and health of all. We strongly urge everyone to get boosted and follow public health precautions.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

Annual Winterfest will take place on Sunday, February 20, 2022: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (in-person gathering at the Almaguers' home in Vienna) and 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (virtual event). UAA alumni are invited to bring their spouse or a guest join us and enjoy seeing and chatting with old friends and colleagues. See below for details.

New! Wednesday, March 9, 2022. "[**Breakthrough: The Promise of Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development**](#)" is the topic for a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue (virtual) from noon to 1:15 on March 9. The speaker will be **Homi Kharas, Senior Fellow- Global Economy and Development, Center for Sustainable Development, at the Brookings Institution**. Homi will engage us in a discussion based on a recently published Brookings book that highlights breakthrough technologies that have the potential to soon have a substantial impact on the human condition. Look for an email announcement closer to the event to register to attend.

New! on USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: Herbert N. Miller, John F. Hicks Sr., Rufus C. Phillips III, Charles James Stockman Jr, Gloria Halm, Philip Duval Berlin, Jenkins E.W. Cooper, and Carlene Dei.

[Articles](#): Our February newsletter offers four new articles:

- **New! A History of USAID: John Norris and Wade Warren on the CGD Podcast** (CGD by Sarah Rose, December 13, 2021)
- **New! USAID Contractors denounce Agency's betrayal of thousands of Afghans who carried out its mission** (The Intercept.com, January 23, 2022)
- **New! Women who reached USAID's top ranks allege gender pay discrimination** (Devex by Michael Igoe, January 24, 2022)
- **New! USAID Distributes Aid To Prevent Corruption in Indonesia** (Tempo, Source United States/Indonesia Society Daily Bulletin, January 27, 2021)

[Bulletin Board](#): The Bulletin Board section is not available this month due to a critical error during the upgrading of the SSL certificate for the website.

Join us for the Annual Winterfest!!

We have extended the registration deadline to February 10, so you have a few days remaining to sign up to join the fun!

UAA alumni are invited to bring their spouse or a guest to the eighth Annual Winterfest, our casual late afternoon gathering to get us through the remainder of the cold winter weeks. Join us and enjoy seeing and chatting with old friends and colleagues. This is a free event for UAA members and those eligible to become members.

Date: Sunday, February 20, 2022

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. (in-person gathering at the Almaguers)
5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (virtual event on Zoom)

Location: Residence of Frank and Antoinette Almaguer in Vienna, Virginia. Specifics will be provided along with confirmation of sign-up for this event. Coordinates for Zoom access will also be provided to all who sign-up on or before the February 10th deadline.

Covid Requirements: In-person attendees must be vaccinated/boosted and wear masks while indoors except when eating/drinking.

Dress: Totally Casual

RSVP: Please send acceptances, no later than Thursday, February 10.

Click [here](#) to sign-up to attend in-person.

Click [here](#) to sign-up to participate virtually (on Zoom).

If the weather threatens, the snow date is Sunday, February 27. Also, if the pandemic worsens, the Winterfest will be held virtually **only** virtually, via Zoom. Those who have signed up will be notified by email. You may also check the UAA website for any change in plans.

To Cancel your sign-up: If your plans change, you may [cancel your sign-up at any time by clicking here](#).

Population & Reproductive Health Staff Reunion

The former Directors of the PRH Office (Joe Speidel, Steve Sinding, Duff Gillespie, Elizabeth Maguire, Margaret Neuse, Scott Radloff) are organizing for a 2022 Reunion of former USAID staff who worked for the international family

planning/reproductive health program, no matter the hiring mechanism, either in the Office, Regional Bureaus, or Field Missions. The Reunion is an opportunity to renew friendships, reminisce, celebrate our achievements, and reflect on our disappointments. They would like to mix serious reflection with some humor/merriment, while providing time for folks to meet, greet, and reconnect. A registration fee, amount still to be determined, will be charged to finance this event. At this juncture, they would like for you to:

(a) **Hold the date:** They are provisionally scheduling the event for November 4-5, 2022 in Washington DC with a reception on Friday evening, break-out sessions reviewing our history by decade intermixed with open space for reconnecting during the day on Saturday and a closing gala dinner Saturday evening.

(b) **Indicate your interest:** If you are interested in attending, please contact Steve Sinding and he will add you to their contact list for future communications about this event. You can reach Steve at: ssinding@gmail.com

(c) **Forward this information to colleagues:** As they have no contact list for former staff, we are relying heavily on word-of-mouth and would appreciate your sharing this information with your colleagues who worked for USAID's FP/RH program. Their success in reaching everyone depends on everyone pitching in.

UAA 2022 Membership Contributions are due!

Making a Contribution for 2022 Membership

Membership in UAA is on a calendar year basis. All those whose contribution(s) are received between December 1, 2021, through November 30, 2022, will be considered members for 2022. For membership eligibility, suggested contribution levels, payment options, and how to join, see the listing on the left-side of the home page of the UAA website: <https://www.usaidalumni.org>.

One payment option to consider is making a Qualified Charitable Contribution from your IRA as your membership contribution for the year, which can be for part or all of your required minimum distribution. (Unfortunately, this option is not available from the Thrift Savings Plan.) Please consult <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p590b> for IRS information on this option.

Eligibility for UAA Member-Only Events through March 31, 2022

For UAA contributing member-only events between December 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, both those who were members for 2021 and those who have become members for 2022 may attend. After March 31st, 2022, contributing membership for 2022 will be required for attendance at contributing member-only events.

For questions, please contact office@usaidalumni.org.

UAA Development Issues

Localization

On Wednesday, January 26th, the Development Issues Committee hosted a virtual discussion on "Localization of Development Assistance and the Implications for USAID Programming."

The discussion was led by:

- Ambassador Donald Steinberg, currently serving as an Expert Advisor to the USAID Administrator focusing on expanding locally-led development.

- Natalie Africa, Chief of Staff to the Africa Director of the Gates Foundation, based in South Africa.
- Betty Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer of Financial Services Deepening Zambia.



Donald Steinberg



Natalie Africa



Betty Wilkinson

The discussion focused on the promise and challenges of implementing Administrator Power’s commitment to increasing the Agency’s work with local, country-based organizations. Ambassador Steinberg summarized the steps the Agency has taken over the past few months to launch the localization initiative, Betty Wilkinson provided perspective from a field-based local implementer, and Natalie Africa offered comments on the Gates Foundation’s efforts to forge partnerships with local organizations.

A detailed summary of the discussion may be viewed on the UAA website by clicking [here](#).

UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue

Combating Corruption: Democracy Summit Follow-Up

On January 7, 2022, at the year’s first UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue, Shannon Green, Senior Advisor to the USAID Administrator and Executive Director, USAID’s Anti-Corruption Task Force, in conversation with UAA’s Larry Garber, gave a terrific account of her office’s remarkable level of activity in the seven months since it was created.



Shannon Green



Larry Garber

Their discussion highlighted “Combating Corruption: Democracy Summit Follow-Up” but also much more as AID seeks to raise anti-corruption work to a much higher level of importance than ever before, implementing a major initiative of President Biden and A/AID Samantha Power.

Watch the full program, including the Q&A period, by clicking [here](#).

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and USAID

Over 100 UAA and DACOR members were treated to an excellent walk-through history at the Development Dialogue at DACOR session on Tuesday, February 1. The subject was "The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and USAID: Shaping International Development Cooperation over 60 Years."

The speakers were:

- Richard Carey (joining from Paris), a long-time DAC official and co-editor of the recently published history of DAC's first 60 years.
- The UAA's Ambassador Jim Michel, DAC Chair from 1994 to 1999.
- Brian Atwood, USAID Administrator from 1993 to 1999 and DAC Chair from 2010 to 2013, and UAA member.

Richard first sketched out highlights of the DAC story and then Jim and Brian related their experiences in leading the DAC.



Richard Carey



Jim Michel



Brian Atwood

The DAC played a prominent role in building international consensus on key development policies, including advancing partnerships and the importance of local ownership and local context.

To see the entire program, including the Q&A session, please click [here](#).

Alumni Profile

Look for the next Profile section in the March newsletter.

Make Your 2022 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

