



USAID Alumni Association

April 2022 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

The news of the passing of Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of State, saddened us all. And Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues to dominate the news and our attention. Check the UAA website Bulletin Board for several obituaries for Secretary Albright and items concerning USAID's response to the invasion and the assistance needs of Ukrainian FSNs.

With USAID and other like-minded organizations, UAA is exploring ways that USAID retirees might help Ukrainian foreign service nationals (FSNs); stay tuned for recommendations. UAA continues its support for Afghan FSNs, alerting them to job fair opportunities and providing on-going mentoring as many now make the transition to life in the U.S.

As mentioned in our note last month, the UAA Board met with USAID's Deputy Administrator for Management and Resources on March 4. Our agreement to meet quarterly has resulted in follow up meetings scheduled in June and in September. The Board also continues periodic meetings with the Acting Director of HCTM, Peter Malnak.

Keep an eye out for communications regarding the regional chapters, presentations on key development issues, work groups and committees, and the spring reception. We expect that an increasing number of events will be hybrid: both in-person and virtual. All events will be tailored to follow public health guidance and to protect the safety and health of all. We strongly urge everyone to get boosted and hope to see you at UAA events!

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

New! Thursday, April 7, 2022, 9:30-10:30 a.m. EDT — A USAID Retirement Ceremony, co-hosted by Administrator Samantha Power and co-sponsored by the UAA, will be held virtually to honor the services of Senior Foreign Service and Senior Executive Service officers who retired between 2017 and 2021. The ceremony is open to present USAID staff and UAA members. You do not need to register in advance; just open the link the day of the ceremony to "join as guests" by clicking [here](#).

New! Wednesday, April 20, 12 noon to 2:00 pm, there will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue on "**Authoritarian Kleptocracy - Western Complicity and Rising Threats to Our National Security**". The speaker will be **Frank Vogl**, author of *The Enablers*, former World Bank official and foreign correspondent for Reuters and The Times of London and co-founder of Transparency International.

Join us to learn how Western governments over many years have repeatedly placed national commercial interests above curbing the kleptocratic ambitions of authoritarian regimes, while failing to curb the "enablers" from Wall Street to the City of London who aid and abet corrupt regimes to launder their stolen cash.

Please Note: this Development Dialogue will be a “hybrid” event, so we encourage those who can to attend in person at DACOR-Bacon House, or if not to watch on-line as usual. Watch for a detailed announcement closer to the event.

SAVE THE DATES for UAA Social Events in 2022 – More information will be provided when confirmed.

- **Thursday, May 26, 3:00-5:30 p.m. EDT** (tentative) — Plans for the annual **UAA Spring Reception** are underway for an enjoyable hybrid (in-person and virtual) afternoon event at a familiar and easily accessible DC location.
- **Sunday, September 11, 12:00-3:00 p.m. EDT** — The **UAA Summer Picnic** will again be held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA.

New! on USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: Peter Bennett Davis, John W. Tucker, Frank Leo Gillespie, Martin Forrester, Phyllis Oakley, and John Allen Bushnell.

Special Note: Two years ago, Jim O’Meara passed away. Due to the pandemic, the memorial service has been postponed until now. It will be held Saturday, April 23, 2022, at 11 am at Our Lady of Victory Church in Washington, DC. His family welcomes USAID friends to attend.

Articles:

- **New!** [MFAN Applauds USAID Local Capacity Development Policy](#) (MFAN, February 7, 2022)
- **New!** [The US Foreign Affairs budget and what comes next](#) (by Devex, Adva Saldinger, March 14, 2022)

Bulletin Board: The Bulletin Board section is back in order and back to work!

- [April 5 CSIS Event: 50 Years of Bangladesh-U.S. Relations and Beyond](#)
- [Remembering Madeleine Albright by Liz Schroyer, USGLC](#)
- [The World Madeleine Albright Worked to Build \(USAID Administrator Samantha Power\)](#)
- [Politics never trumped my 40-year friendship with Madeleine Albright \(Former USAID Administrator, Brian Atwood\)](#)
- [Update on USAID’s Afghanistan Response](#)
- [Fighting for Peace: Serving During the Sri Lankan Civil War \(David J. Garms\)](#)
- [Ways to Support the People of Ukraine](#)
- [MFAN Congratulates Alice Albright and Scott Nathan on their Confirmations by the US Senate](#)
- [Devex: Samantha Power on UN Vote Condemning Russian invasion](#)
- [President Biden: To the Dedicated Members of the Federal Workforce](#)
- [Putin’s abuse of history is straight out of the autocrat’s playbook](#)
- [Urgent Message from USAID Kyiv](#)

UAA Annual General Meeting - Save the Date: October 28

We are planning for an in-person Annual General Meeting (AGM) meeting on October 28, 2022, at the Center for Global Development. Members who prefer to attend virtually, and those who live outside the Washington DC area, will be able to join via Zoom. If the pandemic situation forces us to revert to a virtual meeting, we will let you know later in the year. Stay tuned for further updates on topics and sessions under development for the meeting.

2022 UAA Awards Program

The UAA Awards Committee is eagerly awaiting your nomination of a UAA member (or yourself) for the 2022 "Alumni of the Year" awards for international or domestic service. The deadline for submission of nominations is July 31. For full details about the awards and how to make nominations, please click [here](#).

The "Alumni of the Year" awards recognize and celebrate new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and improve the lives of others at home or abroad. There are impressive contributions among our alumni community waiting to be recognized. Don't wait until the last minute to share those stories.

The prestigious awards will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on October 28. All nominees, including the 2022 winners, will be featured in future editions of the monthly UAA newsletter.

USAID-UAA Mentoring Program - Volunteer Needed!

Next year, the USAID/UAA Mentoring program will be entering its 10th year of supporting field-based FSOs. During this time over 335 mentorship pairs have been matched, and evaluations reflect the mentees' overwhelmingly positive experiences. We've grown from Cohorts of about 20 mentees, up to a record 77 matches in Cohort 10.

As we look to continue the Program's successes over the next 10 years, the Strengthening USAID Committee is looking to add volunteers to the Committee.

Initially, we need a volunteer to help organize and standardize the Mentoring Program's digital records of the Mentoring Program. You haven't been a mentor before, you say? No problem! We are basing our file organizations on the Google Suite applications, so while no prior knowledge of the mentoring program is needed, some familiarity with Docs, Sheets, and Forms would be helpful.

We'll be looking for other volunteers as well in the coming months, so if you have some time to help the Strengthening USAID Committee, please contact Rose Rakas or Alicia Dinerstein at office@usaidalumni.org.

UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue

On **March 9, 2022**, **Dr. Homi Kharas**, Senior Fellow at Brookings, made a fascinating presentation to a UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue (virtual) about his most recent book, ***Breakthrough: The Promise of Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development***. Rarely these days are we treated to an optimistic view of the future, but Homi reported on the promising findings of key experts that should give a great boost to meeting the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. If you wish to be informed and encouraged, please click [here](#) to see the hour-long session.



Development Issues Committee Discussion: Public Private Partnerships



On March 16, 2022, The UAA Development Issues Committee conducted a virtual discussion on “Public-Private Partnerships — a Perspective on 20 Years of Experience.” Discussion leaders were Michael Metzler, Executive Director of USAID’s Private Sector Engagement Hub, AnnaMaria Shaker, Chief of Staff of the Deloitte U.S. International Development Practice and Heather Kulp, Manager for Strategy and Analytics at Chevron and former Director of the Chevron-led Niger Delta Partnership with USAID.

Michael Metzler noted that Hub has recently completed a comprehensive review of the many Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) which have been implemented by USAID Missions and AID/Washington Offices over the past 20 years with a view to updating Agency policy and improving systems to strengthen capacity to design and manage partnerships, particularly at the Mission level. A set of recommendations is currently awaiting approval of the Administrator.



AnnaMaria Shaker discussed the “disconnects” between public and private sector understanding of the goals and implementation of PPPs and the challenges of “co-creating” partnerships with USAID.



Heather Kulp highlighted problems in structuring and maintaining PPPs with USAID caused by frequent USAID staff turnover in the Missions. Both complemented USAID’s recent openness to constructive feedback from the private sector.

A robust Q & A session followed the initial presentations of the three discussion leaders. A more complete summary can be found [here](#).

UAA Book Club

On **Wednesday, March 30**, seven participants reviewed *Playing Monopoly with the Devil: Dollarization and Domestic Currencies in Developing Countries* by Manuel Hinds in a virtual meeting by Zoom led by Joe Ryan. Joe's presentation notes and three relevant articles can be found on the UAA book club website.

Hinds's main themes are that 1) manipulating local currencies to get their promised benefits makes people want to shift to global currencies, resulting in economic dynamics that are contrary to what you might expect, and 2) that for currency depreciations in large economies alternatives are available locally at similar prices, while for small economies household income falls due to lack of substitutes and big changes in relative prices broil production incentives.

Development Resources

A further word on each of the two new books mentioned in last month's newsletter.

- The correct title of Frank Young's excellent autobiography of his student year in India is *47 Aerogrammes: A Passage through India 1969-1970* (not 17, as a typo in last month's newsletter would have it)! You'll need the correct title to find it on Amazon.
- Carl Henn's autobiography, *My Two Centuries in Africa: How a Funny Looking Kid from Indiana Wound Up on an Endless Adventure*, is now available in paperback with color photos, in addition to the Kindle format.

Please remember to send information of YOUR new book or others you have become aware of to jpielemeie@aol.com. The Bibliography is a compendium of more than 250 titles written by USAID officers, spouses, children and FSNs and is available to retirees, students, researchers, and general readers at www.usaidalumni.org.

Alumni Profile: Alexi Panehal



Alexi Panehal's interesting and varied 35.5-year career with USAID included positions in housing and urban development (1984-1992), the environment (1992-1995), democracy (1995-1999), and ultimately in senior management as deputy mission director (2000-2003 Regional Mission for Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus), mission director (2005-2009 in Ecuador and 2012-2016 in the Dominican Republic), and

deputy assistant administrator (2010-2012, E3 Bureau). Her international service took her around the world to Asia (Thailand), North Africa (Tunisia), Latin America and the Caribbean (Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and the Dominican Republic), and to Washington, first in the Eastern Europe and NIS Bureau (1992-1995) and then in the E3 Bureau (2010-2012). Alexi received a

master's degree from the National War College and later served as a faculty instructor there.

One of her most stimulating experiences was heading up the democracy office in Nicaragua for four years. There she helped design and implement a massive voter registration campaign and monitor two national elections. When Hurricane Mitch decimated the country in November 1998, Alexi worked on relief and reconstruction efforts.

Alexi is most proud of working with her staff on programs to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. In Ecuador, staff designed and implemented a multisectoral, comprehensive persons with disabilities programs, ranging from transport to the polls on election day, producing braille ballots, inclusion in 'regular' public schools, the creation of the first fully accessible park in the country, and writing and publishing the first tourism guide for persons with disabilities in Latin America. In the Dominican Republic, staff developed a cell phone app that identifies nearby hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions that are accessible to persons with disabilities, organized sign language classes for Embassy staff, translated the USAID strategy into braille, and even bought a braille printer.

After retiring in 2018, Alexi moved to an island in Lake Erie where her family spent their summer vacations. She remains active with UAA. Locally, Alexi serves on the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Board of the Kelleys Island Historical Association and volunteers at the local library and history museum. Alexi also volunteers as the 'scribe' for the USGS/Cleveland Museum of Natural History bird banding project on Kelleys Island. In her 'spare' time, Alexi writes. Her first book, published by the University of Toledo Press in December 2021, is called *The Island in Winter*. She is working on her second book, a comparative study of the leadership skills of four U.S. army generals who became president. Most importantly, Alexi is the proud mother of two lovely daughters.

Alexi would love to hear from USAID friends and colleagues at Alexipanehal53@yahoo.com.

Make Your 2022 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

