



USAID Alumni Asso

May 2022 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

It's Spring in the Washington, DC, area and people are meeting again! We look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Reception — in the lovely gardens of the DACOR-Bacon House or online! Please see details below.

Russia's war against Ukraine has entered its second, devastating month. You all received an April 12 email message from us announcing that the State Department established a specific Emergency Fund for Ukrainian FSNs that will be managed by the Mission. We encourage all who wish to do so to contribute to this fund, for which all donations are tax-deductible. (See the instructions in [UAA's website](#).) Also, here is [a link](#) to the DACOR vetted list of NGOs active in providing assistance to Ukraine and Ukrainians.

The Retirement Ceremony was a great success. The Board is delighted at the results of these three years of work with USAID to achieve this result and hope it will be sustained and produce more UAA members. If you were not able to join us, a [recording of the event](#) can be found on the website.

Finally, the Regional Chapters are moving forward! The Florida chapter is making good headway and there's interest in a southern California chapter as well. Winter chilled the New England chapter's progress but it's spring! Regional committee members are reviewing a draft speaker's kit and we hope to have an updated, polished presentation ready before the AGM.

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 — including Aaron William's presentation and the Spring Reception!

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

New! Friday, May 20, 2022 – Noon to 2:00 pm. Development Dialogue at DACOR (DDD). Aaron Williams, a founding member of the UAA, spent 22 years in USAID, was a Peace Corps Volunteer and was the Director of the Peace Corps. He has recently published his memoir, **A Life Unimagined — The Rewards of Mission-Driven Service in the Peace Corps and Beyond**. Many of us know Aaron, but few of us know his background and how he became the man we know. Aaron will be joined in conversation by our colleague Ambassador Jim Michel. Join us at DACOR-Bacon House for lunch and see Aaron and Jim and many other friends in person. Or **watch on-line beginning at 1:10**. Click [here](#) to register.

New! Thursday, May 26, 3:00 – 5:30 pm EDT. UAA alumni are invited to the **Annual Spring Reception** at the **DACOR Bacon House** garden, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC. Those who have registered for the reception will receive instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting a few days before May 26.

New! Sunday, September 11, 12:00 – 3:00 pm EDT. The **UAA Summer Picnic** will again be held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA.

Reminder!! October 28, 2022 is the date for UAA's **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** this year. The AGM will be held in-person 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.

Postponed!!! The **UAA Development Issues Committee** virtual discussion on **“Covid19 and its impact on USAID health programming and health systems”** led by Mr. **Javier Guzman** of the **Center for Global Health Policy Program** planned for Thursday, April 26, 2022, has been **postponed**. A new date will be sent when the discussion is rescheduled.

New! on USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: John Joseph (Joe) Liebner and “Skip” Earell Edwin Kissinger, III

Articles:

- **New!** [Funding requests on the Hill for Ukraine and Covid response](#) (by Devex, March 7, 2022)
- **New!** [The US Foreign Affairs budget and what comes next](#) (by Devex, Adva Saldinger, March 14, 2022)
- **New!** [The Power of Partnerships Start here](#) (by Skoll World Forum, April 7, 2022). You can also read the transcript of the interview [here](#).

Bulletin Board:

- [DACOR List of Comprehensive Ways to Contribute Assistance to Ukrainians](#)
- [USAID Administrator Power on Localization at the Skoll World Forum](#)
- [Marked and Branded by Holly Ferrette](#)
- [USAID announces Global Fragility Act Countries](#)
- [Dilian Deal Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [USGLC: Liz Schroyer's Top 7 Takeaways from Administration's Budget Request](#)
- [CSIS Livestream on 50 Years of Bangladesh-U.S. Relations and Beyond](#)

Ways to Support the People of Ukraine



DACOR has shared with UAA a list of reputable organizations to which UAA members can contribute to support Ukraine and Ukrainians. See the list [here](#).

Two Retired USAID Executives Sought for Afghan Relocation Effort

Retired FSOs who are interested in serving for 1-2 years on a **recall appointment** as USAID liaison to the State Department Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts should reach out to Sheila Samuels ssamuels@usaid.gov and cc Diane Moore at dimoore@usaid.gov. These positions are not in USAJOBS but are being recruited privately, including through UAA, from among former USAID senior employees (FS-1 or GS-15 and above).

For details, see the UAA website's [Jobs & Volunteers Opportunities](#) page.

UAA Annual Spring Reception

UAA alumni are invited to the Annual Spring Reception on Thursday, May 26, 3:00-5:30 p.m. at the DACOR Bacon House garden, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006

Join us for this Spring afternoon gathering, to be held in both in-person and virtually, to help us “Spring forward” from the two-year Covid pandemic to celebrate Spring and beyond. Bring your partner or friend, or come by yourself, to join a pleasurable get-together with other UAA members.

In deference to Covid concerns, DACOR requires that all visitors must be fully vaccinated. When registering for in-person attendance, you are requested to attest that you and your guests are fully vaccinated. DACOR no longer requires that its visitors wear masks indoors; thus, wearing masks is optional for the UAA reception.

RSVP: Please send acceptances to attend no later than Saturday, May 14.

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

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

Those who have registered for the reception will receive UAA instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting a few days before May 26.

We hope you will join us for this special social occasion in a lovely garden setting with food and drinks for all. This event is free of charge to UAA member and their spouse or partner.

New Venues for UAA's In-Person Meetings?

UAA is planning to resume in-person events in the coming months, depending on the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic. We are looking for venues to host up to 20 people for Board and Executive Committee meetings and up to 50 people for Development Issues Committee sessions.

If you or your organization has such space that could be made available to UAA, please send a note to the Secretary of UAA's Board, Terry Brown, [here](#).

Thanks!

USAID Executive Retirement Ceremony

By all accounts, the April 7th virtual Retirement Ceremony honoring a diverse group of over one hundred SFS and SES 2017-2021 retirees was a resounding success. Over 400 retirees and USAID staff participated in the webinar. Administrator Samantha Power spoke (from Moldova, bordering Ukraine), as did UAA Board Member Anne Aarnes. Ten retirees shared their thoughts on their most memorable moments with USAID and on

why USAID remains important. Chat rooms re-connected hundreds of colleagues from around the world.

This service recognition event was the result of a UAA initiative co-led by Tom Nicastro and Jim Bever, and was endorsed by USAID under the umbrella of the UAA-USAID MOU. Please click [here](#) to view the event.

2022 UAA Awards Program

In 2022, the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by UAA members through its signature Alumni of the Year Awards. The 2022 UAA Awards Program guidance is provided on the UAA website. Please [click here](#).

The Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year, beginning now until July 31, 2022. Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org. The award winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in October.

UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue



On **April 20, 2022**, the UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue heard a forceful and timely presentation by **Frank Vogl** on **“Authoritarian Kleptocracy – Western Complicity and Rising Threats to National Security.”** Vogl, former World Bank official and international journalist, is the author of *The Enablers – How the West Supports Kleptocrats and Corruption – Endangering our Democracy*. Vogl focused on these widespread and complex issues and on actions currently being taken by AID and others — and what more is needed. Click [here](#) to hear the hour-long program, including the Q&A period.

Public Outreach



Responding to a request to UAA from AFSA, Board member Jim Bever is giving a series of talks for the Road Scholar organization on the importance of US foreign assistance and USAID. Road Scholar is a non-profit that since 1975 has been creating experiential learning opportunities for "lifelong learners," previously under the name Elderhostel. On March 31 and April 21, 2022, Jim spoke in Washington, DC, to two groups of Road Scholars totaling about 100 people from 25 states. Another talk is scheduled for early June.

Development Resources

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: Alfred Nakatsuma



Alfred Nakatsuma retired the end of 2019 and planned to visit old friends where he was posted (Guatemala, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand), but Covid grounded him. Instead, he tracked down special colleagues with whom he had worked since 1984 while collaborating with USAID/Peru as a Fulbright Grantee, then as a PSC in USAID/Bolivia before joining the Foreign Service in 1988. He expressed thanks to those who inspired him or helped him

Nakatsuma (front) in Los Angeles with his mother and brother (top), and family from Mexico

throughout his career. He reached almost everybody on his list, and had fabulous exchanges for which he is extremely grateful.

They greatly enriched his perspectives about career and life, including the following reflections.

The greatest gift USAID gave him was the ability to befriend extraordinary people. While working, he enjoyed these relationships, but didn't fully *appreciate* them as much as now.

He questioned whether during 35+ years of hard work he accomplished his goal to help the poor and protect the environment. He concluded that development is so complicated, attribution is difficult and results change with time, so it's hard to know. He feels he didn't fulfill his dreams of achieving big, lasting impact, with the possible exceptions of the 2 million-hectare Maya Biosphere Reserve in Guatemala and the TransJakarta public bus system in Indonesia, which he initiated and led for USAID. After 32 and 20 years of operation, respectively, they are still successfully supporting the poor and conserving the environment.

Whatever USAID does, successful or not, is always a team effort. USAID employees were all inextricably woven together as a team and needed each other at every step, so no individual gets the blame for failure or credit for success.

Now a couple years after retiring, he continues to do what most motivates him — helping people and the planet. Through various programs and universities, he mentors future development professionals, gives pro-bono support to environmental organizations and serves as advisor to a project reducing ocean plastics in South East Asia. He lives with mother and brother in Los Angeles to share the health care and joy of being together again after a long career abroad.



Alfred returns to the Guatemala Maya Biosphere Reserve 30 years after USAID's key role in its creation and success (with local woman leader)

He is very happy to be in contact with friends and colleagues and may be reached at anakatsuma@gmail.com. USAID's lasting imprint on him was not so much about work, but the treasure of good memories and precious relationships established along the way. He is thankful to all who have been part of his USAID journey and life, and to UAA for the opportunity to continue serving and being in contact with colleagues.

[Make Your 2022 UAA Membership Contribution](#)
USAID Alumni Association

