



# USAID Alumni Association

## June 2022 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

We are moving into summer here in the Washington, D.C. area as the heat and humidity increase. None of that was felt, however, at our Spring Reception in the garden of the DACOR-Bacon House. We had moderate temperatures, a slight breeze, and excellent in-person and virtual attendance from our members. Thank you to all who joined us. For more details, see below.

While we are moving into the summer months with many going on vacation and taking trips, just a few reminders:

- There is still opportunity to contribute to the State Department's special Emergency Fund for Ukrainian FSNs that will be managed by the Mission. 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 Regional Chapters are moving forward! The Florida chapter is making good headway, and other regions are expressing more interest. We continue to push for USAID/LPA input and updating for a speaker's kit which is being reviewed as well by Regional committee members. We hope to have an updated, polished presentation ready before the AGM.
- UAA Committees are always looking for volunteers to help with their activities. If you are interested in becoming more actively engaged, please let the UAA Co-Chairs and Committee co-chairs know. They are listed at [usaidalumni.org/board-of-directors-executive-committee](https://usaidalumni.org/board-of-directors-executive-committee). You may reach them at [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

As with 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 upcoming UAA events.

### Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**Save the Date!** Sunday, September 11, 2022, 12:00 – 3:00 pm EDT. The UAA Summer Picnic will again be held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, VA.

**Reminder!** Friday, 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.

**New! on USAIDAlumni.org**

**In Memoriam:** [Nimi Wijesooriya](#)

**Articles:**

- **New!** Samantha Power NPR interview (Skoll World Forum, April 7, 2022). [Video](#) and [transcript](#).
- **New!** **"The abortion debate is weakening an already strained American democracy"** by J. Brian Atwood, in *The Hill*.

**Bulletin Board:** no new items.

**Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Director, Financial Resources Management (D-1).
- USAID-UAA Mentoring Program – Volunteer Needed!
- AFSA Seeks Candidate for Board Secretary.

## UAA Spring Reception

UAA enjoyed a lovely spring afternoon of fellowship in the garden of DACOR Bacon House on Thursday, May 26, with 47 in-person and 19 virtual attendees from 9 states and the District plus 2 other countries.

Seven special guests were USAID Deputy Administrator **Paloma Adams-Allen**, USAID Acting Counselor **Ken Yamashita**, USAID Senior DAA for Policy, Planning, and Learning **Sara Walter**, USAID AFSA Vice President **Jason Singer**, Center for Global Development President **Masood Ahmed**, DACOR Executive Director **John Bradshaw**, and U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Northeast Outreach Director **Emily Tavino**.

The informal program, hosted by **Jim Bever** and **Miles Toder**, consisted of welcoming comments by UAA Board Co-Chairs **Margaret Neuse** and **Roberta Mahoney** and special comments by "Zoomers" DA/AID **Adams-Allen** and Acting Counselor **Yamashita**, leaving time for everyone to enjoy greeting and talking among friends.



Paloma Adams-Allen



Ken Yamashita



Sara Walter



Jim Bever



Roberta Mahoney



(upper row L-R) Miles Toder, Virtual Host; Margaret Neuse, Board Co-Chair, in chatroom with Karen Freeman, David Cohen and Nancy Tumavick in background; Tom Nicastro, Membership Cmte Co-Chair and Event Coordinator; chatroom view of unidentified in-person attendees; followed by pictures of other named virtual member attendees.

## 2022 UAA Awards Program

Only two months remain to submit nominations for the 2022 Alumni of the Year awards! This year the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by UAA members through its signature Alumni of the Year awards. The 2022 Awards Program guidance is provided on the UAA website. Please click [here](#) to view the easy criteria for nominating or self-nominating for this prestigious association award.

The Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year through **July 31, 2022**. Send nominations electronically to [awards@usaidalumni.org](mailto:awards@usaidalumni.org). The award winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting on October 28.

## 2022 Board Elections

There are three vacant positions on the UAA Board to be filled by vote of the membership prior to the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in October. The Board Nominations Committee is seeking to broaden the selection of candidates to fill these three vacancies by soliciting current members to consider self-nominating. The only firm nominating criterion is that you must be a 2022 contributing member of UAA as of the **July 15** deadline for submission of expression of interest as a candidate for the Board. Candidates can have worked under any USAID hiring authority eligible for membership in UAA. For more details on Board nominations, please see additional information



on the UAA website by clicking [here](#).

## UAA DACOR Development Dialogue

On Friday, May 20, 2022, UAA and DACOR members were treated to a wonderful trip through **Aaron Williams'** career as presented in his recent book *A Life Unimagined – The Rewards of Mission-Driven Service in the Peace Corps and Beyond*. In this Development Dialogue conversation with Ambassador Jim Michel and in the Q&A session, Aaron reflected on the variety of jobs he had once he took an “adventuresome leap into the unknown” by becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer and what he learned along the way. See and hear the whole program by clicking [here](#).



## UAA Book Club

The UAA Book Club is taking a vacation this summer. For your reading pleasure, Stu Callison recommends the recently published (November 2021) book, *The Diplomite*, authored by Diana Carr about her and her sister's life in post-World War II as the young daughters of a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, who was stationed in a succession of trouble spots after 1946. It is a compelling account of the author's life experiences growing up so far from home and is written from the unique perspective of the young daughters themselves. The book is available in paperback from both Amazon and Barnes & Noble for \$20.

## Development Issues

On Wednesday, June 1, 2022, UAA's Development Issues Committee sponsored a well-attended virtual discussion on “**COVID-19 and its Impact on USAID Health Programming and on Health Systems in Developing Countries**,” featuring **Dr. Atul Gawande, USAID Assistant Administrator for Global Health** and **Javier Guzman, the Director of Health Policy and Senior Policy Fellow at the Center for Global Development (CGD)** as discussion leaders.



Dr. Atul Gawande



Javier Guzman

In his opening remarks, Dr Gawande noted that COVID-19 was a “wake up call” on the inadequacy of health care systems in many countries, including the United States. The pandemic has been catalytic in introducing many innovations, including new ways of doing things for USAID.

Javier Guzman noted that the past two decades have witnessed a “golden era” of global health in increasing access to health care in lower income countries. At the same time, governments relied overly on foreign assistance, which can undermine domestic ownership and harm health systems development.

A robust Q & A session followed the speakers’ opening remarks. A more complete summary can be found [here](#).

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**USAID Alumni Association**

