



# USAID Alumni Association

## November - December 2022 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

As we move into the holiday season, we have much to be thankful for: a great Annual General Meeting; strong working relationships within UAA and with USAID colleagues; and an experienced leadership team on the Board.

On October 28, we had a very successful Annual General Meeting which this year was a hybrid event based at the Center for Global Development. The meeting was effectively launched by a Keynote Message and Q&A session with USAID Deputy Administrator for Management and Resources Paloma Adams-Allen followed by a Lifetime Achievement Recognition for former USAID Administrator Peter McPherson. See the article below with links to the report and the full video as well as Profiles of the two awardees.

On October 18, the UAA Board met with the new Agency Counselor Clinton White, briefed him on the UAA MOU with USAID and expressed our interest in maintaining on-going communications with him as different activities proceed under the MOU. He joined as the newest Counselor a panel of some 7 former USAID Counselors at a luncheon meeting on November 1 billed as USAID @DACOR. The session provoked lively discussion about foreign assistance and the role of the Counselors in the Agency. See the article below.

At the AGM we were very pleased to announce the election of Chris Milligan, Joy Riggs-Perla, and Miles Toder to the Board, joining Margaret Neuse, Roberta Mahoney, Carol Dabbs, and Denise Rollins. We thanked Anne Aarnes, Terry Brown, and Jim Bever for their stellar service to the Board and reminded them that we are likely to continue to call on them for advice and counsel.

At our first meeting on November 3, the Board approved the following Officers: Roberta Mahoney and Margaret Neuse as Co-Chairs, Miles Toder as Secretary, and Carol Dabbs as Treasurer. Chris Milligan will serve as the Point of Contact for the UAA/USAID MOU; Jim Bever will serve as the Senior Advisor for Public Outreach and Nancy Tumavick as the Senior Advisor for Communications. In March, Joy Riggs-Perla will replace Margaret Neuse as Co-Chair.

One final note. Consider joining and playing a role on one of UAA's Committees. While members work hard, they also have fun and help alumni stay connected to others with similar interests and the larger USAID alumni community.

### Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **New!** On **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**, from **12 noon to 1:00 p.m.** in a **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue (virtual)**, **USAID Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia (and former Ambassador) Erin McKee** will engage in conversation with **Former USAID Counselor Tom Staal** to discuss **"Ukraine – Providing Humanitarian and Economic Assistance in a War Zone"**. Both

speakers are well-known to many UAA and DACOR members based on their long and distinguished careers in State and USAID. Please join us to learn more about how USAID and other donors are able to provide support to Ukraine under the extraordinary conditions we read about every day, and much more as well. Click [here](#) to register.

- **New!** On **Tuesday November 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 2:30 P.M.** in a lead-up to World AIDS Day on December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Development Issues Committee is pleased to sponsor a virtual discussion on PEPFAR at 20. PEPFAR, established in early 2003, represents the largest commitment by any nation to address a single disease in the world and has committed over \$110 billion to date. The USG has recently issued [Reimagining PEPFAR's Strategic Direction](#). Our discussion leaders will be **Ambassador Dr. John Nkengasong**, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, **Han Kang**, the Director of USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS and **J. Stephen Morrison**, Senior Vice-President at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and Director of CSIS's Health Policy Center. Their bio statements can be found [here](#). The discussion will be open to all UAA members who have contributed in 2022. Please register for this timely discussion by clicking [here](#).
- **New!** On Wednesday, December 7, from **noon to 1:00 p.m.**, **David Dollar** will discuss **"China's Impact on Developing Countries – the Belt and Road Initiative, and more"** at a **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue (Virtual)**. Dollar, a Brookings Institution Senior Fellow on Foreign Policy, Global Economy and Development, and a member of the John L. Thornton China Center is a **leading expert on China's economy and U.S.-China economic relations** who formerly spent many years at the World Bank and the U.S. Treasury Department. To register for this event, please click [here](#).

## **New! USAIDAlumni.org**

**In Memoriam:** Martha Welch Rees, Ellen K. Bisson, Katherine (Kate) McKee, Stephen & Djeswende Reid, George Russell Jenkins, George A. Laudato, Howard W. Solomon, Robert H. Nooter

### **Articles**

- [Contractors Say USAID Forcing Them into New Jobs with Fewer Benefits](#), by Michael Igoe, Devex, November 9, 2022.
- [Debunking Myths About Foreign Aid](#), *Harvard Political Review*, by Henry Wu, November 2, 2022.
- [USAID responds to humanitarian spending, staffing concerns](#) by Michael Igoe, Devex, October 26, 2022).

### **Bulletin Board**

- [USAID's Local Capacity Strengthening Policy](#), Statement by Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN), Nov. 2, 2022
- [Draft USAID Policy for Localization of Humanitarian Assistance, Oct. 24, 2022](#)
- [USGLC: 2022 Global Impact Project Report](#)
- [WhiteHouse.gov: Interim National Security Strategic Guidance](#)
- [Anera Organization – new social ambassador program](#)
- [USAID's humanitarian bureau is under pressure and overstretched](#)

## **2022 UAA Annual General Meeting**

The USAID Alumni Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 28, 2022, with both in-person attendance, for the first time since 2019, and via Zoom Webinar. Those who were able to attend in-person

appreciated the opportunity to see friends and colleagues from UAA. Those not able to do so were happy that the virtual connection enabled UAA members across the United States and in other countries to participate. The meeting was attended in-person by 69 USAID Alumni and 19 guests and speakers, and virtually by 63 Alumni, guests, and speakers. This [linked report](#) summarizes the presentations and discussions conducted during the meeting. A video of the entire AGM can be viewed by clicking [here](#)



USAID Deputy Administrator Paloma Adams-Allen



Portion of In-Person Audience



Life Achievement Awardee Peter McPherson



Board Member Carol Dabbs, David Lusk and wife



Liz Warfield, USAID Dpty Administrator, Frank Almaguer, Beth Hogan



Moderator Steve Wingert and panel members



New Board Member Chris Milligan, Jay Smith, Stacey Rhodes, Liz Warfield



AGM Co-Chairs Joy Riggs-Perla and Nancy Pielemeier



Alfreda Brewer, Vivian Derryk, Sharon Pauling, Linda Whitlock-Brown, Board Member Denise Rollins, and Gail Spence



Stacey Rhodes and John Beed



Retiring Board Members Terry Brown and Anne Aarnes



Will Elliott, Gail Spence, Jose Garcon

## Wilson Center African Leaders Summit Events

In conjunction with the upcoming U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit on December 13-15, 2022 the **Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** would like to invite all UAA members to a discussion under the auspices of the Brown Capital Management Africa Economic Forum on *Boosting U.S. - African Trade and Investment and Fostering Sustainable Development in Africa* at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. This will be an in-person event with virtual participation. In-person attendance is capped at 50. Information on registration will be provided as soon as it is available to the UAA. State Department information on the African Leaders Summit can be found at



## Call for 2023 Membership Contribution

In 2023, the UAA will work to increase our membership numbers. We will also continue to expand and extend the reach of activities of interest to our members, no matter where they reside, as we did by providing both in-person and virtual access to the recent Annual General Meeting.

To make this happen we need your active participation, ideas, and generous financial support. We encourage you to become a contributing member of the UAA for calendar year 2023 by making a tax-deductible financial contribution electronically or by check.

Membership in UAA is on a calendar year basis. All those whose contributions are received beginning December 1, 2022 through November 30, 2023 will be members through December 31, 2023. For membership eligibility, suggested contribution levels, payment options, and how to join, go to the listing on the left side of the UAA website home page at: <https://www.usaidalumni.org>.

So, don't delay! Make your 2023 annual membership contribution in December and encourage your friends and former colleagues to contribute as well. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have questions or comments or if you know of other alumni who are eligible to join the UAA by sending an email to: [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

For UAA's 2023 membership year, beginning December 1, current UAA Registrants (those who receive our emails, but have not made a membership contribution) should look for a new Registrant to Member ("R2M") campaign encouraging you to become UAA Members, which we hope you will find as exciting as we do.

For those who are renewing or are new UAA members, we will initiate a unique **MEMBER 2023** icon. Members will be asked to update personal information and respond to a short questionnaire.

## USAID Day at DACOR Bacon House

On November 1st, UAA and DACOR co-hosted a celebration of the Agency's 61st anniversary at the historic DACOR Bacon House. More than 80 colleagues and friends came together for a lunch featuring a Q&A with 7 former Agency Counselors, who were joined by and welcomed USAID's newest Counselor, Clinton White. Together the former Counselors (left to right)--James Michel, Tom Staal, Chris Milligan, Clinton White, Ken Yamashita, Susan Reichle, Hilda "Bambi" Arellano, and Carol Peasley —brought decades of leadership experience to the Agency.



With UAA Co-Chair Margaret Neuse moderating, the panel discussed the origins of the Counselor position and how it has evolved over the years, how their experiences differed and how much they were the same. Notably, they all agreed that over the years, the Counselor position has served as the connective tissue between the Administrator and the Agency staff and vice versa.

The Counselors noted how today's complex challenges of climate change, pandemics and rising authoritarianism heighten the importance of development assistance to our foreign policy goals. They also discussed the challenges and opportunities USAID faces to advance these important goals as a national security agency, such as the need to adjust our staffing levels and resources to better address the complex issues of today. As a national security agency, USAID is more than just operational and provides key input in foreign policy process. Clinton White provided updates to those in attendance of the Agency's current reforms. The day concluded with a lively cocktail that offered an opportunity to network, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

## Alumni Profiles



### **Taroub Harb Faramand** **Alumna of the Year 2022 for International Service**

**Dr. Taroub Harb Faramand** brings more than 35 years of experience to the development sector. She is an outstanding mentor, entrepreneur, and creative innovator who started as a service provider and then assumed various positions as USAID staff, Chief of Party, Director of Global USAID funded projects, and Senior Vice President. Taroub started her career as a doctor in refugee camps in the West Bank.

There she discovered the strength and vulnerabilities of people and realized something important: It takes much more than health care to keep people healthy. During her time working for USAID West Bank and Gaza Mission, this belief and deep understanding was further strengthened and propelled her career forward.

Taroub founded her global development company WI-HER in 2011 to fulfill her vision of a world where all people would have opportunities to grow and thrive. She felt called toward this vision early in her career. Taroub committed her life to leading change toward real equality and lasting prosperity – within organizations, alongside national governments, and among global leaders.

Recognized for her ability to achieve results, build lasting partnerships, and develop career growth of young professionals, Taroub's achievements and tireless commitment to service earned her the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from Emory University in 2008 and the UAA Alumna of the year for International Service in 2022.

Leading WI-HER, she has continued her trajectory of success. Taroub takes pride in making real and sustained change in the programs that she manages. Such programs enable individuals and organizations to exercise the power from within to address gaps affecting their livelihood. WI-HER has extended its own grants to seed-fund programs that support girls to leverage economic opportunities so they become self-reliant and prosperous.

Growing up in a paternalistic society, one that values sons when she had two daughters, and having to deal with adversity led her toward breaking barriers and reaching further. Her daughters, Razan, who is an attorney and Chief Operating Officer, and Rawan, who is an oncologist, are both playing pivotal roles in making change and lifting the marginalized. Taroub attributes her success to her passion for justice and equity, her compassion for the human condition, her business acumen, and her ease with moving among and across cultures. She holds deep gratitude for her late grandmother and mother, who inspired her to always strive and instilled in her discipline, determination, and hard work to achieve success.



### **Mary Alice Kleinjan** **Alumna of the Year 2022 for Domestic Service**

Mary Alice Kleinjan retired in 2014 after 35 years with USAID. A member of the Senior Foreign Service, her last assignment was as Deputy General Counsel.

Originally from San Francisco, her interest in development started when Vassar began a junior year abroad program in Cairo. Wanting to learn about the Middle East "on the ground," she earned an MA in Middle East Studies at the

American University of Beirut and Arabic language certification at Damascus University. After New York University Law School, she practiced law in New York for several years with a large law firm and with the Bank of America. With good Arabic, she was the lead negotiator for the Sultanate of Oman's Government Organization law.

Mary Alice joined USAID/General Counsel in 1979 to reengage with the developing world. When her children, Caroline and Christopher Gignoux, were in elementary school, she joined the foreign service as the senior regional legal officer (RLO) in Cairo. One highlight of Cairo was supporting female Egyptian lawyers, especially in their campaign for women to be allowed to become judges. She also served as senior RLO in Bangkok.

Mary Alice's husband, Phil Gignoux, continues to manage family investments. Her son, Christopher, passed away in 2014 and daughter, Caroline, is now a U.S. Government attorney with the Council on Environmental Quality.

Her activities since retirement include intermittent consulting for USAID, gardening, dogs (currently a Cavalier King Charles spaniel), book clubs, leisurely ladies' lunches, elder care, reconnecting with FSNs who emigrated to the United States, and helping her church support resettlement of an Afghan refugee family after the "Muslim ban."

Mary Alice felt it important to contribute what she had learned about

emigrating to the United States to help USAID's Afghan FSNs. In 2021, she helped organize the 50 UAA alumni who volunteered to assist evacuated USAID Afghan FSNs in resume writing, job search, and interviewing, together with general resettlement support. She also provided this support directly to her own evacuated FSNs. She identified sources and made connections for obtaining needed *pro bono* legal advice and assistance. The result was that arrival in the United States in some of the most traumatic circumstances imaginable was somewhat eased, and one of the evacuees' few remaining connections to their former life – engagement with USAID officers – was solidified. Many of the Afghan evacuees are already well-settled in satisfying jobs, while others are making progress toward this goal.

Her other UAA activities include participation in the mentoring program; assisting UAA's proposal for a USAID overseas internship program; assistance for possible UAA support to Ukrainian FSNs; and coaching the newly elected FSN Advisory Council. Mary Alice would welcome hearing from her friends and former colleagues at [gignouxdc@aol.com](mailto:gignouxdc@aol.com).

## USAID Alumni Association

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