



USAID Alumni Association

May 2023 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

After three years of meeting almost exclusively by Zoom, in-person events exploded in April with the cherry blossoms! Starting with WinterFest and then the Retirement Ceremony in March, UAA volunteers met with new retirees at the NFATC Job Search Program and with over 58 colleagues at DACOR, with more attending virtually, to join the UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue between Dottie Rayburn and Tim Reiser. The conversation was substantive and insightful, and it was delightful to meet in-person again – see the photos below!

We have joined the campaign to support the Foreign Service Commemorative Coin Act to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Foreign Service. April also saw the launch of the 2023 Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan review to ensure that the annual report and budget can be presented later this year. Finally, a new Nominating Committee (Margaret Neuse, chair, Carol Dabbs, and Miles Toder) was formed to identify candidates to fill this year's Board vacancies –the June newsletter will include details on the calendar and the nominating process.

May and early June promise to be even more active!

- On May 2, UAA members will support a dialogue with USAID Deputy Administrator Coleman and Florida International University about how UAA might help familiarize students with global development issues and thereby help USAID attract a more diverse, talented, and committed workforce. Then May 11 will see the Board's next quarterly meeting with USAID Deputy Administrator Adams-Allen to discuss implementation of our joint programs.
- Social and professional events include a regional event in Jacksonville, Florida, a DACOR session with the former President of Peru, and the annual Spring Fling also at DACOR. Please see the calendar below for details.

We are a small volunteer organization with much going on – please contact members of the Board if you'd like to get involved in planning UAA activities and events.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

NEW! SAVE THE DATE! On Friday, May 19 in Jacksonville, Florida
UAA is hosting a regional event in conjunction with the Foreign Service Retiree Association (FSRA) and the World Affairs Council (WAC). Like the first regional event we held in Sarasota in January, also in conjunction with FSRA, we want to use this opportunity to reach UAA members residing in the northern part of the state with an aim of building UAA's first regional chapter in Florida. There will be an FSRA luncheon on the 19th with a guest speaker followed by a UAA panel discussion and social event. The guest speaker is Moussa Traore of USAID's Center for Economics and Market Development who will discuss the importance of International Trade to the U.S. economy. The meeting will be hybrid but we are hoping to have a good turnout of alumni who will be able to participate in person.

NEW! On Wednesday, May 24, Francisco Sagasti, former President of Peru (November 2020-July 2021) will speak at a Development Dialogue lunch at DACOR (12 noon–2:00). He will reflect on the exercise of political power and authority at crisis times – “Peru – A President's Experience ...and What Lies Ahead.” Sagasti has had a long and distinguished career in Peru and around the world, including at the World Bank and the United Nations. This will be a hybrid program – but we urge you to attend in person, meet Francisco, and see your friends, old and new. To register for this event please click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, June 1st, 2023, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. UAA alumni are invited to the ninth Spring Fling at the DACOR Bacon House at 1801 F Street, NW, DC. This is a free event for UAA alumni. We encourage you to bring or invite those eligible to become members. This will be a hybrid event with a Zoom connection and program from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm EDT for those alumni who cannot attend in person. For those attending in person, we plan to take full advantage of the beautiful gardens of the historic DACOR Bacon House. Watch for an email with further details.

NEW! On **June 5**, in a long-awaited return to Monday morning (10:00 to noon) Development Dialogue sessions at DACOR, **Dr. Steven Sinding** will discuss **“Whatever Happened to the Population Explosion and Where Are We Today?”** Steve is well-known to the USAID family as he spent 20 years at AID, including as head of the Population Office, and he was also Director-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) during his long and productive career. While this will be a hybrid session, we urge all who are able to come to DACOR House to celebrate this less formal and more relaxed time schedule than at lunch programs. Coffee and cookies will be available. Registration detail will follow soon.

NEW! At noon on **Friday, July 21, there will be a hybrid lunch program at DACOR featuring Dr. Liesbet Steer, the newly appointed President & CEO of the Education Development Center**, a global nonprofit advancing lasting solutions to improve education, promote health, and expand economic

opportunity. For the past seven years she has been the Executive Director of the Education Commission, an international initiative driving progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for inclusive and equitable quality education, chaired by UN Special Envoy for Global Education and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Gordon Brown. More details about this event and how to register will follow closer to the scheduled date.

SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, August 2nd, 11-2:30 pm in Rochester, Vermont. Anne Aarnes, David Sprague, and Ann and Mike Van Dusen will host the annual “development wallah” picnic. All are welcome, including alumni who may be visiting New England in early August. For more information, contact Ann Van Dusen (avandusen4@gmail.com).

New! USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: Mike Farbman, Vivian Holliday Pennington

Bulletin Board:

- [Invitation to USGLC Global Impact Forum on 7 June 2023 in Washington, DC](#)

Articles:

- [Sheila Young, Ph.D., a retired USAID Foreign Service Officer, published 2 research articles and a podcast in 2021 and 2022 on perceptions of climate change.](#)

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities:

For details of these and other opportunities, click [here](#).

- **Former Controllers & RLOs–Senior Oversight Coordinator at HQ for Afghanistan.** The Bureau for Asia, Office of Afghanistan Affairs (ASIA/AF), is seeking highly qualified and motivated person to serve as a Sr. Oversight Coordinator for about 18 months, beginning immediately. This is a high profile opportunity to assist Agency leaders, ASIA/AF and the USAID/Afghanistan Mission respond to Congressional oversight and high level audit requests the Agency is managing. While the Asia Bureau is looking to see if someone from within the Agency can detail into this position, expressions of interest from former Controllers and RLOs are very welcome. See further details [here](#).
- **Rumph & Associates** is seeking an experienced Development Outreach and Communications (DOC) Specialist with direct USAID missions background to support USAID Yemen. Security Clearance is required. S/he maintains regular contact and collaborates with the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section (PAS) to coordinate public dissemination of USAID public activities and projects. The incumbent oversees and coordinates all outreach and communication activities in support of USAID/communication strategy. Candidates should possess a bachelor’s degree in communications, Public Relations, Political Science, International Relations, Public Policy, or a related field. Previous DOC experience is required (at least two years), and Middle East regional experience preferred. Candidates should be within the MENA time zone. An advanced degree in a related field is desirable. A minimum of eight years of progressively responsible experience in international

development, communications, or a related field is required. If you're interested in joining our winning team, please click on the link to visit our website at <http://rumphandassociates.com/careers/> to gather additional information and apply.

Looking Back to UAA Events in the Month of May....Were you there?

UAA was established in 2009 so we are beginning to acquire a history to recall.

Ten years ago, in May 2013, we held our first Spring Reception

Nancy Pielemeier and Alex Shakow, Cochairs of the UAA Board, welcomed the alums and guests at the Pielemeier residence. They expressed particular appreciation to our honored guest, Henrietta Holsman Fore, former USAID Administrator, who provided the impetus for UAA formation in 2008 by sponsoring an Alumni Day designed to draw out the experience and talent of retirees to strengthen USAID.



Hank Bassford, Aaron Williams, Stacy Rhodes, Henrietta Holsman-Fore and Patrick Fine

She spoke fondly of her days with USAID, noting that she always felt lucky to be working with such committed, capable people who wanted to improve the world. She urged the group to stay involved and engaged with USAID so as to share the depth and breadth of alumni knowledge with the many talented new young staff who need the kind of wisdom UAA members can provide. She also thanked the four founders, in the photo above, who signed the original document establishing the UAA and led the first Board, for their substantial contributions to USAID and development over many years.

Five years ago, in May 2018, the group of Spring Reception attendees had grown

On May 20, 2018 nearly 80 UAA alumni and guests enjoyed the annual spring reception, graciously hosted by Alex and Pat Shakow at their lovely Kensington home. The rain held off, providing perfect weather for an afternoon outdoors with bountiful food and drinks and the company of many friends to share the highly successful get together. Here are some photos from that event.



Nancy Tumavick, Alex and Pat Shakow, and Bette Cook



Peter McPherson, Mary Huntington, and George Hill



Pat Sommers, George Hill, et.al.



Peter McPherson with Margaret Carpenter and Ann VanDuesen



Malcolm Butler and Anne Dammarell



David Steinberg and Mike VanDusen

And this year

We hope you will join us at the next Spring Reception to be held on June 1st from 3- 6 PM at DACOR Bacon House. While we cannot guarantee perfect weather to enjoy the gardens on the property, we can guarantee an afternoon of congeniality and hospitality. As was so successful last year, we plan to have a hybrid program from 4-5 pm so that those outside the DMV and others who cannot be there in person can join in the camaraderie.

2023 Membership Contributions are Due!

If you have not already responded to the UAA's messages encouraging you to join or renew your 2023 membership, you can still do this by clicking on the **MEMBER 2023** icon now. You will be able to enjoy all UAA activities during the membership year, January through December 2023. For membership eligibility, contribution levels, payment options, and how to join, see the listing on the left side of the UAA website home page: <https://www.usaidalumni.org>.

You can submit your credit card data online by clicking the member icon above, or send a check made out to USAID Alumni Association to Treasurer, USAID Alumni Association, DACOR, 4th floor, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. The entire process takes less than ten minutes.

2023 UAA Awards Program

This year the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by UAA members through its signature Alumni of the Year Awards. Since the inception of the Awards Program in 2014, the UAA has celebrated new paths taken by

USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and to make lasting contributions to others at home and abroad.

Your help is requested in identifying individuals whose post-USAID activities are truly exemplary and highlight the quality of our alumni community. We ask you to consider nominating (or self-nominating) someone you know who is deserving of this recognition.

The Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year until July 31, 2023. Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org. The award winners will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting in October. To see the 2023 Awards Program guidance please [click here](#).

Draper University Global Summit: May 4-5 in D.C

Agency Counselor Clinton White has asked UAA to help expand recruitment outreach to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). The Agency launched a DEIA recruitment strategy, and Clinton and Chief Diversity Officer [Neneh Diallo](#) are visiting universities to encourage an interest in international development. Further, the Agency has signed several MOUs with HBCUs and MSIs, including an MOU with Draper University in California.

Draper U is hosting **Global Summit 2023**: Innovation and Investing for Governments on Thursday and Friday, May 4th and 5th, at 500 D Street SW. USAID wants UAA members to attend this event on May 4th or 5th to show support. Please let Denise Rollins know by Wednesday, May 3rd if you can attend this event. denise_rollins@hotmail.com

Draper U is redefining higher education by equipping entrepreneurial-minded students with an immersive experience to learn, connect, and grow their network in Silicon Valley among peers, mentors, and investors. The entrepreneurship program serves as a supplement to traditional education. The Global Summit will focus on building public-private partnerships for innovative solutions to global issues, identifying growth opportunities, collaborating to improve investment climates for economic development, and developing favorable investment climates by networking with key stakeholders.

Development Dialogues



Tim Rieser in conversation with Dottie Rayburn

On Wednesday, April 19, at this UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue, a packed DACOR House was treated to very thoughtful and perceptive comments from Tim Rieser, responding to questions from Dottie Rayburn, recently retired from USAID after decades on the Congressional Liaison Staff. Tim spoke candidly about his experience working for Senator Leahy (VT) for 37 years on key foreign affairs issues, including detailed attention to USAID development programs. The luncheon was a great social event which brought together in person many old friends and colleagues. There was also a large on-line audience. Click [here](#) to see Tim's talk and the Q&As.

Alumni Profile: William Penoyar



Bill Penoyar's international career began with the Arabian American Oil Company when he moved with his family to Saudi Arabia in 1983. There he gained experience in contract negotiations and the international travel bug that endured after he returned to the United States. After working as a contract negotiator with the Navy in 1987, Bill accepted a job in the USAID contracting office in

1992. He obtained a project development job in the European and Newly Independent States (ENI) Bureau until 1999 when he was offered a Limited Appointment Foreign Service Position with the West Newly Independent States Mission in Kyiv, Ukraine.

While working at ENI, Bill started on a path of helping people he met along the way in his international service. The many immigrants he has assisted during his work with USAID has continued during retirement and provided great personal fulfillment.

He and his wife, Sandi, hosted a Russian woman visiting the U.S. on a USAID work internship in 1997. When the company for which she interned had her return to the U.S. on a long-term visa, she needed a place to live, so Bill and Sandi offered her a room in their home. Eventually, she obtained her green card, and later, her U.S. citizenship. She was the Penoyars' first opportunity to support an immigrant. Twenty-five years later, Bill and Sandi still count Elena as one of their good friends.

Bill, Sandi, and their two daughters have continued to develop friendships and have sponsored an extended refugee Iraqi family whom Bill met while working as a USAID Provincial Reconstruction Team representative. The two families included five children in 2012. They are all U. S. citizens now and have in some ways become part of the Penoyar family.

Since then, Bill has also helped a Ukrainian woman who is presently in the process of applying for her permanent Green Card status and eventual citizenship.

Although he retired from USAID in 2011 and U.S. Personal Service Contract work in 2016, Bill continued to offer assistance to folks who are talented and have taken substantial risks to immigrate to the U.S on Refugee or Special Immigrant Visa status. Since the evacuation of Afghan refugees in 2021, Bill has helped a UAA identified refugee, located in Modesto, California, with his resume and job search which helped him obtain a job. Through the Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. Bill helped a young Afghan woman obtain a job in the Arlington, VA area. He is presently assisting a Ukrainian, and other Afghans with their resumes and job search.

Bill says, "This ongoing volunteer assistance continues to be a rewarding avocation for me in addition to the many other pleasures of being retired." His experiences have also contributed to his writing and publishing two books available on Amazon.com: *On the Road with a Foreign Service Officer*, 2014 and *Surviving Dreamland – Escape from Terror*, 2017
He and his wife would welcome hearing from friends and former colleagues at wfpenoyar@hotmail.com.

Make Your 2023 UAA Membership Contribution
USAID Alumni Association

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