



# USAID Alumni Association

## April 2023 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

March turned into a busy and productive month for UAA, starting with an exceptional WinterFest graciously hosted by Antoinette and Frank Almaguer, (see article in March newsletter), and ending with the Retirement Ceremony and presentation of the new USAID Policy Framework.

**Retirement Ceremony:** The second annual Retirement Ceremony, jointly sponsored by USAID and UAA, was held at the Ronald Reagan Building on March 22. It included over 100 FS and GS 2022 retirees living in the DMV area and throughout the country. Administrator Samantha Power expressed her profound appreciation to people who devoted a lifetime to further USAID's mission and invited them to stay active with USAID through the Alumni Association. We hope many of you were able to watch the event from where you live. (Read further details and see photos below.)

**USAID Policy Framework -Progress Beyond Programs:** On March 23, USAID formally presented its new Policy Framework after an extensive review and feedback process that involved units within USAID and also a broad range of external institutions. Some of you provided input during this review process. The event was moderated by Agency Counselor, Clinton White, and featured presentations by Administrator Samantha Power, Michelle Sumilas of PPL, Deputy Administrator Paloma Adams-Allen, and other senior officials. Notably one of the three major pillars of the new framework is a "rebuilt and empowered workforce."

**April events:** The highlight will be a UAA-DACOR Development Dialogue event with retired Senator Leahy's staffer Tim Reiser and USAID's

recently retired Dottie Rayburn. See details below.

## Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**NEW! On Wednesday, April 19, 2023, a (hybrid) lunch session at DACOR of the UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue will feature Tim Rieser.** Just retired, he spent nearly four decades as foreign policy adviser to Senator Patrick Leahy and the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations. Well known to many AID staff, he was highly influential on AID policy issues and on key foreign policy issues on which Sen. Leahy focused (e.g., restoring diplomatic relations with Cuba). He will be engaged in conversation with **Dottie Rayburn** who has just retired from AID's Congressional Liaison staff where she focused on the Senate Appropriations Committee. This will be an in-person luncheon event with the option to attend virtually as well. Watch this space for more details on this program as we get closer to the date.

**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). See additional information in the article below.

**NEW! On Wednesday, May 24, Francisco Sagasti, former President of Peru (January-June 2023) 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 you friends, old and new.

**NEW! JUNE EVENT! Early June weekday TBD, 3-6 pm EDT. UAA alumni are invited to the ninth Spring Fling (sometimes called the Spring Reception) at Dacor Bacon House, 1801 F St., NW, DC 20006.** 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 not located in the DC area. More information will be provided in the May newsletter.

## New! USAIDAlumni.org

**In Memoriam:** Kerry J. Byrnes, Eric Robert Loken, Portia Linnea Palmer

### Bulletin Board:

- [Administrator Samantha Power at the Launch of USAID's Policy Framework: Driving Progress Beyond Programs, USAID Press Release 3/23/2023](#)
- [Devex: Interesting Comments from NGO leaders in impact of USAID "Localization" \(3/22/2023\)](#)

- [MFAN Applauds Aid Effectiveness Proposals in Administration's FY24 International Affairs Budget Request, 3/21/2023](#)
- The text of Henrietta Fore's oral history has just been posted to ADST's website. Read it [here](#). (3/17/2023)

#### **Articles:**

- AID Releases A&A Strategy, Omar Mohammed, Devex, 3/13/2023.
- [Top 7 Takeaways from the Administration's Latest Budget for International Affairs](#), USGLC, 3/10/2023.

#### **Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities:**

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

- **USAID Alumni Association Membership Committee Seeks Administrative Assistant, Part-time**

The Administrative Assistant, part-time, to the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) Membership Committee ("MemCom") will take day-to-day direction from the MemCom, while coordinating with the UAA Administrative Systems Manager.

- **Roster of Resource Persons to Advise on Localization**

UAA, in collaboration with USAID's Design to Procurement & Implementation (D2PI) Working Group, is seeking to identify members to join a list of potential resource persons on various aspects of the Agency's localization initiative. Participation would be on a voluntary basis.

- **USAID-UAA Mentoring Program – Volunteers 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 Mentoring Committee is looking to add volunteers to the Committee.

## **Additions to the Bibliography of USAID Authors**

Five interesting books have recently been added to the Bibliography.

- Former mission director Bill Frej has published two award-winning photography books: *Travels Across the Roof of the World: A Himalayan Memoir* and *Seasons of Ceremonies: Rites and Rituals in Guatemala and Mexico*.
- Thomas Johnson has written an intriguing: *Common Place: The Public Library, Civil Society and Early American Values*.
- Stu Callison has added his 1983 *Land-to-the-Tiller in the Mekong Delta: Economic, Social and Political Effects of Land Reform in Four Villages of South Vietnam*, the 7th book on Vietnam in our collection.
- Finally, former RIG officer Jose Pena's memoir is entitled *In Pursuit of Improvements: A Memoir Based on a Forty-Year Foreign Service*

*Officer's Career with the U.S. Agency for International Development  
and as an International Financial Consultant.*

Please forward any new books to [Jpielemeie@aol.com](mailto:Jpielemeie@aol.com).

## **The March 5 Winterfest was reported in the March Newsletter**

For additional photos of this event, please [click here](#).

## **USAID Administrator Samantha Power Honors 100 Retirees at UAA Co-Hosted Agency Retirement Ceremony for 2022 Retirees**

For the second year in a row, UAA helped USAID to organize and co-hosted an Annual Agency Retirement Ceremony on March 22, 2023 that was held both in-person at USAID HQ and virtually. One hundred FS and GS Retirees of 2022 were honored from all grades and ranks, including SFS/SES. This is the first time that such a broad array of Retirees has been honored in many years. Over 50 people attended the in-person Ceremony, including Retirees, their Guests, and Agency active-duty officers. Over 320 people joined the Ceremony virtually on-line from around the world.



Administrator Power with a group of retirees,  
USAID staff and UAA officers

Counselor Clinton White served as the Master of Ceremonies. In addition to the Administrator joining in-person for the full Ceremony, Acting CHCO (HR) Chief Cheryl Anderson spoke, as did UAA Board Co-Chair Roberta Mahoney and new UAA Board Member Chris Milligan. Some of the most moving highlights of the Ceremony were video clips of Retirees sharing



their “Most Memorable Moments” and why they believed that “USAID is Important.” [Click here](#) to see a recording of the ceremony.



UAA Jim Bever, USAID  
Villah Rosenfeald, USAID  
Katherine Magalif, UAA  
Tom Nicastro



Margot Ellis and USAID  
Retiree Marvol Edmond



UAA Sharon Pauling and  
USAID Retiree Diana  
Putnam



UAA Co-Chair Roberta  
Mahoney



Counselor Clinton  
White, Retiree Russ  
Bauer and USAID Joe  
Scheibel



Guest Daphne Titus,  
UAA Gail Spence and  
UAA Tom Nicastro

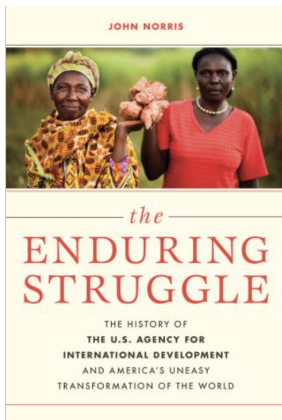
## UAA Regional Event in May in Jacksonville, Florida

On Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> UAA is hosting a regional event in Jacksonville, Florida 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. We have over 130 UAA alumni based in Florida who are already associated with the UAA and we expect to identify many more as our outreach efforts continue throughout the state. There will be an FSRA luncheon on the 19th with a guest speaker (tbd) followed by a UAA panel discussion and social event. The meeting will be hybrid but we are hoping to have a good turnout of alumni who will be able to participate in person. Stay tuned for more program details in next month's newsletter.

## Donate Your Files to the AU Library Archives

The American University Library Archives welcome donations of AID alumni personal files and memorabilia of their USAID service. The UAA has now established a partnership with the Archives to support the preparation, processing, and making available to researchers of these papers, including those donated by the UAA and by individual alumni and others. AID alumni are strongly urged to donate their memorabilia to this collection. For details click [here](#).

## ***The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*** by John Norris



John Norris' book, ***The Enduring Struggle – The History of the Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World***, was published in

July, 2021. In a short review, Foreign Affairs wrote: "This comprehensive history of the U.S. Agency for International Development .... deserves to be read by all students of U.S. foreign policy." A very positive and insightful review essay by Mary Jane Maxwell has recently been published in the Journal of World History. (Read it [here](#).) Copies may be purchased from the publisher at a 30 percent

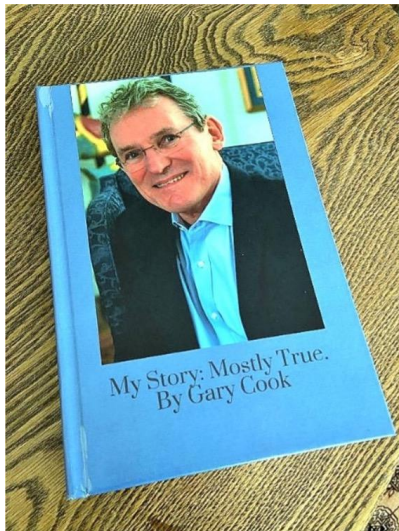
discount; please use the form at this [link](#). Alumni with suggestions for events to popularize the book or to generate reviews should send their suggestions to Alex Shakow at [ashakow@comcast.net](mailto:ashakow@comcast.net).

## **Development Issues Committee: Report on March 6, 2023, Business Meeting**

The UAA Development Issues Committee, Co-Chaired by Steve Haykin and Gail Spence, conducted a business meeting on March 6. The Committee has a very broad portfolio to manage including DACOR Development Dialogues, Development Issues presentations, and the UAA Book Club as well as UAA support for aspects of the policy agenda with USAID. The recent discussion covered operational topics including: UAA feedback to USAID on draft policies; fora for discussions on current development issues, including the Book Club; Mission coaching on aspects of the program cycle; and UAA relationships with other organizations. The ongoing need for volunteers for specific tasks was highlighted. To read the complete report click [here](#).

## **Alumni Profile: Gary Cook**

Gary Cook says it all started in eighth grade. Sister Margaret turned on the radio to listen to a speech by candidate John Kennedy where he described his idea for the Peace Corps. Gary thought that would be a



perfect fit for him. After college, he was on his way with the Peace Corps to Lesotho, a place he had never heard of, where he lived in a mountain village helping to establish a credit union and soil conservation dams. Later he moved to the capital and helped manage the Lesotho Flying Doctor Service. When it was time to go home, he and two buddies decided to go by motorcycle with assists by ship when necessary, stopping in Mombasa, Karachi, Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey and all the European countries enroute to London and home to Wisconsin.

While working for a couple of years in Wisconsin, he met a beautiful redhead named Sue and fell in love. Then he applied to USAID and was assigned as a Health Development Officer in Zaire. In 1976, a strange and dangerous virus broke out in Zaire. The international community sent scientists and epidemiologists, and Gary became the hub for communications and logistics. After two brutal months, it was over but not before killing scores of Zairians. They named the virus Ebola after a river near the village of origin. Missing Sue, he sent her a round-trip ticket to visit Zaire. They canceled her return ticket and married. To overcome Sue's nervousness at having the ceremony in French Gary told her to just say "oui." And she did!

Gary says USAID must have learned how little he knew of public health, so after Zaire, the Agency sent him to Johns Hopkins where he received a Masters in Health Sciences. Subsequent tours included Jamaica, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Guatemala. He retired in 1999 after serving as Deputy Director for Office of Population. Then, as a PSC, he became Health Team Leader in Asia and Middle East for 15 years, including rewarding work in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq.





When Gary finally retired in 2014, after 40 years, he became a certified career coach and has since coached hundreds of USAID staff. He says it is a good way to stay connected with the Agency and its inspiring people. Gary said he has no tattoos, but if he did, it would be the USAID handclasp.

Daughters Tiffany and Brittany were born in Manila. They are married and have two and three children, respectively, ages 5 to 11, all living in Aldie, Virginia. In 2020, Gary and Sue moved there where they say they are in parent and grandparent heaven! They would welcome hearing from friends and former colleagues at [garyc4747@gmail.com](mailto:garyc4747@gmail.com).

**Make Your 2023 UAA Membership Contribution**  
**USAID Alumni Association**



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