



USAID Alumni Association

March 2023 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

February was a short, roller-coaster of a month in the DMV. With temperatures that ranged from nearly 0 to over 80, spring threatens an early arrival with cherries, magnolias, and jonquils in bloom even as snowflakes occasionally threaten a visit!

UAA was relatively quiet this month, but UAA members were active in a variety of fora and development issues were ever-present:

Meetings and webinars on development issues (check out the Bulletin Board for additional events!): the monthly Africa Forum at GWU, including the Feb. 28th Africa's Future: Democracy and Human Rights and the March 27th Africa's Future: Trade and Investment; USAID's Webinar series, including Feb. 28th on Localization and March 13th on Chat GBT and AI at USAID; and MFAN's March 1 session on "Metrics Matter for Locally Led Development."

Colleagues in print: a letter to the editor (NYT) cautioned on the link between animal protein development and future pandemics, another (WaPo) expressed appreciation for Tim Rieser's support for USAID, and Brookings posted a new article titled "Resilience must drive USAID Programs in Afghanistan."

March events: March has brought opportunities to meet one another again at the March 5th WinterFest, hosted again by the ever-gracious Frank and Antoinette Almaguer, and the March 22nd Second Annual Retirement Ceremony co-hosted by UAA and USAID.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **NEW! SAVE THE DATE! March 22, 2023**, from 9 am-10 am EST, everyone is invited to participate virtually in USAID's Annual Retirement Ceremony honoring the service of Foreign Service and Civil Service officers who retired during 2022. USAID Administrator Samantha Power is scheduled to speak, along with other HQ senior officials and two of our Alumni leaders. As the March 22 date approaches, we will send out the on-line video conference link. We encourage you to watch this Ceremony online! UAA has been instrumental in motivating the Agency to make such official recognition of career officers' service an annual event and to include all grades. Last year's Ceremony was limited to SES and SFS officers from multiple prior years and honored about 100 of our colleagues. It was well attended by over 400 viewers and helped set the stage for this year's more inclusive Ceremony.
- **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. Watch this space for more details on this program as we get closer to April 19.

New! USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: Richard "Noosh" Nishihara, Harold P. Kurzman, James J. Tarrant

Articles

- **As China steps up humanitarian aid to the Pacific, can the US keep up?** by Jason Steinhauer, DEVEX, 2/22/2023.
- **Resilience must drive USAID's programs—Illustrations from Afghanistan**, by George Ingram and Naheed Sarabi, Future Development blog, Center for Sustainable Development, 2/14/2023.
- **How Democracy Can Win: The Right Way to Counter Autocracy.** by Samantha Power, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, *Foreign Affairs*, 2/16/2023.
- **What will happen to foreign aid in US Congress in 2023?**, by Adva Saldinger, Devex, 3 Feb. 2023.

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

- **Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR)**

The CRR is seeking applications for an Associate Director, US Global Engagement, in Washington DC, who will play an important role in engaging the US government in support of our global advocacy agenda, including building political will to advance SRHR in multilateral spaces. The Associate

Director, US Global Engagement, will also work to support the Center's US foreign policy engagement, build strong relationships and position the Center as a technical expert across relevant USG agencies, Congress and the Administration, and create bridges across policy-making discussions and processes in Washington D.C., at the UN and with governments around the world in support of human rights protections for SRHR. The Associate Director will hire and directly supervise an additional Global Advocacy staff member. The job description and related information can be found [here](#):

- **UAA Membership Committee Seeks Administrative Assistant**

The UAA Membership Committee seeks to hire an Administrative Assistant, part-time, to assist the Committee while coordinating with the UAA Systems Manager, concerning the review and reporting of monthly membership statistical information and the identification and implementation of new data-gathering tools to enhance UAA customer satisfaction. Qualifications sought include a proficiency in computer technology and experience with Constant Contact or similar tool, and experience in creating and analyzing surveys. UAA membership is preferable. Interested job applicants should write to the UAA Membership Committee at office@usaidalumni.org. For the full announcement please click [here](#).

Winterfest!

On March 5, 2023 Winterfest welcomed the spring and brought old friends back together..in person! Over 80 people, a record for the event, made their way to Vienna. Great thanks and appreciation to Frank and Antoinette Almaguer for providing an inviting venue and a delicious array of food and wine and to Maya their granddaughter for jumping into the fray to help. We caught up with each other – families, moves, activities and adventures. The day was bright and the food and wine just perfect. We'll be posting a "photo album" on the website shortly! Certainly, no lack of perspectives on the development front and where things are going in foreign policy but also new information and stories of personal adventures.



Hosts Antoinette and Frank Almaguer



Rose Rakas, Beth Hogan, and Frank Almaguer



Sharon Pauling



Mariam Stanekzai

We also heard a lot of great suggestions on what else people might be interested in doing together and more importantly, that folks are willing to get involved. Next in line? We are exploring a museum outing in a few months, a possible winery tour to highlight black entrepreneurs in the DMV and possibly sponsoring an event for one of the geographic regions outside of the DMV. Are you interested in hosting something? Let us know! As always, we look forward to a spring gathering and the annual picnic in September. If you have an idea or would like to get involved, please contact Karen Freeman or Margot Ellis.



Rooberta Mahoney, Rob Sonenthal, and Howard Sumka



Alex and Pat Shakow, Jose Garzon and Philip Church



Aaron Williams and Carol Peasley



Chris Milligan and Gail Spence



Tom Kennedy



Tom Staal, Paula Feeney, & Anne Simmons-Benton

Workshop for UAA Mentors in Cohort 12

On January 31st, 2023, the UAA-USAID Mentoring Program hosted a workshop for the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) mentors participating in the 2023 Cohort 12 class. Thirty mentors attended the successful training led by UAA'S Denise Rollins, Sharon Pauling, Terry Brown, Corey Thompson from USAID's

Human Capital and Talent Management (HCTM) Office, and workshop facilitator Neil Levine.



The workshop featured Agency leaders – Counselor Clinton White; Senior Development Advisor at the Foreign Service Institute Sheryl Stumbras; and staff from the Senior Leadership Group, Lit Tazewell and Sarah Wine; Africa Bureau, Angela Williams-Bostic; and Global Health, Natalia Machuca. The Agency leaders provided updates on Agency priorities, workforce development, and challenges.

RoseMarie Depp and Sheryl Stumbras shared their experiences with their nine-year mentor-mentee relationship. USAID staff Joshua Kaufman, Sarah Rose, and Clifton Kennon, Jr. provided updates on the Agency’s new development policies, localization strategy, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility efforts. These presentations were followed by hands-on training to prepare this year’s mentors to engage with their mentees, current Foreign Service Officers posted overseas.

It’s the Right Time to Sign Up for the 2023 UAA Membership Year

The below message is for 2022 Members who have not yet paid their 2023 dues. For our colleagues who have renewed by paying their dues and become 2023 Members – Thank you.

We began the 2023 Membership renewal campaign December 1, 2022 and followed in January and February 2023 with similar alerts. In the alerts we highlighted 1) Members-only events like the Development Issues series and the AGM; 2) the streamlined dues payment process; 3) the reestablishment with USAID of the annual Retirement Ceremony; and 4) the unchanged UAA Membership fee levels.

By clicking this icon [**MEMBER 2023**](#) now, you will ensure you have no Membership lapse. You will be a member able to enjoy all UAA activities

through December 31, 2023.

If you don't wish to use your credit card by clicking the MEMBER2023 icon above, you may send a check made out to USAID Alumni Association to Treasurer, USAID Alumni Association, DACOR, 4th Floor, 1801 F Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. You've given procrastination a chance, it's time to move on!

2023 UAA Awards Program

In 2023, 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 recognized and celebrated new paths taken by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and to make lasting contributions to others at home and abroad.

For the Alumni of the Year awards, your help is requested in identifying individuals whose post-USAID activities are truly exemplary and highlight the quality of our alumni community. We ask each of 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 beginning now until July 31, 2023. Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org. The award winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in October. To see the 2023 UAA Awards Program guidance please [click here](#)

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](#).

UAA gives "TED Talk" to Newly Elected FSN Advocacy Council

For the first time since the August 2021 US military evacuation of 150 USAID FSNs plus their immediate family members from Afghanistan, UAA has been able to pick up again to continue our partnership with the Agency's FSN Unit at HQ to provide a series of TED Talks for the new FSN Advocacy Council. The 11 members of the Council were elected in the Fall of 2022 by their FSN peers from their respective geographic regions around the world, representing over 4,000 FSNs. This Council for the next 2 years includes FSNs from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Serbia, Armenia, Honduras, Colombia, Jordan, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Zambia.

Both the Council and HQ's FSN Unit asked us to focus for the first session on "Leadership," which became our TED Talk topic and Q&A together with a majority of the Council for over an hour during the early morning EST of

February 22nd. The FSNs and the HQ FSN Unit agreed that they would like UAA to continue with future TED talks on topics of interest to the Council. Chris Milligan, Tom Staal, Mary Alice Kleinjan, and Jim Bever spoke on behalf of UAA. Future sessions will also include Bambi Arellano and Terry Myers. Stay tuned!

USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health Reunion



The former Directors of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health organized a reunion that was held on November 4-5, 2022. More than 150 current and former staff attended the event. The first-of-its-kind reunion included a day-long review of

the program's achievements, challenges, and impacts. It also included an overview of its current program and future directions, featuring a set of presentations and a rich discussion among participants. The Center for Global Development provided the venue for the reunion and documented its proceedings, culminating in a summary note on the event, written by Julia Kaufman and Morgan Pincombe.

You can find the CGD note, "USAID's Family Planning and Reproductive Health Program: A Look Back and A Look Forward", on their website using this [link](#). In addition, the former Directors have compiled recommendations submitted by attendees to secure a resilient, impactful, and sustainable future for this program, organized around 5 themes. For convenience, we have combined these two documents into one pdf file, along with a set of 19 photos from the event ([click here](#)).

AFR Bureau DMDs Get Together

USAID's Africa Bureau Deputy Mission Directors met in Washington in early February for their regional DMD Conference. The evening before the Conference, seven UAA members, including former Counselors and A-AAs and DAAs, joined 11 DMDs for an informal Happy Hour. Conversations flowed from thoughts on career development to strengthening leadership skills. The DMDs greatly appreciated the insights provided by UAA members and knew they could rely upon them as an informal network upon their return to post.



Development Dialogues

On Friday, February 10, for the first time since the pandemic began, the UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue actually took place in person at the landmark DACOR-Bacon House. CSIS Senior Vice President **Dan Runde** was engaged in conversation by Ambassador **Jim Michel** about Dan's just issued book, ***The American Imperative: Reclaiming Global Leadership through Soft Power***. An audience of about thirty joined us in-house for a spirited discussion, along with about thirty more joining on-line for this hybrid presentation. To watch the nearly one-hour program please click [here](#).



Alumni Profile: Frank Young

As Frank Young recounts in his book, *"47 Aerogrammes: A Passage Through India,"* living in South India in the late 1960s inflamed his passion to work in development. But the journey to that profession took many detours including living in Taiwan, serving as legislative aide to a California congressman, and an internship with the Culinary Institute of America. He joined USAID in 1976 and was told he would go to Yemen, in Africa. That suggested it would be an



interesting career. It didn't involve Yemen, but included the Philippines, India, Bangladesh and, finally, Ghana as Mission Director.

During his overseas tours, Frank found opportunities to pursue his second love, theater. He joined the Manila Theater Guild and starred in its production of "Grease," performed in "Bye Bye Birdie" in New Delhi, and in Ghana played the "dame" in British pantomime productions at Christmas with the British Players.



Retirement proved elusive. After a two-year stint teaching at the National War College and a year as DAA/Africa, he left USAID in 2005. He spent four years in the private sector but returned to USAID as Acting AA/Asia in early 2010, joining George Laudato (AA/ME) and Janet Ballantyne (AA/LAC) as the old-timer's triumvirate amidst the new leadership at USAID. After stints with the Development Leadership Initiative program, Foreign Service Institute, and Inspector General's office at State, Frank left government in 2014.

In 2016, he left Bethesda with his wife, Pat, a retired Canadian FSO, for Sarasota, Florida. It was a difficult choice, because they left behind Frank's daughter, her wife and their newborn grandson. In a busy retirement, he joined the board of the Sarasota World Affairs Council for two years, worked as poll watcher for three elections, mentored deputy mission

directors for UAA, and then joined the Board of the Foreign Service Retirees Association of Florida, serving as its Chair in 2022. He still serves on that Board and enjoys leading Great Decisions seminars and talking on foreign policy topics at Osher Institute's Ringling College. While not in Sarasota enjoying the city's arts scene, he and Pat spend summers in Canada where their son lives, visiting their grandson and daughter in Ellicott City, MD on the way. He and Pat still travel, journeying to new parts of the world on a quest to join the "century club" (100 countries). They would welcome hearing from friends and colleagues at fyoungbethesda@aol.com.

Make Your 2023 UAA Membership Contribution
USAID Alumni Association

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