



# USAID Alumni Association

## November - December 2023 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

The Holidays approach!

This is a time of year for remembering with fondness and gratitude those friends whom we lost this year, and for expressing thanks to all our members who made this year so successful for UAA.

UAA's Annual General Meeting resulted from the tremendous effort by many members and we thank all those involved for such a great meeting – see the article recounting highlights below. At the AGM, we thanked our two outgoing Members, Carol Dabbs and Margaret Neuse, and welcomed the election of two new Board members, Oren Whyche-Shaw and Ken Yamashita. We also celebrated the achievements of two members through our annual Awards.

We salute the hard work and tremendous successes of our Committees: the Mentoring Program has grown yet again, with rising demand for mentors reflecting the high regard that USAID staff have for the program; paid Membership rose; and our newest committee, Social Events, has organized a range of exciting opportunities for members to get together – expanding from our 'regular' events to include museum and winery visits: what fun! UAA deepened its relationships with partner organizations, increased outreach to different regions and organizations, and sustained a substantive dialogue on important development issues. With skill and sustained effort, UAA has established and maintained reliable business processes including financial and tax reporting, communicating with members through the newsletter and website, and maintaining our databases. And our relationship with USAID, expressed through the expansive MOU and maintained through constant, active engagement, is robust. We thank all our committees, volunteers, and members for your commitment, precious time and engagement.

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

## Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**NEW!** On **Friday, January 19, 2024**, there will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue (hybrid) lunch at DACOR featuring Mr. **Axel van Trotsenburg, the World Bank's Senior Managing Director**. He will speak on "***The Evolution Roadmap – Where is the World Bank Heading?***"

**NEW!** On **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**, Ms. **Jeanne Bourgault, President and CEO of Internews**, will speak at a Development Dialogue (hybrid) lunch at DACOR about "***Challenges Facing the Press Around the World in the Disinformation Age***".

Please watch for further details as we get closer to the dates of these two events.

## A Brief Outline of the Social Committee's plan for next year

January 25 - No Host Engagement with the Overseas Field Leadership Seminar  
February/March - Winterfest 2024  
May/June - Hybrid Spring Reception  
Spring 2024 - Regional Social Event  
July - No Host Engagement with Mission Directors' Seminar  
September - Annual Picnic  
October - AGM Social Event

The committee has several leads on interesting self-pay activities in the DC Metro area and will announce them as they are scheduled.

## New! USAIDAlumni.org

**In Memoriam:** Kenneth Howard Sherper, Edgar Carson Harrell, Palmer Newcombe Stearns, Jr., Robert Tallon (Bob) Dakan, Glenn Edwin Schweitzer, John Michael Metelsky, David Smith

### Bulletin Board

**NOTE:** Regarding the first two Bulletins below, at its annual awards luncheon at the State Department on November 9, the American Academy of Diplomacy recognized the importance of international development work to US foreign policy with its first-ever Henrietta Fore Award for Excellence in Development to former USAID Administrator Peter McPherson and a Special Recognition of the work of US government locally employed staff in Afghanistan. Click on the links below for more details.

- **[The American Academy of Diplomacy 2023 Henrietta Fore Award for Excellence in Development provided Special Recognition for U.S. Government Locally Employed Staff in Afghanistan](#)** on November 9, 2023
- **[The American Academy of Diplomacy awarded Peter McPherson the Henrietta Fore Award for Excellence in Development](#)** on November 9, 2023.
- **[University of Southern California Dec. 4 Africa forum: "Technology, Innovation and the Digital Economy"](#)**, 9 to 11 AM at

the USC Washington, DC, center, 1771 N Street NW.

- **How USAID Is Responding to the Crisis in the Middle East**, from USAID Administrator Power, Oct. 29, 2023
- **AFSA's latest list of ambassadorial appointments**
- **Welcoming Six New Bureaus and Independent Offices to USAID.** A statement from Administrator Samantha Power, Oct. 20, 2023.

### Articles

- **"Too big to fail," How USAID's \$9.5B supply chain vision unraveled**, Michael Igoe, Ben Stockton, and Misbah Khan, DEVEX, Nov. 9, 2023
- **Over 1,000 USAID officials call for Gaza ceasefire in letter**, Humeyra Pamuk and Simon Lewis, *Reuters*, Nov. 10, 2023
- **Another bureau for USAID**, Devex, Oct. 20, 2023. USAID's new Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance began operating on Sept. 12, 2023.
- **Will the World Bank Choose Climate Change Over Poverty?** By Bjorn Lomborg, Wall Street Journal, Oct. 6, 2023, 6:10 pm ET. A new G-20 report calls for raising \$3 trillion and spending only a fraction of it to help the poor.
- **A USAID Localization Model Finally Emerges, by Justin Fugle, The Brookings Institution, 10/6/2023.** PEPFAR's budget flowing directly through the CDC to local organizations and governments reached fully 67% by 2012!

### Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

#### **Infrastructure and Engineering Advisor, GS-14, USAID/Ukraine**

USAID/Ukraine is seeking an Infrastructure and Engineering Advisor to help guide the mission to make critical decisions regarding infrastructure. The individual will be the team lead of the non-energy related infrastructure and will serve as the mission's lead technical advisor on topics including horizontal infrastructure (including but not limited to rail and roadway projects), vertical structures, and WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) related infrastructure. The individual should have a balanced knowledge of all subsets of civil engineering and be a high-performing project manager. The individual must be familiar with engineering and construction management, federal regulations as related to A&E services and contracting, as well as best practices and standards in construction management and infrastructure-related fields. [Click here](#) for details.

### **2023 UAA Annual General Meeting**

The USAID Alumni Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on October 27, 2023, with both in-person attendance and via Zoom Webinar. As always, the members who were able to attend in person appreciated the opportunity to see friends and colleagues from the UAA. Those not able to do so appreciated the virtual connection that enabled UAA members across the United States and in other countries to participate. The meeting was attended in-person by 74 UAA members and 19 guests and speakers, and virtually by 78 UAA members and 2 speakers. This year the AGM was held in the morning, starting with an interview and questions for USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman, followed by the annual report and announcement of election

results by the UAA Co-chairs. There were then two panel discussions concerning the Agency's new Policy Framework's focus on Progress Beyond Programs, and the presentation of the Alumni of the Year Awards. In-person attendees then enjoyed an extended lunch with friends and former colleagues.

This [linked report](#) summarizes the presentations and discussions conducted during the meeting. A video of the entire AGM can be viewed by [clicking here](#).

The message sent to members who registered to attend the meeting virtually incorrectly stated that the AGM would begin at 10 am, EDT, rather than 9 am. We apologize to those UAA members who missed the first hour of the meeting due to this error. We encourage anyone who missed the first hour to watch the video linked above, to see the welcome message from Nancy Lee of CGD, the interview and Q and As with USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman, and the beginning of Joy Riggs-Perla's presentation of the UAA Annual Report and results of the 2023 Board elections.



*UAA Board Co-Chair Joy Riggs-Perla*



*USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman*



*Cheryl Stumbras and Denise Rollins*



*Sharon Pauling and Gail Spence*



*John Breed, Anne Aarnes and Larry Garber*



*Donna Stauffer, Ernie Rojas and Bill Anderson*



*Former USAID Administrator  
Peter McPherson and Amb.  
James Michel*



*Susan Fine and Margot Ellis*



*Anna Rajaraman, Mission  
Director, USAID Colombia*



*Gail Spence, Dawn Liberi and  
USAID Anya Glenn*



*Amb. Frank Amaguer, Ernie  
Rojas, Jose Garcon, Carol  
Carpenter Yaman and Bob  
Jordan*



*John Pielemeier and Linda  
Whitlock-Brown*



*Awardees Alan Von Egmond  
and Emmy Simmons with  
UAA Bette Cook*



*Margaret Neuse, Abdi  
Wardere, Duff Gillespie and  
Mary Harvey*



*Bette Cook, Tom Nicastro  
and Barbara Bennett*

## **Bibliography of USAID Authors**

Two new intriguing books have been added to the [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#) written by retired USAID officer (after 28 years) Randal Joy Thompson: [Reimagining Leadership on the Commons: Shifting the Paradigm for a More Ethical Equitable and Just World \(2021\)](#); and [Proleptic Leadership on the Commons: Ushering in a New World Order \(2020\)](#). The earlier book includes a history of the commons movement which encourages a more egalitarian society based on care, obligation and collaboration. The later book is described as "essential reading for researchers of commons, leadership

practitioners and non-profits working towards a more ethical, equitable and just world" - which should include almost all of us. Randal J. Thompson is now a principal with Leadership Kinetics.

## Wine and Wagyu Adventures in Virginia Wine Country



The day after the AGM on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 17 UAA members climbed aboard our rented mini-bus and headed out to Fauquier County. Our travelers included Georgia Sambunaris, Frank and Antoinette Almaguer (and Chico!), Margot Ellis, Margaret Neuse, Sharon Pauling, Karen Freeman, Dean and Joy Salpini, Carol Peasley, Denise Rollins, Laura Slobey, Greg Wittala, Cheryl Anderson, Dawn Liberi, Melissa Williams and Gail Spence.

The foliage was glorious and the company in high spirits as we made our way to Blue Valley Winery, one of Virginia's largest wineries, where we sampled six different wines,

munched on cheese and fruit, and argued over our favorites.

The trip continued down winding country roads, where there are now several wineries, antique shops, B&Bs and historic sites. The second stop was 3 Fox Vineyard and Brewery with the last stop at Ovoka, a locally woman-owned/operated Historic Farm where they raise Full Blood Wagyu cattle.



Read the full story and view additional photos [HERE](#).

## Development Dialogues

### USAID Chief Economist, Dean Karlan, Speaks with Development Issues Committee

USAID's Chief Economist, Dean Karlan, was the guest speaker for the Development Issues Discussion on October 30th. Mr. Karlan described the role of USAID's new Office of the Chief Economist, highlighting three objectives: promoting use of cost effectiveness analysis; generating evidence of cost effectiveness; macro-economic analysis and advice to USAID Washington and the field. He noted that evidence on cost-effectiveness in development has increased significantly in the past 20 years and he stressed the importance of leveraging USAID's resources to maximize impacts. It will be important to focus new analyses on areas where there are gaps in the knowledge base. There is already considerable demand for the



services of the 20-member Office of the Chief Economist. Emphasis is placed on helping operating units to consider the trade-offs among various options to achieve their objectives, with an eye to enhancing impacts. During the ensuing question and answer period, Mr. Karlan clarified that local conditions, political economy and higher-level impacts shape his Office's work, rather than a narrower approach of counting inputs. He also described his office's orientation to the professional development of Civil Service, Foreign Service and Foreign Service

National economists. Additional information about the Office of the Chief Economist is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/about-us/organization/office-chief-economist>

## Alumni Profiles

### Emmy B Simmons

#### UAA Alumna of the Year 2023 for International Service



Emmy Simmons' work following almost 30 years of service with USAID and 18 years after retirement exemplifies USAID's mission. She was recognized by the USAID Alumni Association as Alumna of the Year 2023 for International Service.

Joining USAID in 1975, Emmy achieved a long and illustrious career with the Agency, culminating in a Senate-confirmed, Presidential appointment as the Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade in 2002. Her superb experience, expertise and judgment were recognized both within the Agency and by universities and international groups. After

her retirement from USAID in 2005, she continued to contribute to food security research and programs through service on international boards, advisory committees, and panels.

In 2006, Emmy was appointed to the Board of the International Livestock Research Institute and worked with the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. This set the pace for Emmy's retirement. She joined other boards, advisory committees, and panels over the years, contributing significantly to their many accomplishments and staying immersed in issues of economic growth, agriculture, trade, and nutrition.

For example, Emmy served on the boards of international research institutions (known as the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, or

CGIAR) whose mandate is to improve the productivity of agriculture outside the Big Three (wheat, corn and rice), i.e., livestock production and cassava and yam production. A large share of the global population relies on these latter sources for their basic diet; livestock provides additional nutrition critical to low-income populations. She was also a member of the Steering Committee on Agriculture and Nutrition in Health (A4NH) which, for the first time in the history of CGIAR, focused on what people eat rather than what they grow and the nutritional quality of what they purchase.

Further, Emmy helped create the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an organization which aims to conserve the world's critical stocks of the seed that will ensure the future of food, and she served on its Board. Finally, Emmy was one of four co-chairs on the Board of the AGree Program, which focused on food and agriculture policy in the United States. She provided a valuable international perspective in the organization's work. Emmy shifted her focus from "food security" to the broader and more operational challenge of global food systems transformation in response to changes in the global context. She grew to believe that it is essential to look beyond the issues of hunger to the considerably broader issues of malnutrition in all its forms and the impact that nutritionally inadequate diets have on health. She also stresses that food systems will need to adapt to climate change, and that changes in their operations - and food demand - will be essential to mitigating emissions of the greenhouse gases that are driving it. Her final note to all-- "Our children will be holding our generation responsible!" - underscores the critical importance of Emmy's contributions in all of her work.

## **Alan Van Egmond** **UAA Alumna of the Year 2023 for Domestic Service**



Alan Van Egmond is recognized for his years of work in retirement to promote education for U.S. students in international affairs, as well as information on international affairs careers and leadership. His pre-retirement career was multi-faceted, beginning in Africa with Church World Service and extending more than three decades to include work on the Hill as a subcommittee staff director, decades with USAID, and tours with the Departments of State and Defense in senior advisor and management positions.

Since retiring in 2017, Alan has been a leader across Florida on education in international affairs and development, focusing particularly on supporting students at the high school and university level - our future. He is on the Boards of the Naples Council on World Affairs, the Foreign Service Retirees Association of Florida with whom UAA partners, and the Naples-based Center for Critical Thinking. Through his extensive voluntary service, he has worked to inspire interest in international affairs and prepare students for active and productive careers engaged in global issues.



Alan is using the experience and training of a highly successful professional career in international development to prepare a new generation for leadership and to strengthen his community's interest and understanding of critical global issues. For example, he chairs the Southwest Florida United Nations Program, which is run in collaboration with Florida Gulf Coast University and includes more than 250 high school students from 18 schools in the region.

Alan has also overseen the Naples Council/FGCU joint program for 35 State Department Fulbright high school teachers from developing countries. Those teachers co-teach in the local high schools; participate in the Model UN Program as observers; and provide informal feedback through the student delegates on a range of real-world development issues before the UN. Further, Alan helped host a cohort of 25 young African leaders visiting under the State Department Mandela Washington Young African Leaders Initiative.

In addition to all of these activities, Alan mentors high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds at the Emerson Academy, which is run by the Naples Humanitarian Church. He coaches students who are interested in pursuing their education at colleges with strong international affairs programs by helping prepare them for standardized tests and college applications.

By his personal leadership and active participation in serving on boards, speaking to local groups, teaching and mentoring students, hosting foreign visitors, organizing and moderating discussions on critical local and global issues, Alan continues to make a substantial contribution both in his own neighborhood and worldwide.

## UAA Partnership with American University Library Archives



**ARCHIVES and SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

**USAID Alumni Association**

**To Participate:**  
By donating to the archive USAID Alumni will ensure that their personal legacy of foreign service will not be forgotten; instead, Alumni will create a living history of USAID and their service will continue to have a positive impact for generations to come.

Scan the QR code provided to review the information shared on the UAA website. Follow up with the American University Archives and Special Collections to discuss your donation.

**Archives for USAID Alumni**  
In collaboration with the USAID Alumni Association, American University Archives & Special Collections offers an opportunity for USAID Alumni to find a home for personal memorabilia from their USAID career.

American University is looking for personal materials created and acquired by USAID Alumni during their assignments, such as

- Correspondence, diaries, film, photographs, memoranda, reports, scrapbooks, articles, documents, and sound recordings (no limitations on format, date, or country)
- Organizational records of USAID Alumni groups
- Oral histories and memoirs of USAID alumni and host country nationals

This program is not intended to collect official USAID documents.

Reservations are required. Call (202) 895-1234 or email [mlh@american.edu](mailto:mlh@american.edu)

Spring Valley Building  
4801 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 302  
**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

Since 2019 the American University Library Archives have welcomed donations of AID alumni personal 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. We envision the program will continue for five or more years; after two years the Archivist and UAA will assess the program's effectiveness before committing for the additional years. The UAA has pledged an initial sum of \$10,000 over two years (\$5,000 each year) to finance student interns to help prepare and

organize these papers and make them more easily available. The funding for this program is drawn entirely from contributions made to the AID history project, which included the clear hope that the book would stimulate further study and understanding of AID's more than 60 years of development history. AID alumni are strongly urged to consider donating their memorabilia to this collection. (See <https://usaidalumni.org/uaa-and-american-university-archives-opportunity-for-usaid-alumni/>)

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