



USAID Alumni Association

February 2024 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

The end of January closes the holiday season and February begins the New Year in earnest. We received reports of a high number of deaths among our former colleagues over the last two months and took the unusual step of alerting you directly about these deaths, in part so that you could attend services if you so wished. Please see the website for updates and details of recent passings. In January, despite the cold and snow of winter, our UAA year heated up with a Development Dialogue on the future of the World Bank and multilateral institutions. February UAA events will include Development Dialogue sessions focusing on USAID's new C3s and on the challenges facing the press globally in an age of disinformation and AI; a Society for International Development (SID) career day; and the next quarterly UAA Board meeting with USAID's deputy administrator. See below and the website for details. Finally, our WinterFest plans are in high gear: we will send out a special notice on final details and hope to see you in early March!

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **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**”. She will engage in conversation with **Bill Clifford, former President of the World Affairs Councils of America**. To register for this event please [click here](#).
- **NEW!** Save the Date: **March 3 from 3 to 5 pm, 2024, for Winterfest**
- **NEW!** On **Wednesday, March 6**, there will be a development dialogue (virtual/Zoom) with **USAID’s Chief Innovation Officer, Mohamed Abdel-Kader, and Digital Director Chris Burns**, who will discuss the work of USAID’s Office of Innovation, Technology and Research. Additional details will be provided as the date draws closer.
- **NEW!** Save the Date: **September 7 from 12 noon to 3 pm for the Annual Picnic**

What's New

In Memoriam: Ernest “Ernie” Clarence Kuhn, Caryle E. Cammisa, Wilma Louise Ditter, Ellsworth “Butch” Amundson, Leroy Purifoy, Sophia Helene Van Der Bijl, Alex Durham Newton, Patricia S. Matheson, Robert Jaffe Muscat, Richard Lee “Dick” McCall, Jr., Thomas Hale Fox, James Elliott, Joan Stanford Chase, Djime Djibrine Adoum

Bulletin Board

- **The Society for International Development (SID) is sponsoring a Virtual Career Fair on February 15, 2024.** They are offering free registration for UAA members: go to this link and use this code that they created specifically for UAA members: Feb24CFUAA
- **A memorial service for Patricia Matheson is scheduled for 2 PM on February 24, 2024, at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101,** with a reception to follow. For those of you unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed on the church **website**, www.lewinsville.org/live and will be hosted temporarily afterwards if you want to watch later, at www.lewinsville.org/funerals-memorial-services/
- Celebration of Life for **Thomas Hale Fox** on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 10 AM at the All Souls Church Unitarian, 1500 Harvard Street

Northwest, Washington, DC 20009. **[Go to Tom's memorial website here.](#)**

- **[FYI from U.S. Global Leadership Coalition \(USGLC\), Liz Schroyer: 8 numbers to watch in 2024.](#)** She says, "The big question I'm asking is how America and our allies are going to be responding to these challenges. That's the real story behind each of these numbers."
- **[AFSA Meeting with USAID Administrator Power, January 9, 2024.](#)** This was the first meeting between current AFSA leadership and Agency leaders. The meeting provided AFSA an opportunity to express its gratitude for the Agency's support of the USAID Foreign Service Officer (FSO) corps and to highlight opportunities for collaboration and continued engagement.

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Board Member Position for Congo Education Partners!

Seeking someone enthusiastic about working with a small non-profit dedicated to rainforest preservation, providing relevant higher education in nursing, health, conservation and sustainable agriculture for women and men, and supporting a truly locally-led initiative in the DRC. Check our website: <https://www.congoeducationpartners.org/> Contact either Steve Mahaley at steve@myredfern.com or Nancy Tumavick at Tumavick@aol.com.

USAID/India Advancing the U.S.-India Partnership Platform (APP)

activity is seeking an OD Specialist consultant to provide technical OD expertise to support USAID and APP staff in developing and carrying forward the Mission's OD agenda. The consultancy is expected to require approximately 80 days of work over an initial six months, with the likelihood of extension to one year. Work will be remote as well as on-site. The position will require travel to New Delhi, India to perform onsite work, and an initial 2-3 month stay in New Delhi is anticipated. The assignment is expected to begin mid-February 2024. [Click here](#) to see the Scope of Work. And the email address to which UAA applicants should send their expression of interest and a resume is: indiaappinfo@internationaldevelopmentgroup.com

UAA/USAID Mentoring Program



Neil Levine

Cohort 13 of the [UAA/USAID Mentoring Program](#) successfully conducted two key events. On Wednesday, January 17th, a comprehensive virtual training workshop was organized for mentors, attended by sixty-six participants. The following day, a focused 90-minute webinar catered to forty mentees. This year, the program proudly boasts 70 mentor-mentee pairs, nearly doubling its size over last year. The program collaborates with the Bureaus for Africa, Asia, and Global Health and engages the Senior Leadership Group (SLG). Neil Levine, a USAID retiree and UAA member, was lauded for his exceptional facilitation of the mentor training.

Deputy Administrator Paloma Adams-Allen opened the mentor training, sharing insights on various critical topics such as Leadership Development, Global Development Partnerships, and challenges like global conflicts, localization, FSN empowerment, and procurement reform, to name a few. The event also featured SDAA Kathryn Stevens from the Office of Human Capital and Talent Management, Joshua Kaufman from the Bureau for Planning, Learning, and Resource Management, and Anya Glenn, Director of the Office of Workforce Planning. Bureau and SLG Coordinators provided specific perspectives on major challenges facing each bureau or senior leaders. For the first time, AFSA was represented by Randy Chester and Sue Bremner.

The training's afternoon sessions were dedicated to practical aspects of mentoring, including real conversations and simulated practices. We could not have organized or implemented Cohort 13 without the support and partnership of Corey Thompson, Training Specialist, Center for Professional Development at HCTM. The USAID presenters were recorded, and the video is available from Denise Rollins or Sharon Pauling, Co-Chairs of the UAA Mentoring Committee at denise.rollins52@gmail.com or sharonpauling1@gmail.com. The Mentee Webinar centered on orienting mentees to the mentoring program and provided insights on maximizing their mentorship. Mentees were encouraged to be prepared, identify short-term and long-term goals for the mentoring, and use their mentor as a sounding board to provide different perspectives. Highlights from the mentor training were shared with the mentees.

UAA's support for the Overseas Senior Leaders Seminar



Contributing to the UAA's employee strengthening efforts, UAA members engaged with the participants of the Overseas Senior Leaders Seminar (OSLS) in late January. The two-week OSLS course is designed for first time Deputy Mission Directors and Mission Directors. The UAA session brought together former Counselors, Bureau leaders, multi-time former Mission Directors and even a Deputy Administrator in a series of breakout sessions that provided expert advice on a wide range of issues facing emerging leaders. The OSLS participants valued the opportunity to engage with and ask frank questions of their former colleagues. The UAA wishes to thank Susan Reichle, Jim Kunder, Margot Ellis, Ken Yamashita, Denise Rollins, Jim Bever and Chris Milligan for their time and commitment to USAID's future leaders. If you are interested in

contributing to UAA's work on employee strengthening, please contact Chris Milligan at t.chris.milligan@gmail.com.

Additions to the Bibliography of USAID Authors

We've added four memoirs (or equivalent) to our **Bibliography of USAID Authors** from very different sources: a spouse, a son, a mission local hire and a retired SFSO. *Memoires from Overseas and Back* written by **Carol Mathia** (wife of FSO Bob Mathia) covers 23 years as a foreign service spouse and teacher, adding on to her ADST Oral History. **Fred Brems**, spouse of FSO Susan Brems, published *Knights of Freedom: With the Hell on Wheels Armored Division in WW II: A Story in Photos*, using his father's WW II Sherman Tank company's photos and stories. USAID/Liberia local hire, **J. Marsilius Flumo**, now a teacher in Spokane, has fulfilled his promise to his mother by writing *A Son's Promise: A Memoir of Perseverance from Liberia to America*. Finally, retired FSO **Raymond Malley's** 4th book, *Letters and Such...* is a collection of letters on diplomacy, foreign assistance and the military.

And, don't we all need to read *Diplomatically: A Guide for Creating Work-Life Balance in the Foreign Service* by **Yikee Adje**? This new paperback "offers a fresh perspective on achieving success in your career while making strides in your personal life". This guide, which "goes beyond the cliches", is written by a USAID program officer and certified executive coach — and a mother of five.

Please forward notice of any new books to jpielemeie@aol.com.

Planning for 2024 AGM

The UAA AGM Committee has begun planning for the 2024 AGM. The Committee met on January 11 to discuss lessons learned from the successful 2023 meeting. The comments received from the survey of attendees at the meeting strongly endorsed the compressed half-day schedule, and we plan on repeating that this year. The survey responses from the 2023 attendees included useful suggestions of topics for panels at this year's meeting. We invite all UAA members to send ideas of topics for panel discussions that we should consider. What topics do you feel would be of broad general interest to our members? We highly value your input. Please send your ideas to stephenwingert@hotmail.com and t4brown99@aol.com, AGM Committee Co-chairs.

Development Dialogues

World Bank Senior Managing Director Axel van Trotsenburg



Alex Shakow (right) introducing Axel van Trotsenburg

On Friday, January 19, World Bank Senior Managing Director Axel van Trotsenburg treated an attentive audience (at DACOR and on-line) to a stimulating overview of issues facing the World Bank and other multilateral development banks as they address the many interrelated challenges confronting the Global South – and the rest of the world, too. Watch the conversation between van Trotsenburg and the UAA's Alex Shakow – and the Q&A period – by clicking [here](#).

Alumni Profile: David Adams

David R. Adams was born in Washington, D.C., into a family with deep roots in the nation's capital and Virginia. Nine months after his birth, David began his foreign service "training" in Greece, where his father had taken up his first government posting. During the next 20 years of his father's career abroad, David became deeply impressed by the poverty in developing countries where they lived: Taiwan in the 1960s and Laos in the 1970s. These experiences led



David to a career with USAID after he graduated from William & Mary and grad school at George Washington University.

Over the next 30 years, David served in a variety of USAID assignments in Washington and abroad, first in the Civil Service and then the Foreign Service. His overseas assignments culminated in 2004 after three years as Haiti Mission Director. David's career was punctuated by assignments off the beaten path. These included stints with the United Nations in Bangladesh as a congressional (Foreign Operations) staffer, and as a senior resources and policy adviser in Secretary Warren Christopher's office. USAID Administrator Brian Atwood called David "one of the agency's premier troubleshooters" (others would say,

troublemaker!), for example, because of David's role as Kosovo Task Force Coordinator during that Balkans crisis.



The day after his 2006 retirement from USAID, David and his wife Myra caught the auto train down to Florida for a new life. David's "second career" began as the first Vice President for (overseas) Missions with a new interdenominational Christian relief and development agency, Cross International/Cross Catholic Outreach (CI/CCO). Over the following 16 years, he greatly expanded CI/CCO's staffing, systems and footprint in Latin America, Africa and Asia. He also organized and led foundation and U.S. Government grant acquisition that resulted in greatly increased revenue. In January 2023, David transitioned into his current role as V.P. Emeritus for Cross Catholic Outreach, and a part-time consultant for association partnerships. He is also active in his Catholic Church, as a

member of the Parish Council and as a Scripture reader at Mass. David also serves on the board of the local chapter of Legatus, a national Catholic business leaders association. He and Myra continue to live in Ft. Lauderdale, promoting various causes, including a ministry that fosters education on the Shroud of Turin. They travel abroad and domestically, most notably to northern Virginia to visit David's two sons and four grandchildren. David and Myra welcome hearing from USAID friends and former colleagues at davidrussadams@comcast.net.

Make Your 2024 UAA Membership Contribution **USAID Alumni Association**

USAID Alumni Association | 1801 F Street, Washington, DC 20006

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