



USAID Alumni Association

March 2024 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

From engaging with senior field leaders at the Overseas Senior Leadership Seminar to co-hosting several events with DACOR to enjoying a wonderful time with colleagues at the Annual Winterfest, the UAA community continues to be involved with USAID and the development agenda. We greatly appreciate Frank and Antoinette Almaguer for so warmly and graciously hosting the Winterfest for many years, and we give a loud shout-out to the Social Committee for organizing this year's event at the Community Center in Alexandria, VA. Over 50 members attended the event and had a relaxing and fun-filled time reminiscing about old times and sharing current adventures and stories. Please keep a look out in the Newsletters and bulletins for the many upcoming events in the months to come. And if you have not done so, please contribute to the UAA with your annual dues, as they help defray the costs of all UAA activities and communications. Stay safe, stay healthy, and have a wonderful March.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **NEW! March 13, 5:30-7 PM Our USAID Deputy Mission Directors are going to be in town and we are making plans to join them for a Happy Hour hosted by the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN) and joined by UAA.** Please come and mix and mingle, hear about the latest challenges and opportunities these rising leaders are exploring. Catch up with what the state of thought is in the field and with rising leadership in the Agency. Whether you are a mentor or planning for development issues these are the folks with insights and experiences that you can tap in to! **VENUE:** US House of Representatives Cannon House Office Building, Cannon Caucus Room 100 Independence Ave SE (Served by closest Capitol South Metro stop). Please RSVP to

- Karen Swatson, MFAN (Karen.Swatson@modernizeaid.net) or Karen Freeman, UAA (ugandakaren@hotmail.com) if you will be able to attend.
- NEW! At a UAA/DACOR (hybrid) lunch on **Friday, April 5, from 11:45 to 2:00, Homi Kharas, Brookings Institution Senior Fellow**, will speak about his new book *The Rise of the Global Middle Class: How the Search for the Good Life Can Change the World*. [Click here](#) to register.
 - NEW! On **Monday, May 13, USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman** will join us for a UAA/DACOR hybrid lunch session at DACOR to reflect on the first three years of the Administration's USAID programs and U.S. foreign policy objectives. She will be engaged in conversation by **former USAID Counselor Chris Milligan**. Watch for a full announcement closer to the event.
 - NEW! **UAA Spring Reception is Thursday, June 13th , 3:00pm – 5:00 pm at Dacor Bacon**. It will be a hybrid event with appetizers and drinks onsite and virtual for UAA members outside of the D.C. area. Look for details later.
 - NEW! Join other UAA members and friends at the **Tuesday, June 4th John Legend concert at Wolf Trap**. A group of us are purchasing lawn seats for the concert. While the concert will begin at 8 PM, plan to arrive around 6:30 PM to park and have a picnic dinner on the lawn. For those interested, please purchase the tickets on the wolftrap.org website and let Margot Ellis (ellismargot@gmail.com) or Karen Freeman (ugandakaren@hotmail.com) know that you are coming. Closer to the date, we will share information on where we will be meeting and sitting.
 - NEW! **Save the Date: Wednesday, July 31, midday, in Rochester, Vermont**. Anne Aarnes, David Sprague, Ann and Mike Van Dusen, Connie Carrino, Jeff Sharat, and Margaret Neuse will host the **annual "development wallahs" picnic**. All are welcome, including alumni who may be visiting New England in late July. Details to follow. For more information and to express interest in attending, contact Ann Van Dusen (avandusen4@gmail.com) and/or Anne Aarnes (ahaarnes@hotmail.com).
 - NEW! On **Friday, September 6, Sir Masood Ahmed**, former President and CEO of the Center for Global Development (CGD) and longtime World Bank, IMF and DFID official, will speak at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue (hybrid) lunch. Watch for a full announcement closer to the event.
 - NEW! **Save the Date: September 7 from 12 noon to 3 pm for the Annual Picnic**
 - NEW! **Save the Date: October 11 from 9 am to 1:15 pm for the UAA Annual General Meeting**

What's New

In Memoriam: Elmer Melvin "Mel" Cook, Melvin Raymond Chatman, Jr., Frances Brigham Johnson, Joseph Coolidge Wheeler, William "Bill" Ignatius Rodier III, Paul Christian Tuebner, Manuel Carl "Mick" Zenick, Francis Redmond "Tony" Smoot

Bulletin Board

- **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) late 2023 event with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA), who spoke about foreign aid and America's role in the world in the face of growing global threats and crises.**

- 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 Thomas’s memorial website**
- **Invitation to a Celebration of the Life and Work of Dr. Robert J. Muscat, Saturday, March 23rd from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, in person and by Zoom, in the main hall of the Takoma Village Cohousing complex (TVC) at 6827 Fourth St. NW in Washington, DC 20012. Click the heading for details and how to RSVP.**

Articles

- **InterAction developed Aid Delivers to educate members of Congress and the public on the fundamental principles and operations of international development, humanitarian action, and U.S. foreign assistance programs.** Explore its guide to understand the basics of these programs, see the positive outcomes they have achieved, and learn about hot topics for the 118th U.S. Congress.
- **USAID can’t go it alone on localization.** Localization is one of the most enduring policy objectives for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). **Patrick Fine discusses** how resilient—and illusive—this policy objective is for the agency. Brookings, February 5, 2024

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

Population Action Institute (PAI), Senior Director for U.S. Government Relations

PAI is currently recruiting for a Senior Director for U.S. Government Relations. The job description is available at the following link: <https://pai.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=28>

Volunteer Opportunities with Global Nonprofit Startup

A US-based nonprofit seeks development professionals to volunteer their talents to help build an enterprise dedicated to strengthening the capabilities of civil society organizations in lower-income countries. Acting Globally mobilizes volunteers with a range of skills (virtually, for now) to support grassroots NGOs. Currently we’re assisting groups in the DRC, Liberia and Uganda. See: actingglobally.org . We invite people to join our founding team — helping craft strategies for our sustainable growth, and possibly serving on our Board or Advisory Council. Please contact Martin Levine at mlevine1968@gmail.com

Winterfest

On March 3 54 UAA members and guests gathered in Alexandria to catch up with one another and enjoy the afternoon as winter recedes and spring, well, springs. Our new venue was light and bright and spacious, and the food and wine were plentiful and delicious. We celebrated new members and shared news of where UAA is going and upcoming plans. New homes, new jobs, new retirement and travel, there was a bit of it all. In his welcoming remarks, Ken Yamashita marked the passing of Mel Cook, Bette’s husband. Mel was an American hero who served in WWII and Viet Nam and contributed to the founding of the new US Army Museum. He was always by Bette’s side at UAA functions, and we will miss him.



Anne Patterson, Tom Staal, Maria Rendon, Janina Jaruzelski and Bruce Adams

We thank members for coming out and bringing friends and family. Thank you to the Social Committee – Margot Ellis, Melissa Williams, Georgia Sambunaris, Sharon Pauling, Denise Rollins and Karen Freeman for bringing us all together again. Look for more upcoming opportunities to gather and if you have ideas, or would like to host an event, please let the Social Committee know.



Tish Butler, Beth Hogan and Ken Lanza



Maria Rendon and Anne Patterson



Anne Dammarell, David Jessee and Mike Walsh



Denise Rollins, Ven Suresh, Carol Dabbs and Lucien Hakorimana



Margot Ellis, Ray Martin, and Carol Carpenter-Yeman



Denise Rollins and Georgia Sambunaris



Marcy Birnbaum, Tish Butler, Anne Dammarell, and Chris Crowley



Ken Yamashita and Nancy Pielemeier



Karen Freeman and Tish Butler

Three Announcements of Interest

Change of Date for AGM to October 11, 2024

For literally years UAA has held the AGM on the last Friday of October. The 2024 AGM was originally scheduled for October 25. However, the Center for Global Development (CGD) notified us that their staff will be heavily engaged with the annual World Bank meetings which begin that day. CGD's venue and technical support are excellent for the meeting and are provided without charge. The AGM Committee agreed to change the date to October 11 and is already at work planning for this important professional and social event for UAA members.

Do you have ideas to Expand the UAA membership?

We are looking for a few volunteers to join our working group to discuss ideas to expand and diversify UAA membership to have greater participation by former Civil Service, FSNs, and PSCs. The working group will meet 3-4 times over 2024. If you're interested, please contact Oren Whyche-Shaw at orenwhyche@me.com. **Hope to hear from volunteers by March 30.**

Outreach Folder on the UAA Website

The UAA Outreach Committee is pleased to inform the UAA members that we are establishing an "Outreach Folder" on the UAA website. This folder will contain useful outreach materials and resources to assist members in their outreach actions (e.g., presentations, lectures, classes, etc.). Additionally, we encourage our members to submit materials that they have identified to be useful in their USAID UAA outreach activities to the Outreach Committee for review. The Outreach Committee will manage the folder to ensure the information is accurate and useful. Requests and ideas are welcome. ***Please submit your materials to the UAA Outreach Co-Chair, Christine M Sheckler [cmtsheckler@gmail.com].***

Recent West Coast Sighting

We thought that you would be interested and amused by a new USAID recruitment effort which we have not previously seen. Sighted by a retired UAA colleague in Portland, Oregon.



ADST Recently Posted New Oral Histories

ADST has recently posted on its website six new oral history interviews of former USAID officers: Todd Amani, David Atwood, Don Pressley, Charles Uphaus, Steve Wingert, and Tassew Zewdie. You can check them out here: <https://adst.org/oral-history/oral-history-interviews/-gsc.tab=0>. This makes a total of eleven from the current USAID grant – another 50-60 or so to go!

Each interview is excellent with lots of great lessons learned and some fun stories. Can you guess who owns an island in the Caribbean? Or, who used his knowledge of the nuances of the French word “la politique” to save a meeting? Or, who, drafted a letter to former baseball commissioner Bowie Kuhn, to get support from MLB to Sri Lanka’s budding baseball community? Or, who is a great fan of Open Space Technology? Or, who worked in a USAID mission with the motto, “Back to the Future”? Or who was a primary drafter of early versions of the legislation to create IDCA? If you check out the interviews, you’ll get the answers.

ADST has accelerated the production of transcripts, so we expect many more to be posted in the coming months. Suggest you all sign up for the ADST newsletter so you can see how well they use the oral history interviews to educate the broader public: <https://adst.org/contact-us/>. You should also consider becoming a member and thus help support an important sister organization: <https://adst.org/donation-page/>.

Development Dialogues

Challenges Facing the Press Around the World in the Disinformation Age



Jeanne Bourgault with Bill Clifford

At a February 13 (hybrid) lunch session at DACOR, a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue featured Internews President and CEO Jeanne Bourgault engaging in conversation with former World Affairs Councils of America President Bill Clifford on the subject of “Challenges Facing the Press Around the World in the Disinformation Age”. Their fascinating discussion and the subsequent Q&A session ranged widely over Internews’ experience in many challenging parts of the world – including in the USA – and much more. For the full recording of this event click [here](#).

Alumni Profile: Julius E. Coles



Julius E. Coles was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. During his sophomore year at Morehouse College, he applied for and was accepted as a volunteer for the Crossroads Africa program in Senegal. While participating in this program, he traveled throughout Mali and Senegal and became interested in the developmental problems confronting these countries. In his junior year of college he was given the opportunity to study in Switzerland at the University of Geneva, where he took courses in French, international relations and economics. These experiences highlighted Julius’s interest in working on the problems of developing countries.

Coles began his career with the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1966 after graduating from the Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs with a concentration in development economics. He was initially assigned to the Office of Central African Affairs but was transferred to the Vietnam Bureau for a later two-year posting in Vietnam working for one of the USAID’s top administrators, Robert Culbertson, as a special assistant. In this position, he was able to develop the management and leadership skills that would serve him well throughout his career, which took him on

assignments to Morocco, Liberia, Nepal, Swaziland, Washington, and Senegal. He retired from USAID in 1994 after serving as a Mission Director at the rank of career minister.

He began his post-USAID career at Howard University, where he became the first director of the Ralph J. Bunch Center for International Affairs. He developed programs to encourage students to become interested in careers in international affairs. After Howard University, he returned to his alma mater, Morehouse College, to establish the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs and Global Leadership, which took students abroad to expose them to the culture and problems of the countries visited. He has also served as president of Africare, which was the largest minority-run NGO working in some twenty-two countries in Africa with a budget of \$80 million. In addition, he has served on the boards of the Fulbright Association of the USA, Health and Development International, World Learning, and Partners in Change.



Coles is married to Jean R. Coles, who is a retired high school biology teacher. They have two daughters, Carmen Coles, who is currently serving in USAID as the Acting Deputy Administrator for Global Health, and Britt Coles, who is a veterinarian in southern Sweden. Julius and his wife have just returned from a safari in Kenya and Tanzania where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Coles reside in Atlanta, Georgia, and Julius can be reached at Julius.coles@gmail.com

Make Your 2024 UAA Membership Contribution
USAID Alumni Association

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