



USAID Alumni Association

May 2024 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

Last week the UAA Board met one last time with USAID Deputy Administrator Paloma Adams-Allen. Paloma had previously announced her departure from USAID and scheduled this meeting to thank UAA for our assistance in meeting USAID's leadership goals, especially with mentoring senior leaders, strengthening the role of FSNs in USAID, and helping the Agency achieve its DEIA objectives. We thanked Paloma for her successes in strengthening USAID — including burden busting, leadership training, investments in DEIA, and FSN empowerment. We also thanked her for her steady support of UAA, meeting with us regularly, and attending our events. Of course, we also invited her to join UAA! Paloma will be succeeded on an interim basis by Dennis Vega, current Chief of Staff.

UAA's outreach to inform the public about USAID and the value of foreign assistance continued in mid-April with a 2-hour presentation to a joint,

week-long AFSA/Road Scholars session on the foreign service. The session was held in Washington, DC, and 39 people from across the U.S. participated in the USAID session. See the article below.

Finally, Isobel Coleman will reflect on her three years as USAID Deputy Administrator in a conversation with Chris Milligan during a UAA/DACOR hybrid luncheon on May 13th. She has been responsible for policy and program under Administrator Power. To join in person or virtually, see details below.

We look forward to seeing many of you in May and over the course of the summer!

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- 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**. To attend this event please [click here](#).
- NEW! Join other UAA members and friends at the **Tuesday, June 4th John Legend concert at Wolftrap**. 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! **UAA Spring Reception is Thursday, June 13th , 3:00pm – 5:00 pm at Dacor Bacon House**. It will be a hybrid event with appetizers and drinks onsite and virtual for UAA members outside of the area.
- 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:

- I. Austin Heyman, Mary Huntington, Richard Elliot Benedick, William Topolsky

Bulletin Board

- **USAID has released a new Mandatory Reference to Automated Directives System (ADS) Chapter 530**, *Emergency Planning Overseas*. The Mandatory Reference, *Standard Operating Procedures for Emergency and Crisis Management for Non-American Staff and Locally Contracted Personnel* (“the Playbook”) describes the available actions that Mission can take to support FSNs in the event of a crisis or emergency situation. See note from USAID Deputy Administrator Paloma Adams-Allen, August 21, 2023, by [clicking here](#).

Articles

- **Managing Missions during Crises: An Agency-wide webinar on In-Country Transitions: Leadership and Management in Response to Sudden Context Changes**, April 3, 2024.

- **USAID Administrator Samantha Power testifies before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs as it Holds a Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2025 USAID Budget Request**, CQ Congressional Transcripts, April 9, 2024
- **MFAN's Analysis of the Final Fiscal Year 2024 State-Foreign Operations Bill**, MFAN, April 9, 2024
- **MFAN Applauds OMB's Release of Reforms to Simplify Federal Grantmaking Rules and Strengthen Locally Led Development**, MFAN, April 4, 2024

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

- **Volunteer Board Member Opportunity – Plan International USA**
Plan International USA is part of a global non-profit organization founded in 1937. It is currently active in more than 80 countries, working with 55,000 communities to promote gender and youth equality and to meet urgent humanitarian and development needs. Plan USA wants to expand the development and humanitarian response expertise on its board of directors. It's a great opportunity to work with a wonderful organization and board – and to stay engaged with the international development community in a new way. If interested, please look at the linked brochure to learn more about Plan and the responsibilities of a board member. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Peasley (cpeasley101@gmail.com).

Another Successful UAA Event for Road Scholars



Roberta Mahoney (UAA), Nadja Ruzica (AFSA's Manager for Strategic Communications & Outreach) and Gayle Felix (Road Scholar Liaison)

UAA Executive Committee Chair, Roberta Mahoney, with support from UAA Outreach Committee Co-Chair, Christine Sheckler, led a Road Scholar presentation on US Foreign Assistance & USAID to a class of 39 in Washington, D.C. This was part of the Road Scholar "US Foreign Service Week" curriculum. The UAA/USAID PowerPoint presentation was one of the final new versions currently used as the Outreach Committee and USAID LPA finalize the updated version.

UAA supports the Road Scholar program by offering senior USAID/UAA Senior Foreign Service Officers as course presenters several times a year, in Washington, D.C. and at the Chautauqua Institute in New York. UAA Senior Foreign Service Officer (ret.), Jim Bever, has been the key presenter up until the current course. Over the past two and a half years UAA, via our Public Outreach Committee, has met in-person with over 750 Road Scholars coming from over 400 communities in over 40 states to discuss US foreign aid and USAID.

Managing Missions During Crisis

On April 3, together with the Bureau for Planning, Learning, and Resource Management (PLR) and Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the UAA organized an Agency-wide webinar on In-Country Transitions: Leadership and Management in Response to Sudden Context Changes. Hosted by

PLR S/DAA Christophe Tocco, the event featured Bambi Arellano and Dr. Beth Dunford, with an audience discussion moderated by Chris Milligan.



Hilda M. "Bambi" Arellano

These former members of USAID leadership shared their real-life experiences of managing Missions and teams during crises and country transitions, ranging from the Nepal Earthquake in 2015 to events in Afghanistan and Iraq.



Dr. Beth Dunford

Discussion focused on the immediate steps Mission leadership should take following a crisis; how best to respond to the shifting policy context while adapting programs to new foreign policy objectives; and meeting the demands for increased information and heightened interagency coordination. The firsthand insights provided by Bambi and Beth provided valuable lessons for an audience of nearly 300 across USAID Missions and Washington offices and bureaus.

Reminder! 2024 UAA Awards Program

In 2024, 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 UAA Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year, beginning now until July 31, 2024. Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org. The award winners will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in October.

The 2024 UAA Awards Program guidance is provided on the UAA website. Please [click here](#).

Development Dialogues

UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue: The Rise of the Global Middle Class by Dr. Homi Kharas



Dr. Homi Kharas and Alex Shakow at DACOR, April 5, 2024

At DACOR on Friday, April 5, Brookings' Senior Fellow Dr. Homi Kharas discussed with the luncheon (and on-line) audience some of the many complex issues explored in his new book *The Rise of the Global Middle Class – How the Search for the Good Life Can Change the World*. While basically an optimist, Kharas also laid out the key – and very difficult –

steps societies must take if the continued growth of the middle class is to be sustained. Watch the hour-long discussion by [clicking here](#).

Alumni Profile - Philip Gary



Philip Gary describes himself as an accidental USAID officer. He was born in a still-segregated Washington DC and came of age with activist parents in a time of upheaval and change. Philip spent lots of time at his grandparents' house on 23rd Street near Virginia Avenue. The house was literally a stone's throw from the State Department which was, as Star Wars intones, on a *distant galaxy far away*.

After university, Philip returned to Washington and worked for the -DC government? on redevelopment projects. He left Washington to be an administrator at the University of Kansas and afterward to teach on the faculty of Architecture at Virginia Tech. Later, on a sabbatical year while working on New Communities with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Philip met Peter Kimm, the Director of USAID's Office of Housing, who invited Philip to join the USAID office.

Throughout his USAID tenure, Philip never stopped believing that the work of the Office of Housing represented the best of the agency. His time in USAID took him to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Yemen, Indonesia, Nepal, Afghanistan, and the National War College as a student and later as a teacher,

During his postings, Philip was engaged in some intensive situations: the beginning of the Sinhalese-Tamil war in Sri Lanka, merging of the two

Yemens, first Gulf War, East African Embassy bombings, Rwandan Genocide, and Afghanistan USAID program.

Philip pointed to two programs that most impacted him, both of which he worked on with his wife, Viviann, who was also a USAID officer. The first was when, as director of the Regional Housing and Urban Development Office for Asia, he worked to help develop a fledgling organization in India to create financing to house the poor. This organization, the Housing and Development Finance Corporation of India, has gone on to become one of the largest companies in India, and its then youthful leader became India Businessman of the Year. The second program was in Yemen which was impactful in two ways. First, both he and Viviann studied Arabic prior to posting. This enriched their understanding of Arabic culture and enriched their lifelong learning experiences thereafter. Second, was the development of a women's only program which was cut short by the Gulf War.

On reflection, Philip noted there were two professional giants who were always there to give him advice and guidance, Ambassador Johnnie Carson and the late Ambassador Edward Perkins. He also is especially grateful to Viviann Pettersson and the late Peter Kimm.

After USAID, Philip returned to teaching, and in 2016, Viviann and he moved to Sweden where they are permanent residents. They can be reached at <https://philipmgary@aol.com>.

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USAID Alumni Association

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