



USAID Alumni Association

June 2024 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

As a mentor of the UAA Mentorship Program, I had the honor of visiting USAID/India for a week in early May. This trip was the result of the visionary Mission leadership team and facilitated by the UAA/USAID Memorandum of Understanding which allows for UAA to provide support to USAID for institutional strengthening. During my visit I had conversations with various teams and groups of staff regarding the health of the organization and its strategic directions.

While many ideas and suggestions emerged from the conversations, one that is relevant to the UAA Mentorship Program is the creation of an in-house mentoring program. The Foreign Service Nationals, especially those hired during and since COVID restrictions, felt that they were unable to fully integrate into the Mission because they were not familiar with the culture and language of USAID. At the Mission we also discussed the feasibility of reaching out to former FSN colleagues who might be interested in being a mentor. Such an activity could be incorporated as part of the Agency's FSN Empowerment initiative.

At the end of my visit, the Mission teams agreed to include the ideas and suggestions from my visit in their upcoming Mission Retreat, which had been planned before my trip. My personal thanks to the Mission leadership and teams that took the time to meet with me. I think this activity is a good example of the power and flexibility of the UAA/USAID MOU and the UAA Mentorship Program specifically. If you are interested in participating in the mentorship program, stay tuned to news on our website for announcements for our next cohort which will start in January 2025.

And if you have not yet done so, please remember to contribute to UAA with your annual dues, which you can do via the link on our website, www.usaidalumni.org. Your contributions allow us to continue valuable efforts such as this Mentorship Program, speaking engagements around the country, and fabulous social events. Ken Yamashita, Board Co-Chair.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **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**. It will be a hybrid event with appetizers and drinks onsite and virtual for UAA members outside of the area. Location: DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F, Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006. A link for our out-of-town participants will be provided in advance of the event. Dress: Smart Casual. RSVP: Please send acceptances no later than June 6 so that we can place orders and plan accordingly.
 - Attending in person? [Click here.](#)
 - Joining virtually? [Click here.](#)
- **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!** On **Thursday, September 26, 10:30 am to 11:30/12:00 noon, Development Issues discussion with Prof. Julia Irwin**

about her new book, *Catastrophic Diplomacy: US Foreign Disaster Assistance in the American Century*. This program, open to all UAA members, is intended as a lead-in to the October 11 Annual General Meeting theme on the nexus between humanitarian and development assistance (see below). Watch for a full announcement closer to the event.

- **NEW!** Save the Date: **October 11 from 9 am to 1:15 pm for the UAA Annual General Meeting followed by lunch**. The theme for this year's meeting focuses on the inter-dynamics between USAID development and humanitarian assistance. This year we will again have an in-person meeting held at the Center for Global Development at 2055 L St NW in Washington, D.C., but UAA members will also be able to attend virtually via Zoom. Only UAA members who have paid their annual dues for 2024 will be permitted to attend. Information about the AGM will be included in UAA monthly newsletters beginning in June 2024.

What's New

In Memoriam:

- Sarah Evelyn Wright, David Henry Mandel, Elizabeth Schoenecker, Susan Chuwa Easley, Marion Horace "Tex" Ford

Bulletin Board

- On Monday, June 3, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM a [reception in memory of Elizabeth Schoenecker](#) will be held at Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home, 5130 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20016. The funeral Mass will be held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, in Georgetown, 3513 N Street NW Washington, DC 20007, starting at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.
- To see the Foreign Service Centennial Video [click here](#), May 24, 2024
- The U.S. Foreign Service celebrated its 100th year anniversary on May 24, 2024. The gala was livestreamed on State's website and YouTube channels. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, CIA Director William Burns, and USAID's Counselor Clinton White were the main speakers. Here are the links for the livestream from the gala where you are able to watch the remarks of all the speakers: *Department homepage and YouTube Channel*. In honor of the Anniversary, AFSA provided an excellent set of talking points should you have the opportunity to spread the word in your community. Just [click here](#).

Articles

- [A New Era at CGD with Dr. Rachel Glennerster](#), by Lawrence H. Summers, Center for Global Development, May 13, 2024

- [Reinvigorating the American Development Toolkit](#), Robert M. Gates Global Policy Center (GGPC), May 14, 2024
- [USGLC Head Liz Schraye Reflects on forces that helped pass the national security funding bill](#), May 11, 2024

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

No new ones.

Theme of UAA 2024 Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM will take place at the Center for Global Development on Friday, October 11, 2024, two weeks earlier than usual. The meeting is open to all UAA members who have paid their 2024 membership dues. We promise you a very interesting and substantive AGM.

The theme for the AGM will be the nexus between humanitarian aid and development assistance. The extraordinary number of crises and disasters that have occurred recently have placed enormous burdens on USAID - and US foreign policy. As the US Government assists countries to confront overwhelming humanitarian demands, it also seeks to maintain focus on the objectives of long-term development programs. Two panels will explore challenges faced by USAID headquarters and field missions addressing both humanitarian and development priorities, and helping partner nations gain increased resilience.

The first panel will focus on Washington policy and institutional issues. US foreign policy supports USAID's efforts to address humanitarian crises abroad. USAID's Administrator is a member of the National Security Council, helping guide US support for effective responses to such crises. West Bank/Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine make headlines every day, but many other countries are also struggling with humanitarian crises. Pressure from US policymakers to focus on the immediate as distinct from the longer-term influences USAID staff down to the mission level. The allocation of the Agency's funding is a never-ending issue, with higher priority often going to short-term needs. Inter-agency coordination is time-consuming but essential. Personnel issues are also of significant concern, as almost all humanitarian aid is managed from Washington by contract staff, while development funding is largely managed in the field by FSOs and FSNs.

The second panel will focus on the experience of one field mission, USAID Ethiopia, which is working to bring the planning and implementation of humanitarian and development programs closer together. Over many years, both forms of assistance have received significant funding in the mission.. Panel members will discuss both historical and current perspectives, examining what has been learned to do the job better. The panel's conversation will capture key aspects of the field experience, such as the role of the government, interactions with Washington, staffing issues, differences in funding cycles, and relations with the country team

and with other partner agencies such as NGOs and other bilateral and multilateral agencies.

Further information on the AGM will be provided in future newsletters.

UAA 2024 Awards Program Reminder

Only two months remain to nominate deserving UAA alumni for the Association's signature Alumni of the Year Award. The UAA will continue this year to recognize significant contributions by UAA members through its annual awards program. Since the inception of the program in 2014, the UAA has celebrated new paths taken by USAID alumni in retirement to provide service to their communities and to make lasting contributions to others at home and abroad.

The Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year until July 31, 2023. Send nominations electronically to: awards@usaidalumni.org. The award winners will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting in October. To see the 2024 Awards Program guidance [please click here](#).

Membership Committee Working Group

The UAA needs you!

The Working Group plans to hold several Zoom focus groups this summer to discuss how the UAA can channel its efforts to increase the diversity of membership. We are looking for registrants, non-members, CS, FSNs, FSOs, and PSCs to participate and voice their ideas about what the UAA could do to increase membership, especially outside of the DMV area.

If you are interested as a member or registrant and/or know non-member retirees or about-to-be retirees who you think would candidly share their ideas and concerns, please pass this information to them. Share with every USAID retiree you know! We look forward to receiving names and emails to <https://usaidalumni.org/contact-us> by **no later than cob Friday, June 7**. The subject line should read "*Diverse UAA Focus Group*." We are hoping our efforts will make UAA an organization that will appeal to retirees of all hiring mechanisms no matter where they are presently living!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Development Dialogues

USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman reflects on USAID programs and U.S. foreign policy objectives.



Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman and Chris Milligan at DACOR, May 13, 2024

On Monday, May 13, 2024, USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman squeezed time out of her very busy week to spend an hour with an appreciative and engaged audience at DACOR and on-line. In conversation with retired USAID Counselor and active UAA Board Member Chris Milligan, she reflected candidly on her experience leading USAID's policy work during the first three years of the Biden Administration. To hear the whole program please [click here](#).

Alumni Profile - Constance "Connie" Anne Carrino



Little Connie thought the blue runway lights were beautiful as PanAm 001 from Asunción landed at Idlewild in 1961. She told anyone who would listen that she loved her three years in Paraguay and was going to keep travelling the world. Connie was six years old, returning home to Albany, New York with her parents, both university professors, after an extended sabbatical in Paraguay.

After one year in Mexico, summers in Panama and the Dominican Republic, a BA in political science, and an MA in International Studies, she started an international career at USIA's Policy Office as an intern, and later with USAID partners and the World Bank. She received a Ph.D. in economics and, while waiting for a bookstore to open in Georgetown, met a man whom she later married.

The call from USAID came in 1978 from Sarah Clark, then a division chief in the Office of Population. Connie joined the Office of Population, moved to the Policy and Program Coordination Bureau and later to the Office of Health. By the time she was sworn into the USAID Foreign Service the day the Gulf War began in 1991, she knew how to design and manage technical projects and had an impressive network of colleagues throughout the development community.

In her first months in India, Connie learned that flexibility and decisiveness were as important as the technical skills and networking savvy that she brought with her. She designed the first HIV/AIDS bilateral in Tamil Nadu and, after returning to Washington, consolidated USAID's health policy activities into a new division in Global Health. Connie became an advocate for interagency, donor, and government cooperation. In Russia she directed Social Sector Restructuring and co-chaired U.S.-Russia Maternal and Child Health Subcommittee. Working with U.S. HIV experts and some prominent Russian doctors, she and her colleagues finally convinced the Russian Health Ministry to realize the seriousness of HIV and to take it on. As USAID rep in Japan, she was the Counselor for International Development for the U.S. Embassy. Back in D.C, she Directed the Office of HIV/AIDS while being a Deputy Principal for the initial years of the Presidents' Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). She expanded her understanding of US security strategy and interagency cooperation with a year at the National War College.



Connie, Jeff Sharat, son Julian and daughter Alexandra (Holidays 2021)

Along the way the family grew: Her son was born while she was posted in India and daughter while she was posted in Russia. Sharing the children's first years within those cultures became precious memories for the whole family, as did adventures in places like Rovaniemi, St. Petersburg, Salzburg and Lake Onuma.

After Connie retired from USAID in 2007, the family moved to Vermont. Connie worked with ARD/Tetra Tech on Afghanistan issues and then spent a decade helping health leaders and managers evaluate and improve their programs. She is renowned for her breadth and depth of technical and managerial skill, analytical ability, thoroughness, integrity, tact and kindness. She loves learning about the incredible work underway in developing countries and is very proud of USAID.

After working in 30 countries Connie still thinks runway lights are beautiful. Her best memories from USAID are of the people who were

part of her journey. Do let her know what you are up to
at: cacarrino@gmail.com.

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

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