



# USAID Alumni Association

## July 2024 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

An exciting and busy month for UAA was highlighted with our annual Spring Reception which was held at DACOR. Over 60 alumni attended in person and more than 40 more joined us virtually for an enjoyable afternoon. Our keynote speaker, Sonali Korde, the USAID Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Humanitarian Affairs, laid out the complex task of responding to multiple crises around the world. A factoid that she shared with us: In 2023 USAID responded to over 70 crises in over 60 countries!

Another memorable event in June was a highly successful retirement ceremony, which UAA co-hosted with USAID. Over 400 participants from around the world attended the all-virtual event including, for the first time, our Foreign Service National (FSN) colleagues who recently retired. Administrator Samantha Power shared moving and appreciative words, recognizing the resolve and resilience of all the staff of the Agency. On a beautiful evening in early June a group of us got together to listen to the uplifting music of John Legend at the Wolf Trap National Park in northern Virginia. Throughout the month, our colleagues in Florida continued to reach out to retired USAID staff with events co-sponsored with the Florida Chapter of the Foreign Service Retired Association (FSRA) and chapters of the World Affairs Council. For more on these events, including pictures, please read on!

A few programming notes: The Annual General Meeting this year will take place on Friday, October 11, which is a couple of weeks earlier than in previous years. This early date is to accommodate the World Bank meetings that are being held at the end of October and the U.S. elections in early November. Also please note the deadline for submission of interest in serving on the Board of UAA, which is Friday August 2. Finally,

as we continuously endeavor to expand our UAA family, we are seeking members interested in reaching out to our Civil Service colleagues. If you are interested, please get in touch with Oren Whyche-Shaw, at [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org)

Have a great summer and please don't forget to put on sunscreen!

## Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **New! On Wednesday, July 17, 2024, from 11:00 to 12:30 P.M. EST, the UAA Development Issues Committee will hold its next discussion on Zoom** led by Matthew Nims, USAID Deputy Assistant to the Administrator (DAA), Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. Matthew will focus his remarks on the current global humanitarian assistance situation.
- **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. For more information and to express interest in attending, contact Ann Van Dusen ([avandusen4@gmail.com](mailto:avandusen4@gmail.com)) and/or Anne Aarnes ([ahaarnes@hotmail.com](mailto:ahaarnes@hotmail.com)).
- **New! Join us on July 31 from 5:30-7:00 with USAID Mission Directors and Representatives at the Yours Truly Hotel, 1143 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington DC.** The MDs will be in town for their MD Conference, so this is a perfect time to catch up. And for mentors, a perfect opportunity for some face-to-face time! The hotel is close to lots of great restaurants – Mercy Me in house and Rasika's across the street. The event is open to all members. There will be a cash bar and UAA will provide light hors d'oeuvres. Please [RSVP here](#) to help our planning.
- **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. You can read a description of the meeting's theme and panels by [clicking here](#) and see the latest version of the meeting agenda, including information on who has been invited to give the keynote address and participate on the panels, by [clicking here](#). The in-person meeting will be held at the Center for Global Development at 2055 L St NW in Washington, D.C., and UAA members will also be able to attend virtually via Zoom. Only UAA members whose annual dues payment for 2024 has been received by September 30, 2024, will be permitted to attend.

## What's New

### In Memoriam:

Howard Dean Pittman, Susan Collins Russell

### Bulletin Board

- **On Monday, June 24, at 9 a.m. EDT, at the USC Washington DC campus, 1771 N Street NW,** the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy, University of Southern California, and others, will hear from African experts about what the next 30 years of the ICPD means for Africa, regional priorities for the future of reproductive and sexual health, and what emerged from the 57th Commission on Population and Development. [Click here for details and to RSVP.](#)

### Articles

- [MFAN Statement on the House's FY25 State-Foreign Operations Bill.](#) This statement is delivered on behalf of the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN) by Co-Chairs Lester Munson, Larry Nowels, and Ritu Sharma. June 20, 2024, (WASHINGTON)
- [Devex, Humanitarian System at Crossroad, May 31, 2024](#)

### Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

#### **Program Officer / Advisor – USAID Benin**

On behalf of USAID/Benin's Office of Program Coordination (OPC), IBTCI is seeking the services of a Short-Term Technical Advisor to serve as a Program Advisor. The incumbent will provide services related to strategy, activity design, budget, and outreach and communications functions. The incumbent will support oversight of USAID/Benin's \$270 million five-year strategy's annual reporting responses; application of Agency guidance and priorities; and

support management of the program budget. [Click here](#) for details.

## UAA Spring Reception



Sonali Korde

On June 13 full sunshine greeted more than 60 people who celebrated this year's Spring Reception in DACOR Bacon's beautiful garden, joining 40 virtual attendees. Our emcee, UAA Co-Chair Ken Yamashita joined Co-Chair Roberta Mahoney in welcoming our members and guests and introducing our program. Our guest speaker, Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, Sonali Korde, offered perspectives on some of the seemingly insurmountable humanitarian challenges today and USAID's pragmatic approach to meeting these challenges.

As a 20-year veteran of the Agency, Sonali acknowledged the support that she received from current USAID alumni in guiding and mentoring her throughout her career. Further, she appealed to alumni to continue their outreach to communities across the U.S. to communicate what USAID does and relate foreign policy and programs to domestic audiences and interests. Special thanks to Susan Fine, Miles Toder, Christine Sheckler and Rebecca Black who shared their perspectives on USAID alumni activities outside of the DMV. On June 13 full sunshine greeted more than 60 people who celebrated this year's Spring Reception in DACOR Bacon's beautiful garden, joining 40 virtual attendees. Our emcee, UAA Co-Chair Ken Yamashita joined Co-Chair Roberta Mahoney in welcoming our members and guests and introducing our program. Our guest speaker, Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, Sonali Korde, offered perspectives on some of the seemingly insurmountable humanitarian challenges today and USAID's pragmatic approach to meeting these challenges. As a 20-year veteran of the Agency, Sonali acknowledged the support that she received from current USAID alumni in guiding and mentoring her throughout her career. Further, she appealed to alumni to continue their outreach to communities across the U.S. to communicate what USAID does and relate foreign policy and programs to domestic audiences and interests. Special thanks to Susan Fine, Miles Toder, Christine Sheckler and Rebecca Black who shared their perspectives on USAID alumni activities outside of the DMV.



Bob MacLeod, Franklin Moore, Tony Chan, and Jerre Manarolla



Denise Rollins, Ray Panjabi, Oren Whyche-Shaw, Tony Chan, and Jay Smith



Susan Kosinski Fritz, Michael Fritz, Erna Kerst, and Mike Kerst



Cheryl Anderson, and Andy Herskowitz

## John Legend Concert at Wolf Trap in Virginia

On Tuesday evening, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 14 UAA members and guests gathered at Wolf Trap to enjoy John Legend in concert, picnicking on the lawn before the concert and enjoying the companionship of friends. John Legend more than delivered – he recounted his life story and evolution as a musician from his humble, religious roots in Ohio to his current status as a world-renowned pianist/singer/songwriter. He regaled the audience with accounts of his grounding in choral music, moving from home schooling to public high school to attendance at University of Pennsylvania, then becoming a Boston Consulting Group consultant before devoting himself to a professional musical career. With all that the DMV area has to offer, we hope to organize more of these “self-pay” occasions when UAA members can meet and enjoy similar cultural events.



## UAA Annual General Meeting - October 11, 2024

Planning has progressed for the fall UAA Annual General Meeting. 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 can also attend virtually from wherever they reside. The substantive sessions will focus on the inter-dynamics between USAID development and humanitarian assistance in a world increasingly characterized by long-term, complex emergencies. You can read a description of the meeting's theme and panels by clicking [here](#) and see the latest version of the meeting agenda, including information on who has been invited to give the keynote address and participate on the panels, by clicking [here](#).

Only those members whose 2024 membership dues have been received by September 30 will be eligible to participate in the meeting. Associated activities are being planned prior to and following the AGM. On September 26, the UAA Development Issues Committee has scheduled a discussion from 10:30 to noon with Prof. Julia Irwin about her book, *Catastrophic Diplomacy: US Foreign Disaster Assistance in the American Century*. The UAA Social Events Committee is also planning a possible activity following the AGM. More information on these plans will be provided in future newsletters.

We promise you a very interesting and substantive AGM. We look forward to the active participation of UAA members in this meeting, both in-person and virtually by Zoom, and we continue to search for ways to increase the number of attendees. Please mention it to your friends.

## FSN Community Family Picnic

On Sunday, June 23, the USAID Counselor and his team celebrated the second annual Unity in the CommUNITY Family Picnic, acknowledging the contributions of former Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs). Nearly 300 former FSNs and their families arrived at Fort Hunt Park with loads of wonderful food from around the world and plenty of goodwill. The Bangladesh contingent was the largest represented, along with Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

Clinton White, Counselor to USAID, and his staff organized this highly successful event and covered associated costs. The USAID Alumni Association was honored to be invited. The UAA contingent included Sharon Pauling, Carol Peasley, Roberta Mahoney, Dave McCloud, Mary Alice Kleinjan, and Denise Rollins. It was great to see so many former FSNs who have made a life in the U.S. To see more photos of this event, [click here](#).



Dennis Rollins and former FSNs from USAID/Dhaka

## **2024 UAA Awards Program - Nomination Deadline is July 31**

Less than a month remains to nominate, or self-nominate, a deserving UAA alum for the signature Alumni of the Year award for international or domestic service. Through this annual awards program, the UAA will continue to recognize significant contributions by UAA members this year. 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. To view the 2024 Awards Program guidance, please [click here](#). The Awards Committee will accept nominations for Alumni of the Year until July 31, 2024. Send nominations electronically to: [awards@usaidalumni.org](mailto:awards@usaidalumni.org). The award winners will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting on October 11.

## **Nominations for the USAID Alumni Association Board**

There are three vacant positions on the UAA Board to be filled by vote of the Membership prior to the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) that will be held on Friday, October 11, 2024. Please note that this date is earlier than in previous years to accommodate the World Bank meetings as well as the U.S. elections in November.

The Board Nominations Committee is seeking to broaden the selection of candidates to fill these vacancies by soliciting current UAA members to seek nomination by a fellow member or self-nominate. The first requirement to serve is that you must be a 2024 UAA member (having made the required contribution on or after December 1, 2023). Candidates may have worked under any USAID hiring authority. The deadline for submission of candidates for the Board is close of business on August 2, 2024.

Candidates may be located anywhere, including outside the United States, as long as they have access to high-speed internet. Attendance at both monthly Board and Executive Committee Zoom meetings on weekday mornings, Eastern time, is expected. The Board of UAA is a working Board and all members, through their participation, contribute their time.

Consistent with UAA's Statement of Intent on Diversity and Inclusion, the Nominations Committee encourages UAA members who identify as coming from a diverse or under-represented community to self-nominate for Board membership. The Statement of Intent can be found under UAA Policies in the About Us section of the [UAA website](#). Whether self-nominating or being nominated by a fellow member of UAA, the following information needs to be sent to the Nominations Committee:

- Name
- Last position held at USAID, hiring authority, and date of retirement or most recent separation
- Examples of contributions to UAA or its operating framework/objectives as stated in the About Us section of the UAA website
- Brief statement of why you wish to join the Board

Please send your nomination to the members of the Nominations Committee NLT August 2, 2024, to allow adequate time for consideration.



The Nominations Committee members, Denise Rollins, Oren Whyche-Shaw, and Ken Yamashita can be reached at: [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org)

## Additions to the Bibliography of USAID Authors

A delightful book of historical fiction by **William C. Craddock**, a former USAID Foreign Service Officer, has been added to the [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#). *Nobles Gold* looks like great summer reading!! An unethical think tank is advising the newly elected U.S. President to return to the gold standard but the amount of gold needed is only available on Mars. Sam Noble, a State Department courier, is writing his first book based on his multiple travels and the book touches on lost civilizations and lost caches of gold. His first chapters are hijacked by the FBI and the think-tank. Sam escapes with his mystical Brazilian wife to her native Amazonian village where he makes an amazing discovery not far from where Theodore Roosevelt explored the legendary River of Doubt in 1914. It was that night of a waxing moon and spectacular meteor shower..

In maybe a first for this Bibliography, Larry Heilman's USAID in Bolivia: Partner or Patron has now been published and printed **in Bolivia** in Spanish as USAID en Bolivia: socio o patron? Larry tells me it was published by a university press (named "Plural") in Santa Cruz after being translated by Robert Brockmann. It includes 21 photos of USAID projects and people (including Stacy Rhodes and Steve Wingert). Please send info on any new books written by USAID foreign service and GS officers, their family members, and FSNs to [JPielemeie@aol.com](mailto:JPielemeie@aol.com).

## UAA-USAID Mentoring Program: Get Ready for Cohort 14

We are thrilled to announce the upcoming recruitment of mentors for Cohort 14 of the UAA-USAID Mentoring Program. We take pride in the success of Cohort 13, which was one of our largest yet, with 64 mentors and 70 mentees. This program, which has gained immense popularity, is a testament to the strong partnership between UAA volunteer mentors and USAID Foreign Service Officer (FSO) mentees posted overseas.

USAID highly values UAA's program for helping FSOs with their professional, personal, and career development. Many FSOs serve in challenging positions, and mentors provide the experience, expertise, and support to help mentees gain a more nuanced perspective.

For this program to continue its success, we need your invaluable contribution. As a UAA member, regardless of the time you've spent outside the Agency, you have a unique and privileged opportunity to lend an ear to current FSOs, enriching their professional growth and fostering dynamic leadership to address the Agency's priorities.

We deeply appreciate your consideration in joining us as mentors. Denise Rollins and Sharon Pauling will be in touch with you during the mentor

recruitment period in September. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

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

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

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