

## UAA HOSTS MISSION DIRECTORS AND COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES

On Thursday, July 31, 2024, the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) hosted a significant event, bringing together over 60 Mission Directors, Country Representatives, and senior staff from posts around the globe at a reception at the Yours Truly Hotel at Dupont Circle, NW in Washington. The evening was an excellent opportunity for more than 40 UAA members to reconnect with many MDs and former colleagues, set against the backdrop of a perfect venue, with a DJ playing music and UAA-funded appetizers. The new Agency leaders, now heading our most important international development programs worldwide, are a testament to the talent and commitment within our community. The team spirit was overwhelming among Foreign Service Officers and USAID alums, with notable camaraderie and bonding. The event allowed MDs and UAA members to socialize during the official MDs Conference.



UAA Board Member Denise Rollins, with MDs and UAA members

Conversations were filled with reminiscences and updates. 'Where are you now? How IS retirement? Do you remember...?' and 'So proud of what you're doing in...' were common themes. Team spirit, camaraderie, curiosity, and admiration were not just present but overwhelming. The event occurred on the margins of the Mission Directors' Conference in Washington.



UAA Karen Freeman, MD Afghanistan, Joel Sandefur, and MD West Bank/Gaza, Amy Tohil-Stull

Reflecting on this successful event, we eagerly look forward to the future. We are excited about seeing our colleagues in other programs, such as mentoring and resources for our development studies. We also hope to welcome many of you as members of UAA in the future, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for our community!



MD Kosovo, Eileen Devitt, UAA Denise Rollins, MD Guinea and Sierra Leone, Alexious Butler, and UAA Sharon Pauling



MD Zimbabwe, Janean Davis, UAA Sharon Pauling, and MD Rwanda and Burundi Keisha Effiom



Kenneth MacLean, Visiting Senior Advisor FIU, UAA John Beed, and MD Colombia, Anu Rajaraman



UAA Denise Rollins, Agency Counselor Clinton White, Sumitra Manandhar (former Nepal FSN), and UAA Sharon Pauling



UAA Earl Gast and MD Philippines, Ryan Washburn



MD Mozambique, Helen Pataki,  
MD South Sudan, David Thompson and  
UAA Sharon Pauling





UAA Karen Freeman, UAA Diana Putman,  
UAA/URC (University Research Company)  
Earl Gast and UAA Sharon Pauling



UAA Margot Ellis, UAA/RTI Paul Weisenfeld,  
UAA Sharon Pauling



UAA Sharon Pauling and MD Uganda,  
Daniele Nyirandutiye