

September 2024 Newsletter

From: USAID Alumni Association (office@usaidalumni.org)

To: stucallison@yahoo.com

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Note from the UAA Board

UAA's outreach efforts are accelerating! Over the past three years, Jim Bever, the champion of UAA's outreach, has developed our partnership with AFSA and its Road Scholars (AFSA/RS) program to promote a broader understanding of the Foreign Service, its members and its objectives. Working with former senior officials from State, USAID, Agriculture, and Commerce, AFSA/RS presents week-long learning programs for Americans from across the U.S. Jim has made dozens of presentations at these sessions to over 1,000 Americans from over 40 states. Roberta Mahoney and Cheryl Anderson are also joining this effort. Miles Toder and Christine Sheckler make presentations to different groups in their home states of Florida and California.

Helping Americans learn about development issues and programs is one of UAA's key priorities, and we are proud of the success of UAA's AFSA/RS partnership. We hope more UAA members will join in helping to grow our outreach capacity! See the article below for additional information on the AFSA/RS program and on how you can join UAA's outreach activities.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **New!** On **Friday, September 6, Sir Masood Ahmed**, Emeritus President and CEO of the Center for Global Development (CGD) and longtime World Bank, IMF and DFID official, will speak about **"Are we at a tipping point for development cooperation?"** at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue

(hybrid) lunch. To attend in person or on-line, please click **here**. To see the full announcement [click here](#).

- **New! UAA Annual Picnic – Saturday, September 7, 2024, from 12 p.m.- until 3:00 p.m.** at the Fort Hunt Park picnic area in Alexandria. We can't wait to see everyone! [Click here](#) for the details.
- **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:

Edward Michael Malloy, Syed Aamir Hussain, Rolf Hong, Seth Bloom, John M. "Jack" Miller, Roger Allen Bloom, Norman Cohen, Mary Kathleen Huntington, Marjorie Anne Koblinsky, Roberto Justino Castro Suarez, Judith "Judy" Davis Johnson

Bulletin Board

- Join the Fight for Democracy Regardless of party affiliation: National Security Leaders for America (NSL4A) is a bipartisan, all-volunteer organization established to counter growing threats to our democratic institutions, norms, and processes. We advocate for positions, values, and individuals

that strengthen the United States as a democratic nation.
See <https://www.nsl4a.org/>

- On Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. a memorial service will be held at Grace Church Cathedral in Charleston, SC, for Judith “Judy” Davis Johnson, who passed away on June 11, 2024.

Articles

- **Sustained Poverty Reduction via Inclusive Agricultural and Rural Development: Laying the Foundation for a Call to Action**, by David D. Bathrick, et. al., June 2, 2023, www.academia.edu (davidbathrick@gmail.com)
- **What’s Causing Widespread Lead Exposure in Developing Countries?** By [Rachel Bonnifield](#) and [Rory Todd](#), August 05, 2024, Center for Global Development
- **Ukraine Shows How US Foreign Aid Can Deliver**, Blog Post by Charles Kenny, July 24, 2024, Center for Global Development
- **MFAN Spotlights Recent Activities on Foreign Aid Reform**. MFAN, July 9, 2024.

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are recruiting for a director of the Board on Global Health.

We are looking for someone who is steeped in global health policy, skilled at program development and fundraising, and adept at supervising a team. Here is the posting — [Director – Board on Global Health-National Academies of Sciences Engineering Medicine-Keck Center \(vizirecruiter.com\)](#)

Monica N. Feit, PhD, MPH, Executive Director, Health and Medicine Division, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

UAA's Annual General Meeting, October 11, 2024

The 2024 UAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on October 11, 2024, at the Center for Global Development at 2055 L St NW in Washington, D.C. Members who wish to attend virtually will be able to join via Zoom. The meeting will begin at 9 am. Registration for in-person attendees will begin at 8:30, and coffee and snacks will be available from 8:30 until mid-morning. The meeting will end at 1:15 followed by lunch for in-person attendees. Members who register and attend virtually will be invited to a one-hour discussion of the themes of the meeting, and an opportunity to

see friends and former colleagues, via a zoom session moderated by AGM co-chair Steve Wingert on Monday, October 14, at 11 am EDT.

The theme for the AGM is the nexus between humanitarian aid and development assistance. An extraordinary number of crises and disasters, both natural and man-made, place enormous burdens on USAID and US foreign policy. USAID must assist countries to confront overwhelming humanitarian demands, while also focusing on the objectives of long-term development. Two panels will explore challenges faced by USAID headquarters and a field mission in addressing both humanitarian and development priorities, helping partner nations develop increased resilience and sustainability.

You can read a more detailed description of the meeting's theme and panels by clicking [here](#) and see the latest version of the AGM agenda, including information on who has been invited to give the keynote address and participate on the panels, by clicking [here](#). Other brief sessions during the AGM include presentation by the UAA Co-Chairs, Roberta Mahoney and Ken Yamashita, of the Association's Annual Report; and presentations honoring the 2024 Alumni of the Year awardees.

Contributing UAA members are welcome to participate. To do so, your UAA membership contributions for 2024 must be received by September 30. You can check the UAA website listing [here](#) to see if you have contributed for 2024. If you have not yet contributed, see the information on how to pay your 2024 membership contribution on the left-hand side of the home page of the UAA website.

Registration: The deadline to register to attend the AGM is Sunday, October 6. You will receive an email acknowledgement of your registration for the meeting. For those attending virtually, the Zoom link will be sent after registration for the meeting closes. Please click [here](#) to register to attend the AGM in person. Click [here](#) to attend the AGM virtually.

UAA Outreach Program



L to R: Amb. Jim Zumwalt (State), Phil Shull (USDA), Amb. John O'Keefe (State), Molly Williamson (Commerce and Defense), Roberta Mahoney (USAID)

UAA is working with AFSA and Road Scholar to increase understanding by Americans of U.S. programs in development. Over the past three years, Jim Bever has developed a partnership with AFSA and Road Scholar (AFSA/RS) to incorporate development as an important topic in week-long AFSA/RS programs which aim to broaden Americans' understanding of the objectives, activities and implementers of U.S. foreign policy. The programs include former senior officials from State, USAID, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Road Scholars come from across the U.S. They tend to be older, well-traveled and deeply experienced, and curious and engaged. Some have been professors and teachers, others have been senior corporate executives, and still others have traveled the world to learn and volunteer. Group



sizes range from 40 to 120. The programs take place in Chautauqua and Washington, DC. Since the Chautauqua program is residential, conversations and questions continue informally throughout the day: breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as breaks and evenings.

Preparing for and addressing these groups is indeed a labor of love. Jim put together presentations which he has delivered dozens of times – single-handedly speaking about the importance of US foreign assistance with over 1,000 fellow Americans from more than an estimated 500 communities in over 40 states.

UAA is now working to standardize presentations and grow our capacity to reach out to this promising group. In April, Roberta's presentation to a 40-person Washington group led to her making a series of six presentations to some 110 people at Chautauqua in June. Roberta will return to Chautauqua in September to give more presentations and Cheryl Anderson will make an initial Washington presentation earlier that month. Miles Toder and Christine Sheckler make presentations to different groups in Florida and in California, respectively, which we hope to highlight in the future. If you would like to help us grow our outreach capacity, please contact us! E-mail our Public Outreach Co-Chair, Christine Sheckler (cmtsheckler@gmail.com) or our Senior Advisor to the Board, Jim Bever (<https://bentonboy@gmail.com>).

Annual "Development Wallahs" Picnic in Vermont



On July 31st, the largest group yet of "development wallahs" gathered at the home of Ann and Mike Van Dusen for the annual USAID/UAA Vermont picnic. Hosted by Ann and Mike Van Dusen, along with Anne Aarnes and David Sprague, Connie Carrino and Jeff Sharat, and Margaret Neuse, some 30 friends and colleagues came from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and of course Vermont to enjoy the 15th annual Vermont-based picnic. In addition to the hosts, picnickers included: Tracy and Mary Atwood, Peter and Jenny Berman, Jim and Linda Bonner, Nils Daulaire, Susan Fine, Phyllis Dichter Forbes, Ellen Frost and Bill Pedersen, Bruno Kosheleff and Karen Broemme, Virgil Miedema and Barbara Spaid, Gary and Joan Newton, Walter North and Judy Ryan, Sara Seims and Paul Clermont, Anne Tinker, and Jason Weisfeld.

2024 UAA Board Elections

As we start preparing for the October 11 Annual General Meeting, we want to bring your attention to the elections for UAA Board positions. There are three vacant positions on the UAA Board to be filled by vote of the membership NLT October 4 prior to the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on October 11. No voting will take place at the AGM.

[Click for Bios and Ballot to vote here](#)

The UAA Board Nominations Committee announced the 2024 Board elections in the June UAA Newsletter, seeking to broaden the selection of candidates to fill the three vacancies by soliciting current members to consider nominating, or self-nominating, members. The only criterion for Board membership in the UAA Bylaws is that a Board member must be a member in good standing (meaning a 2024 contributing member) of UAA. In addition, the Nominating Committee took into consideration whether the candidate was an active participant in UAA committees or other programs and activities of UAA such that the candidate contributed to and was supportive of the work of UAA and was willing to invest time and energy into the activities of the UAA.

The Nominations Committee (Denise Rollins, Oren Whyche-Shaw, and Ken Yamashita) took into consideration a wide range of candidates. We believe we have put forward an exceptional slate of four candidates to fill the three vacant positions on the Board.

Please vote electronically for the UAA Board candidates by October 4. Thank you for your participation.

UAA Hosts Visiting 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. These senior field leaders had come to Washington to attend the official Mission Directors' conference. The evening was an excellent opportunity for more than 40 UAA members to reconnect with many Mission Directors and former colleagues, set against the backdrop of a perfect venue, with a DJ playing music and UAA-funded appetizers.



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. The room was filled with team spirit, camaraderie, curiosity, and admiration.

Overall, the 40 UAA members attending the event were most impressed by the strength, broad capability and resilience of their overseas guests. The new Agency leaders, now heading our most important international development programs worldwide, are a testament to the talent and commitment within our community. [Click here](#) to see more photos from this event.

Please Join UAA as Mentors for Cohort 14!

It is that time of year again: we need as many mentors as possible for the UAA-USAID Mentoring Program. Your experience as a USAID retiree/mentor is invaluable, and we are eager to continue the successful partnership between UAA volunteer mentors and USAID Foreign Service Officer mentees. Mentees want to learn from your experience and highly value your insights. You will find deep satisfaction in your conversations with FSO mentees, knowing that your expertise helps shape the next generation of USAID professionals. For Cohort 14, UAA and USAID will focus on FSO mentees in overseas positions in Senior Leadership Group assignments and those stationed in Africa, Asia, and Global Health Bureaus.

HOW TO SIGN UP AS A MENTOR:

- If you have been a UAA mentor previously, we have your profile. To confirm your participation in Cohort 14, you simply need to email Denise and Sharon by Tuesday, September 17th at their respective addresses (denise.rollins52@gmail.com and <https://sharonpauling1@gmail.com>). Please include your name, the cohort you mentored, and any updates to your profile in the email.
- If you have yet to join the ranks of UAA mentors, please complete the mentor profile by clicking [here](#) by Tuesday, September 17th, to summarize your experience and help us

match you to a promising FSO. Our matching process is thorough and considers both the mentor's and mentee's professional backgrounds, interests, and goals to ensure a productive and beneficial relationship for both parties. You will have the opportunity to concur on the match.

The most critical component of the program is you. Please join us! We will provide mentor training, support, and camaraderie. Your role as a mentor is not just important; it is crucial to the program's success and development of new leaders, as reaffirmed by the Cohort 13 program evaluation. As a mentor, you will spend an average of one to two hours each month talking with a USAID FSO about the challenges and issues they encounter in their careers. The time you devote can be among the most rewarding hours you will experience each month as you witness the significant and positive impact of your guidance on the mentees, knowing that you are playing a crucial role in their professional development. The Mentoring Program [flyer is linked here](#) for your review.

We expect to complete the matching process by December and will host a one-day mentor training in January that includes Agency leaders. The formal mentoring process for Cohort 14 is six months, from January to June 2025. For more information, please contact Denise Rollins and Sharon Pauling.

Additions to the Bibliography of USAID Authors

We're adding two new books by well-known retired USAID authors to the Bibliography of USAID Authors. Project management specialist Ken Smith's new book, *Musings on Project Management: A Compilation of Contemporary Concerns in Project Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation with Some Tools Suggested for their Solution*, discusses highlights of his career as a USAID Management specialist for the Far East Bureau, the Technical Assistance Bureau (TAB). and USAID missions in the Philippines, South Korea and Indonesia. Mark Wentling has recently published *Jackleg Boys*, a historical novel about two sons of a Virginia aristocratic family navigating the harsh realities of the post-civil war era as they undertake a perilous journey westward, "exploring the transformative power of desperation and the indomitable human spirit". Mark is the author of many Africa-focused books cited in the Bibliography including *Africa Memoir - 50 Years, 54 Countries, One American Life*.

Alumni Profile: Georgia Sambunaris

Georgia Sambunaris is a former USAID career civil servant and private sector and economic growth project officer who served a 35-



year career at the Agency. Born to Greek immigrant parents, she hails from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Her career path from college to USAID unfolded naturally through a summer job with USAID leading to a passport to make the world a better place.

Gloria grew up appreciating cultural values and was surrounded by a culturally and ethnically diverse group of friends and family striving toward the American Dream. Her love for travel, art and languages was nurtured by her travels to nearly 50 countries personally and primarily for professional assignments with USAID in Central America, Latin America and Caribbean, Europe and Eurasia, Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. Her commitment to international values has been sustained throughout the years.

Her higher education began at Penn State University in political science, but after her freshman year, she transferred to George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs for her BA. She was placed by GWU in an undergraduate summer job at USAID along with internships on Capitol Hill and the Embassy of Greece. USAID and the Foreign Service Officers, in particular, led her down a varied career path at USAID that lasted an entire career in private sector economic growth.

Georgia shared adventures and memories of some of her assignments. She recently met Ambassador Pickering at a Georgetown reception and shared a laugh at how they survived the FMLA guerillas in El Salvador while continuing their commitment to American diplomacy, aid, and partnerships abroad. She recalled another wonderful memory of working with the David Obey House Appropriations Subcommittee, thanks to USAID's Legislative Affairs Office.

Working on capital markets projects in Ukraine and corporate governance were the peak of her career under the leadership of the career FSOs in implementing the 14-year program in Europe and Eurasia. Knowing the strife affecting war-torn Ukraine and the Russian imbroglio has led to a post-career interest in participating in corporate governance forums.

Presently, Georgia is completing her contract at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. Her commitment to the community, Georgetown's values and USAID's mission has never wavered. She looks forward to contributing more to UAA's volunteer

work in the long term and evolving her freelance assignments to address the new globalization challenges.

Georgia may be reached at: Georgia.Sambunaris@gmail.com

Make Your 2024 UAA Membership Contribution
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