



USAID Alumni Association

October 2024 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

We are excited that Administrator Samantha Power has accepted our invitation to kick off the Annual General Meeting (AGM) this coming Friday with brief remarks, followed by an interactive conversation about the most important issues facing USAID. Today the world faces an extraordinary number of crises and disasters, both natural and man-made, which place enormous burdens on USAID and US foreign policy. The AGM theme of the “nexus between humanitarian aid and development assistance” is a topic that many of us have found challenging during our careers.

Former Administrator Andrew Natsios will set the scene for the panels with a personal commentary based on his years of experience in the Agency. The two panels, moderated by Chris Milligan and Tom Staal, will offer the opportunity for audience participation in the

'Question and Answer' sessions. We are enthusiastic about the highly experienced panelists with differing perspectives and years of practical field experience. We are pleased that so many of you have registered to participate, whether in person or virtually.

In conjunction with the AGM, our Executive Committee has compiled the Annual Results Report which highlights the significant accomplishments over the last year by our dedicated Committee members. The UAA Board Co-Chairs will summarize the results during the AGM. You can view the Report by [clicking here](#).

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

- **October 11 from 9 am to 1:30 pm is 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 the fact that USAID Administrator Samantha Power will give the keynote address in-person, and information on who will 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. Registration is now closed. For those attending virtually, the Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting date. If you have any questions, please contact the AGM Committee Co-Chairs, either Steve Wingert at wingerts@earthlink.net, or Terry Brown at t4brown99@aol.com.
- **October 10 from 5 pm to 9 pm there will be a Dinner Cruise on the Potomac River.** UAA members will enjoy a dinner cruise on the Potomac River, marking the commencement of the USAID Alumni Association General Meeting. The event is set to take place on Thursday, October

10, from 5 to 9 PM aboard the prestigious Washington Cruise Line. Enjoy an elegant evening of fine dining and entertainment on the Washington, DC Premier Dinner Cruise. This upscale event includes a chef-prepared plated meal and exceptional service. The evening promises to be a feast for the senses, with sweeping views of Washington, DC's iconic landmarks, such as the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, from both the indoor areas and the open-air decks. A live DJ will also be on board, playing all your favorite hits for an evening of dining and dancing on the water. Registration is now closed. If you have any questions, please contact the Social Committee Co-Chairs, either Karen Freeman at ugandakaren@hotmail.com or Margot Ellis at ellismargot@gmail.com.

What's New

In Memoriam:

Frank Young, Arthur Smith, Paula Sigrid Harrell, Donald Thomas McNelis

Bulletin Board

- [Memorial services for Arthur Smith will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2024](#), at Foundry United Methodist Church at 1 p.m, 1500 16th St NW.
- On Friday, October 18, 2024, the LAC Discussion Group will sponsor a luncheon session with presentations by Ambassador Brian Nichols, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, and Daniel Erikson, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the NSC. They will offer a "state of the region" overview, highlighting recent achievements and the many challenges that remain ahead. The hybrid event will take place from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street

NW, Washington, DC. Please [click here](#) for details and how to register.

Articles

- Brookings Commentary, "**Locally led and globally informed: Key themes on localization,**" by George Ingram, 20 Sep 2024
- Brookings Commentary, "**What is US Foreign Assistance?**", by George Ingram, 12 Sep 2024
- **USAID role in fostering regional cooperation on the Mekong,** Rebecca Root, Devex, 20 Sep 2024
- **MFAN applauds the Senate's FY25 State-Foreign Operations Bill for protecting vital funding and advancing aid effectiveness,** MFAN, Sept. 12, 2024
- **DACOR's New Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Luncheon Group** Looks to the Future by Reflecting on the Past, By Lynn Northcutt Vega, Ambassador Frank Almaguer and Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Sept. 11, 2024

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

Social Impact is seeking a Research Manager, ERA

SI is seeking a full-time Research Manager (RM) to support SI's Evaluation, Research, & Analytics (ERA) Division and will primarily be responsible for managing a portfolio of research projects for USAID, the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), The US Department of State, The World Bank, or other donor agencies and organizations. For details, [click here](#).

USAID Alumni Annual Picnic: A Windy Success!

Well, it didn't rain on our picnic this time! That said, Mother Nature was out in gale force, and it was a "bit chilly." Kudos to the well-prepared who were equipped with sweatshirts and blankets!! All told we had 50+ members present—some new, some old on September 7, 2024, in Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA. We enjoyed meeting new members and seeing the next generation of kids.



Despite the brisk winds and chilly temperatures, there was wonderful camaraderie and always warm and engaging conversations and delicious food!!

Thank you to everyone who braved the elements and made this event memorable! A special thanks to our extraordinary Social Committee (Karen Freeman, Margot Ellis, Denise Rollins, Sharon Pauling, Melissa Williams, Georgia Sambunaris, Susan Fine, Christine Sheckler, and Miles Toder), Ven Suresh and Carol Dabbs who kept us on financial and digital track and our UAA Leadership Team who supported the event.

We'll let you know what we have cookin' for the next year but if you have ideas, please let the Social Committee know! Hope to see you at the Annual General Meeting and the River Cruise the night before. See the full picnic rogue's gallery [here](#).



Join UAA Membership Committee

The Membership Committee wants you! We need a few committed members who want to volunteer to support the UAA to increase membership and its diversity, to establish regional chapters, and to establish relationships with other organizations. If you're interested in joining the Membership Committee, please reach out with your name and availability to Oren Whyche-Shaw at <https://orenwhyche@me.com>

Development Dialogues

Sir Masood Ahmed discussed "Are we at a Tipping Point for Development Cooperation?"



Sir Masood Ahmed and Alex Shakow at DACOR

On Friday, September 6, 2024, Sir Masood Ahmed, engaged in conversation with a crowd of UAA and DACOR members to discuss "Are we at a Tipping Point for Development Cooperation?" Masood has just retired as President of the Center for Global Development, capping off an illustrious and productive 45-year career as a leader in development thinking. This experience was evident through his insightful comments and thought-provoking challenges to all during this hour-long presentation. Follow the entire program by clicking on the link [here](#).

Development Issues Committee
Prof. Julia Irwin on her new book, *Catastrophic Diplomacy: US Foreign Disaster Assistance in the American Century*

On Thursday morning, September 26, 2024, Professor Julia Irwin spoke at a virtual program featured as a lead-in to the October 11



UAA AGM. This AGM's theme is the nexus between humanitarian and development assistance, a topic discussed at some length by Prof. Irwin in her recently published book *Catastrophic Diplomacy: US Foreign Disaster Assistance in the American Century*. She helped audience members understand how this relationship evolved over the past century, bringing us to where USAID

finds itself today. Click on this [link](#) to follow the program.

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USAID Alumni Association

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