



USAID Alumni Association

January 2025 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

Happy New Year from the UAA Board! We hope you had a delightful and memorable holiday season. We look forward to a new year of important challenges and exciting UAA activities.

Recognizing that this year is the first year of a new Administration, we will give priority to our engagement with USAID and supporting their transition efforts. We will also coordinate with other organizations to expand our public outreach efforts beyond the Washington metro area, starting with UAA's Florida Regional Committee. We hope you will join us at UAA social events, including the members-only Spring Reception at the DACOR Bacon House in Washington, DC. For UAA members outside the DC area, please let us know your ideas for social events so we can support your efforts. This year we will also continue our highly successful mentoring program, launching our 14th cohort this month.

We always look forward to hearing from you, so please let us know if you have questions or ideas. A reminder that as an all-volunteer association, we need you to sign up for our various committees. Please see the UAA website to read more about what each committee has been up to. Also, a reminder to pay your annual dues for 2025. If you have already done so, thank you! Finally, our deepest gratitude to the outgoing Board Co-Chair, Roberta Mahoney, who will remain on the Board as the liaison for the Outreach Committee.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

New! On Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 11:45 am-2:00 pm, there will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue at DACOR featuring Shanta Devarajan, Professor of Practice at Georgetown School of Foreign Service and previously a longtime World Bank senior economist. Professor Devarajan will speak on "Crises in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh: The Costs of Denial". To attend please [click here](#).

New! On Thursday, January 23, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM EST, the Development Issues Committee is pleased to sponsor a virtual discussion on “The World Bank: Outcomes of the Fall Meetings and Future Directions.” The featured speaker will be Karen Mathiasen, of the Center for Global Development. The discussion will be open to all UAA members who have made a 2024 or 2025 contribution. Registration link will follow on the UAA website. Please register by January 20.

New! On Friday, February 7, 2025, there will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue at DACOR featuring Dr. Charles “Ok” Pannenberg, formerly the World Bank’s chief health scientist/director. He will speak on “The Impact of a Plastics Pandemic: multiple severe diseases of unknown origin, significantly declining human fertility, and the wider policy implications for all nations.” Further details of this luncheon will follow closer to the event. To attend this event, [click here](#).

What's New

In Memoriam:

Jack Arnold Royer, David I. Steinberg, Priscilla Sampil, George Ray Gardner, Jr., Arthur D. Silver, Elizabeth Ann Donahue

Bulletin Board

- [Fireside Chat with Former Deputy Secretary of State Stephen E. Biegun](#), 7 January 2024, beginning at 4:30 pm at the [DACOR Bacon House](#), 1801 F Street, NW. The discussion will be followed by a happy hour. Mr. Biegun will share his thoughts on the new Trump administration and what it will mean for U.S. diplomatic efforts around the world. The session will be moderated by Ambassador Deborah McCarthy. More information and a link to register can be found here: <https://www.memberleap.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=52853>

Articles

- [MFAN would like to wish you Happy Holidays and take this opportunity to share an update on our coalition’s work since our last update in June](#), MFAN, 19 Dec 2024.
- [Bill Steiger on how AID will change](#), Devex, 12 Dec 2024
- [AID and Growth](#), Devex, 11 Dec 2024
- [“2024 Election Analysis: Top Takeaways”](#) by USGLC, 9 Nov 2024

Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

Join the AFSA Team!

The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) seeks an exceptional leader to serve as our Professional Policy Issues Director at our Washington, D.C., headquarters. The incumbent in this pivotal role reports directly to the AFSA President and is instrumental in safeguarding the future of the Foreign Service by advocating for policies that ensure its strength and sustainability. Apply by January 31, 2025. [Click here](#) for details. Posted 14 Dec 2024

General Call for Consultants: Subject Matter Expert Instructors

EnCompass LLC is seeking Consultants to serve as Subject Matter Expert (SME) Instructors for a wide variety of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) courses under the PLR/TPOD contract: Activity Design and Management, M & E, Budget Management, Program Office Skills.

Click here for details: [recruitment notice for SME Instructors for TPOD.](#)

UAA Working With FSNs

USAID's Foreign Service Nationals are represented by the FSN Advocacy Council. The newly elected FSN Advocacy Council (AC) met the outgoing council in Washington this past December for a weeklong handover session. UAA members Chris Milligan and Jim Bever engaged with both councils to explain the benefits of UAA membership. They also reviewed UAA support provided to the FSN AC and discussed potential areas of further cooperation. FSN AC members proposed support in the areas of mentoring/coaching, career development, and assistance for FSNs resettling in the States.



USAID Foreign Service Nationals Advocacy Council, December 2024

UAA Outreach Committee at Work!

During the September Road Scholars' Foreign Affairs Week at the historic Chautauqua Institution in western New York state, Roberta Mahoney (in person) and Jim Bever (virtually) led presentations and discussions on international development, foreign aid and national security. 150 Road Scholars from 25 states participated in the program. This was the sixth time in three years that UAA has participated in these semi-annual week-long Road Scholars programs on foreign affairs. Collectively over the past three years, UAA has reached out publicly to speak about the value of US foreign aid to 1,250 fellow Americans from over 600 communities in over forty States.



Roberta Mahoney, UAA Co-Chair



Jim Bever, UAA Outreach Advisor

Two active UAA members participated in the recent World Affairs Councils of America National Conference held Nov 20-22 at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC. Alumnus Alan Van Egmond (who is also on the Board of Naples World Affairs Council in Florida) represented UAA. He was joined by UAA Executive Committee Public Outreach Co-Chair Christine Sheckler, who is also the immediate past president of the San Diego World Affairs Council of California. They interacted with over 90 Presidents of World Affairs Councils from over 40 states and discussed tangible actions in Florida and southern California that UAA and World Affairs Councils could take together during 2025.



Alan Van Egmond



Christine Sheckler



Miles Toder

Finally, under the auspices of the newly-appointed UAA Senior Advisor for Regional Chapters, Miles Toder, the UAA Florida Chapter has become an established active group of USAID Alumni. On November 15 UAA/Florida members gathered in Fort Myers for a program in conjunction with the Foreign Service Retirees Association of Florida. On January 17 UAA/Florida will host another event in Sarasota in conjunction with Florida FSRA and the visit of AFSA President Thomas Yazdgerdi.

New Additions to Bibliography of USAID Authors

Five new books have been added to the [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#), bringing our total this year to 24, including one for children, *The Abled Little Elephant* by Sarah Jean Harrison, and another for young adults, *Level Up* by Steve Scott. Bill Sugrue has just published *Expect Delays*, a compilation of his and other memoirs and we belatedly add his personal Peace Corps memoir, *It Ate One Hundred* which starts with the first night in his Peace Corps village when his neighbor dies from snakebite. A very topical addition is mission director John Pennell's *Assessing Russia's Actions in Ukraine and Syria*. To access our full UAA Bibliography click [HERE](#).

Please send info on any new books written by USAID foreign service and GS officers, their family members, and FSNs to JPielemeie@aol.com.

Visit the UAA Website Bulletin Board!

A few years ago we established the Bulletin Board to provide our readership with a wide variety of information. This is your source of announcements of events and information from our numerous affinity groups and USAID as well as updates on funerals and memorial services. Items are posted weekly, sometimes even daily, often falling with dates that occur between our UAA Newsletters. Suggest that you drop in periodically to find notice of events sponsored by USAID, DACOR, USGLC, CGD, MFAN, ADST and others. To access the Bulletin Board, just go to our UAA website and click on the subheading UAA Bulletin Board. <https://usaidalumni.org/>

New Oral Histories Posted on ADST Website

Over the past six months, ADST has posted on its website 28 new oral history interviews with former USAID officers: Paige Alexander, Rick Barton, Tim Beans, John Beed, Marge Bonner, Steve Callahan, Stu Callison, Don Clark, Dirk Dijkerman, Dave Eckerson, Lloyd Feinberg, Susan Fine, Dale Gibb, Paula Goddard, Dave Harden, Steve Haykin, Bob Ichord, Irene Koek, Neil Levine, John Lovaas, Gary Newton, Tom Nicastro, Alexi Panehal, Tim Resch, Mark Silverman, Nancy Tumavick, Liz Warfield, John Westley, and Holly Wise. You can check them out here: <https://adst.org/oral-history/oral-history-interviews>

All of the interviews are informative; most also include some fun stories and surprises. Some questions to encourage you to read

about your former colleagues. Who was born in Vietnam? in Indonesia? Who met Pedro Martinez and David, "Big Papi," Ortiz while working? How many of these 28 folks went to Colby College? How many played in the West African Invitational Softball Tournament? How many worked as Congressional staffers before joining USAID? Who was questioned about their Southern accent while working for Senator Ted Kennedy? You'll find answers to all of these questions -- and garner a lot of serious lessons learned about international development and foreign policy -- when you check out the ADST oral histories.

Many more interviews will be posted in the coming months before the current grant from USAID ends on March 31. If you want to keep up with ADST's public outreach and use of its vast archive of oral histories, suggest you sign up for their newsletter: <https://adst.org/contact-us/>

Make Your 2025 UAA Membership Contribution
USAID Alumni Association

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

-
-
-
-