



USAID Alumni Association

March 2025 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

A Call to Action

To say that the past month has been extraordinary is an understatement. We expected the new administration to change and reform USAID. However, none of us imagined their chaotic and mean-spirited dismemberment of the agency, demeaning actions toward staff, closing systems and office buildings, and imposing impossible timelines for overseas staff to return to the U.S.

The Board of Directors of UAA salutes the women and men of USAID across all hiring categories for their dedication to their professional work and their compassion for their colleagues and beneficiaries. During the past month, we have often heard staff expressing concerns about programs and counterparts, putting these concerns before their own situation and safety. Some of USAID's foreign service nationals have faced scrutiny from their own government and security forces, who are acting on false claims that USAID staff are "corrupt criminals." We admire the tenacity and bravery of our colleagues in keeping programs going despite the grave challenges and security risks they face.

This month's newsletter is dedicated to the rapidly unfolding events affecting USAID. We encourage you to read the articles and documents in UAA's Bulletin Board, which provide updates, editorials, and transcripts from interviews with the agency's current and former leaders. We will continue to send email blasts with information and updates, asking for your support and action, especially as our colleagues begin to return from overseas.

We ask for your patience. We will send out more information and requests as soon as possible.

Latest News

A Somber Winterfest

On February 23rd, the UAA held its 12th annual Winterfest. Though usually a time for camaraderie, this year's event was urgent and somber. Several speakers addressed efforts by newly formed advocacy groups focusing on media outreach, mobilization, and engagement, along with actions taken by the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA).

Members voiced pressing concerns about the status of current officers serving overseas, the treatment of returning families, and the well-being of the foreign service nationals who have dedicated their lives and careers to the U.S. government. Initially set for 3:00 - 5:00 pm, the event extended well beyond its scheduled time as members participated in intense and passionate discussions. Despite the heartbreak, Winterfest strengthened our shared commitment to one another, our mission, and those USAID has served for nearly 64 years.

How Can I Help? This link is to a shared Google Doc: please add your name and indicate the area(s) in which you would like to engage. Thank you! Many members have reached out to ask how they can help. The UAA website will be updated in the next few days to include more information and links to organizations working on various related issues. These issues have been organized into four areas: communications and media, legislative and judicial matters, repatriating staff (including welcoming committee), and displaced domestic and FSN staff. You can find this information in the Bulletin Board Tab at the top of the website, under the "How Can I Help" subject. In addition, the Bulletin Board includes links to usaidstopwork.com, a site working with the OneUSAID Community to collect volunteers in various categories.

Lastly, regardless of whether you live in the Washington metropolitan area or beyond, we urgently need volunteers to support staff returning from overseas. At this time, we have limited information on exact timing, whether a charter flight might bring back a large number, where they will land, and their future status. As soon as we have information on arrivals, we will send out an email blast with the information. We hope you will be able to volunteer as a welcoming committee for our colleagues.

Finally, to quote our colleague Owen Cylke; "These [cancelled] projects are not simply the work of USAID officers and contractors. They are often joint projects with host country governments and civic organizations. Their abrupt termination, without consultation, will result in the collapse of host country-led initiative, the loss of thousands of host country employees, and the loss of confidence in America. The ripple effects outside of the United States are profound. There will be no chance of return."

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

New! On **Friday, April 4, at 11:45 am, Danny Leipziger will speak at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue luncheon** session (also available on-line) at DACOR. Danny is Managing Director of the Growth Dialogue, Professor of Practice of International Business at George Washington University, and former World Bank Vice-President. His topic will be "**Is Industrial Policy Still a Dirty Word?**" To register for this event please [click here](#).

What's New

In Memoriam: Nancy Louise Raubitschek

NOTE: Bulletin Board and Article entries during the last month

have been too numerous to list all of them here, so only a few that deserve special mention and did not receive wide distribution follow. For those interested in seeing more, please follow these links:

- 1) [Bulletin Board](#)
- 2) [Articles](#)

Bulletin Board

- **UAA Statement in support of our overseas local staff, February 15, 2025**
 - **UAA Statement in Support of the Office of the Inspector General, February 12, 2025**
 - **UAA Letter to SecState Rubio, February 11, 2025**
 - **Statement of the USAID Alumni Association about the Administration's recent actions affecting USAID, February 5, 2025**
 - **Stand Up for Aid Situation Report #2 02.27.2025**
 - **OneUSAID Community Updates, 28 Feb 2025**
 - **Save USAID, Benefit America: Grassroots Outreach Toolkit**
 - **Timeline of the Dismantling of USAID**
 - **Save USAID, Benefit America, Grassroots Outreach Toolkit**
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Articles

(Click on the "Articles" link above for more articles posted on our website. Click on the boldface item headings there and below for a hyperlink to the full article or video.)

- **Letter to the Editor: Why it is a Mistake to Dismantle USAID and Foreign Assistance.** by Rebecca Black, Retired Senior Foreign Service Officer and Former Mission Director with USAID, *Sandoval Signpost*, Sandoval County, New Mexico, 10 Feb 2025

"Without USAID and its humanitarian and development assistance, the face of the US overseas will be armed force and diplomacy, with diplomacy likely to be transactional. As parents and teachers know, relationships built on force and threats are fragile; trust, empathy, and reliability are far better foundations to build a world friendly to the US."

- **USAID, America's Helping Hand, Dies at 64,** Letter from Gary Newton to the Editor of *Portland Press Herald*, a Maine newspaper, 14 Feb 2025

"It can take an obituary to get to know someone — too late...Most Americans don't know the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)... So, now USAID is dead, and people are reading its obit, many learning for the first time about the good work done during its 64 years. It took the callous elimination of USAID, the mindless amputation of America's helping hand, to get to know the agency and the value of foreign aid."

- **US shooting itself in the foot by gutting USAID, says former Deputy Administrator James Kunder,** interviewed by Christiane Amanpour on CNN, 13 Feb 2025. A video interview.



- **CNN interview with Chris Milligan, retired USAID Counselor, about chaotic effects of current USAID personnel policies, 12 Feb 2025**

"We had a very positive experience under the first Trump administration... the very same types of programs that were put in place under the Trump administration are now on hold,... the same employees that serve honorably and supported President Trump's initiatives are now being denigrated. It's really hitting the employees overseas a lot harder. It's hitting everyone hard, but those overseas are in a particularly vulnerable situation. They're not getting clear guidance. Some are told, be ready to pack your bags and others are saying, sit and wait. So a lot of them are in survival mode. They are trying to protect their families. They are being prepared to be evacuated. They have no homes to go to. They are being told to have to leave their possessions and pets behind. They're having difficulty accessing health care..."

- **The World needs USAID, Letters to the Editor, The Washington Post, 9 Feb 2025**

"I know foreign aid is an effective use of taxpayer dollars from my 38 years with USAID, where I helped implement the policies of both parties. I was privileged to help Egypt, Bangladesh and Mali reduce hunger and triple their food production, often eliminating dependence on U.S. food aid. My colleagues helped Bangladeshis who wanted to have smaller families, leading to an end of the country's out-of-control population growth. In postcommunist Europe, we helped create vibrant civil society institutions and we took the best of U.S. health protocols to countries that had, for decades, been shut out of global health best practices." --David Atwood, *Arlington*

- **Two Letters from USAID family to NYTimes in today's edition, 8 Feb 2025**

"Like so many, I awoke on Monday to this post on X from Elon Musk: 'We spent the entire weekend feeding USAID into the woodchipper. Could gone to some great parties. Did that instead'...What kind of person gloats as he destroys an organization that has helped save millions of people from AIDS, Ebola and other infectious diseases? That responds to disasters with lifesaving assistance? That trains health care workers and election workers and government leaders? That shares our democratic values? An agency whose symbol of a handshake appeared on millions of

bags of food commodities shared in times of famine, earning America gratitude and admiration?" --Irene Posner Cohn, San Francisco

- **CBS – Andrew Natsios, former USAID administrator, again strongly defends USAID**, 6 Feb 2025. A video interview.



Jobs & Volunteer Opportunities

For the DACOR and DACOR Bacon House Foundation community:

Further to my announcement of February 12th regarding the retirement of John Bradshaw, I am posting today the job description for a new permanent Executive Director for DACOR and the DACOR Bacon House Foundation. Please make your contacts aware of this unique opportunity for a motivated leader.

[Please click here for the job description.](#)

Sincerely,
Angela R. Dickey, President
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