



USAID Alumni Association

September 2025 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

September: the end of summer and, this year, the end of USAID as we knew it. By September 2, DEVEX reported that barely three dozen employees were left to finalize close-out activities and out-processing of staff members. Excluding lives lost, careers and families up-ended, and goodwill extinguished, some accounts predict that the costs of legal fees, contract terminations, expiration and destruction of emergency foods and medicines, loss of materials and supplies, severance payments, and more, could meet or exceed the 'savings' of shuttering USAID. A colossal waste of resources and a disastrous blow to the world's most vulnerable populations as well as to US international standing.

The dissolution of USAID has brought a surge of new members to UAA: our ranks have grown by several hundred in the last few months, nearly doubling our membership. WELCOME! Now we need your voices, thoughts, ideas and energy to help UAA transition to the new reality: UAA without USAID! What should we do? What should be our priorities? Who should be our members and how can we best serve them? What of advocacy efforts?

We will begin this journey with Listening Sessions at 8:00am and 5:00pm on September 18 to gather ideas from all members. We hope you have received an email inviting you to join one of two listening sessions. If you did not receive the email, please let us know by contacting office@usaid.alumni.org. We are looking forward to engaging with you. Hoping to see many of you at UAA events this fall including our Annual General Meeting.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

New! **Tuesday, September 9, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM EST**, the Development Issues Committee is pleased to sponsor a virtual discussion with [Homi Kharas](#), Senior Fellow – Global Economy and Development, Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution to discuss his thinking on transitioning “From Aid-Driven to Investment-Driven Models of Sustainable Development.” His co-authored working paper on this topic may be found [here](#). This discussion is intended to serve as a lead-in to the October 31 UAA AGM panel discussion on The Future of Development Cooperation.

The discussion is open to all UAA members who have made a 2025 contribution. On Sunday, September 7 all those who registered will have received an email with information on how to join the Zoom meeting. Given the overwhelming response, registration has closed for this event.

New! On **Friday, September 12, 2025, at 11:00 AM**, the September **FSRA-FL Luncheon with Ambassador Liliana Ayalde** will discuss “How Diplomacy and Development in Our World Have Changed.” This will take place at the Aloft Hotel, 202 SE 5th Ave., in Delray Beach, FL. [Click Here](#) for event information and registration. See article below for details.

New! On **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**, from 11:45 – 2:00 there will be a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue luncheon (and virtual) at DACOR. The featured speaker will be **Liz Schroyer**, the President and CEO of the **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition** – a broad-based coalition of over 500 businesses and NGOs that advocates for strong U.S. global leadership through development and diplomacy. She will speak on “**How America Wins in The World**”. To register for this event please [click here](#).

New! **UAA Annual General Meeting October 31, 2025**, will again be held at the Center for Global Development in Washington DC, and virtually for those who cannot attend in person. Look for registration notices in September and early October. See the article below for information on the event.

Amazing Turnout at UAA Annual Picnic at Fort Hunt

On September 6 UAA’s Annual Picnic was held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, opening the doors to all former USAID staff and families. It was a sunny warm afternoon as hundreds made their way to the pavilion. Roughly 500 people streamed into the area spreading blankets and chairs under the trees and filling tables with an incredible array of dishes. With banners celebrating USAID Forever people renewed friendships, shared experiences and plans. Our congratulations and appreciation to the many people who contributed, planned and supported the day. The Social Committee, Karen Freeman, Margot Ellis, Denise Rollins,

Melissa Williams, Sharon Pauling and Monika Gorzelanska is grateful for the support of Cheryl Anderson, Beth Hogan, Carol Dabbs, David McCloud, Roberta Mahoney and Chris Milligan and so many others who pitched in to make the day such welcoming and historic success for UAA.

Look for more photos to come!



What's New on the UAA Website

In Memoriam: Nicholas Christopher Howe MacNeil, William John Garvelink, Rodney William Johnson, John H. "Jack" Sullivan, Bruce Duncan Carlson, Catherine Ann Savino, Patty S. Gerlach, D. Bruce Kellogg, Richard Hale Fischman, James Beebe, Stanley Davis Heishman

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

- **Global Community Day: A Celebration of International Service**

When: Saturday, September 13, 3–8pm (rain date: Sep. 20)

Where: Meridian Hill/Malcolm X Park, Washington, DC

RSVP here for weather & other updates: <https://tinyurl.com/4jfhvupt>

Sponsored by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B, in partnership with OneAID

- **Evaluation of the Department of State's Approach to Realigning U.S. Agency for International Development Functions.** Office of Inspector General, U. S. Department of State, May 2025
- **The Price of Retreat: America Cedes Global Leadership to China.** Senate Foreign Relations Committee Report, July 2025

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.)

- **American soft power doesn't need reform — it needs a complete redesign.** By Mark Green, opinion contributor, *The Hill*, 26 Aug 2025
- **A Letter to America's Discarded Public Servants.** By William J. Burns, *The Atlantic*, August 20, 2025
- **Brookings' and former USAID Mission Director Patrick Fine's Warning.** By Anna Gawel, *Devex Newswire*, 18 Aug 2025
- **Anne Applebaum Reports from Sudan, "This Is What the End of the Liberal World Order Looks Like."** The Atlantic's September Cover Story, *The Atlantic*, 6 Aug 2025
- **USAID official blows whistle on foreign aid chaos under Trump.** By Helen Murphy, *Devex Newswire*, 30 July 2025
- **What happened to Marco Rubio?** Opinion piece by Lynn Northcutt Vega, in *South Florida SunSentinel*, 29 July 2025
- **USAID gives developing nations growth, and the US a better image.** By Ned Greeley, *The Keene Sentinel*, 25 July 2025
- **After USAID Demolition, These Alumni Are Keeping Its Projects Alive.** By E.B. Boyd '89, *Princeton Alumni Weekly*, 22 July 2025
- **When USAID Disappears.** By Jim Bever, *The Foreign Service Journal*, July-August 2025
- **USAID's Legacy in Benin.** By USAID FSNs in Benin, July 2025
- **The cause of Sudan's crisis.** Letter to Editor from Ken Isaacs, former head of OFDA, re Sudan, *The Washington Post*, 11 July 2025
- **His USAID career over, one worker wonders if he can still serve his country.** By Story Hinckley, *The Christian Science Monitor*, 1 July 2025
- **USAID cuts may cause 14 million more deaths in next five years, study says.** By Kelsey Ables, *The Washington Post*, 1 July 2025

Bibliography of USAID Authors

There are two new additions that have been added to the Bibliography. Read the summaries here:

Wentling, Mark G., *Born in Kansas but Made in Africa. An American Man's Recollections of 50 years in Africa. 2025.* Self-Published in Paperback. ISBN 9798291 722077

Gallagher, Mark, 2025. *A Seat at the Table: Tales from Nations in Transition.* Self-Published. ISBN-13:979-8286999088.

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

New Section on "Latest FSN News"

The UAA FSN Working Group has established a section on the UAA website home page entitled Latest FSN News. Updates of information that may be useful for former FSNs are being posted there. The postings include copies of a UAA letter to Secretary Rubio urging fair treatment of FSN staff during the RIF process, a letter signed by over 1,700 FSNs to the Secretary, information useful for resume preparation, and many other materials. We will continue to add new material that seems relevant. We also encourage former FSNs and other former USAID staff to send us documents you believe should be posted in that section. Please check it out! [Click here](#).

UAA's USAID Staff Financial Support Fund Update

We are most appreciative of all who have supported the UAA fund that is providing grants to USAID staff terminated as a result of the dissolution of USAID by the current administration. To date we have received 136 donations that will give us about \$246,000 to distribute. We have received 173 grant applications, of which about 140 are eligible for the fund program. Of those eligible, we have approved 77 grant requests and disbursements began a few weeks ago. The others are in the works. For those doing the math, it will be obvious that we need more resources to be able to meet both current and future grant requests. We receive weekly batches of applications: the most recent batch included about 80 applications and we expect many in the next batch given that the fund is becoming more widely known and many staff are being terminated as of 9/1. We encourage those who are able to donate as much as possible so that we can continue to assist our colleagues in need. The link is below. Questions may be sent to uaafund2025@gmail.com

[Donate to USAID Staff Financial Support Fund](#)

Annual "Development Wallahs" Picnic in Vermont

More than 40 former USAID employees gathered for a picnic in Rochester, Vermont on July 23. The gathering included long-time retirees as well as those who were dismissed in the last few months as USAID was dissolved. In addition to many Vermonters, people came from Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut to renew friendships, celebrate USAID's achievements and share information on efforts to assist those who were dismissed without notice or support.

Vermont residents Ann and Mike Van Dusen, Anne Aarnes and David Sprague, Connie Carrino and Jeff Sharat, and Margaret Neuse co-hosted the picnic. Susan Fine, UAA's coordinator for New England, described UAA's on-going programs and plans for future activities in the region. David McCloud explained UAA's recently established grant program to assist staff facing medical, housing, and other immediate crises. Roberta Mahoney also discussed UAA's efforts to preserve vital information about USAID programs and achievements over the past 64 years and to help USAID's staff navigate career transitions.

This was the 18th year that USAID alumni have organized the Development Wallahs picnic in Vermont. Despite the abrupt and destructive liquidation of USAID, attendance at the picnic was the highest ever and pride in USAID's accomplishments was off the charts.



Upcoming Event in Florida

The Foreign Service Retiree Association of Florida (FSRA-FL) in conjunction with the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) is hosting a luncheon with one of our own members, Ambassador Liliana Ayalde, as the featured speaker on Friday, September 12 at 11:00 am. Following the luncheon, members of the Florida regional chapter of UAA, other USAID alumni and foreign service colleagues from other foreign affairs agencies

are invited to a side-meeting from 2:00-3:30 to welcome former USAID employees returning to Florida as our community of global development professionals grows. We will be celebrating the work we did in reducing poverty, improving lives, mitigating suffering from natural and man-made disasters and looking to the future where lessons learned can be applied here at home and, once again, abroad. For those unable to join either the talk or the side meeting, send our UAA Outreach Advisor Miles Toder an email at milestoder@hotmail.com and he will share a Zoom link to enable you to participate virtually.

UAA Annual General Meeting October 31, 2025

The AGM will again be held at the Center for Global Development in Washington DC, and virtually for those who cannot attend in person. The agenda this year will be quite different, given the demise of USAID as an organization and the global trends in reduction of development assistance.

Jim Kunder, former Deputy Administrator, will be the **Keynote** speaker. He will remind us of USAID's solid legacy and the commitment of its Officers over the past six decades, as well as the importance of harnessing our collective commitment and expertise to envision the future for international development cooperation. The **UAA Board** will report on the work UAA has accomplished this year, especially since January, ranging from supporting recently RIFed USAID staff to helping capture and preserve the knowledge accumulated over the years. A session entitled "**The Future of International Development Cooperation**" will discuss possible ways development support will be conducted in the future. It will be moderated by Raj Kumar, President of Devex, and feature three panelists with extensive experience in different aspects of international development programs, including one with a third-world perspective.

We will then have a session, led by UAA Board members, to discuss the **Future of the USAID Alumni Association**, and how it can remain relevant and useful to UAA members in the future. Preparation for that session will include listening sessions in September with new members to ensure their ideas are fully considered. For all these sessions, there will be plenty of time for open discussion with both in-person and virtual participants. Following the conclusion of the meeting, time is available for a leisurely lunch for those attending in-person to reconnect with friends and welcome new members.

[Click here](#) to see the draft AGM agenda. Look for registration notices in September and early October. Unfortunately, the meeting room at CGD is limited to 130 people, and we expect more will want to attend. We will have a waiting list for people who register after we reach our limit and use it to replace cancellations. Sign up early! We don't expect a problem with those who register to attend the meeting virtually, as CGD indicates that they can accept 500 participants.

Development Dialogues

Yun Sun on “How Will China Exploit the Retreat of U.S. Diplomacy and Aid?”



On July 22, 2025, a large crowd at DACOR and online heard a very interesting and detailed presentation from Yun Sun, Senior Fellow and Co-Director of the East Asia Program and Director of the China Program at the Stimson Center. Her topic at this UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue luncheon was the timely “How Will China Exploit the Retreat of U.S. Diplomacy and Aid?” [Click here](#) to see the full program, including the Q&A period.

Profile: Christopher Crowley



Christopher Crowley is a veteran American foreign service officer who served 42 years with the U.S. Agency for International Development, retiring in 2013. He began his USAID service in Vietnam, including the 1975 evacuation and subsequent refugee resettlement efforts. After Vietnam, Chris was an International Development Intern and Assistant Program Officer in Seoul, South Korea and Damascus, Syria.

After a two-year excursion as a desk officer in Washington and long-term training, Chris returned abroad, first to India, then moving on to Egypt where he eventually became Deputy Mission Director. His return to India

was something of a homecoming, since he had served there as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1966-68.

Not long afterward, the Oslo Middle East Peace Process culminated in a series of accords that ultimately included the establishment of a USAID Mission for West Bank/Gaza, so Chris did not have to move too far when he was appointed the first Mission Director for this new post. Those were the early, heady years of the so-called “two-state” solution that many hoped could bring peace to the Middle East.

In 1999, Chris was appointed the director of the Regional Mission for the Newly Independent States (NIS) of Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus, a job that brought a whole new series of challenges, including attempts to undermine fledgling democracies in all three countries. The famous Orange Revolution in Ukraine occurred during this period. Chris also

served as Director of the Regional Mission for Central Asia before heading back to the Middle East. That posting would be to Iraq, or as Chris has been known to think of it, “the other book end” of his career, beginning and ending with conflict.

Chris formally retired after he finished his tours in Baghdad in 2010 but he returned to USAID a couple of months later, in some category or other, as Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East. He took over this position just as the “Arab Spring” was about ready to begin. He didn’t entirely quit in 2013, serving two short “acting” stints in the Middle East over the next couple of years. He also served for two years as co-chair of the USAID Alumni Association, and he remains active in the UAA.

Chris retired as a Career Minister. He holds advanced degrees from The University of Pennsylvania and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He is married to Rodeina Abdel Fattah, who also served in the USAID Missions of Egypt, Ukraine, Central Asia and Iraq, as well as USAID/Washington.

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USAID Alumni Association

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