



USAID Alumni Association

June 2026 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

We Remember

The USAID Memorial Wall has been relocated to the D Street entrance of the Department of State. The names inscribed there will also appear in the memorial space at the C Street entrance. The USAID Alumni Association is deeply grateful to the American Foreign Service Association for honoring our colleagues during this year's Foreign Service Day commemoration, where we recognized the friends and colleagues whose names were recently added to the USAID Memorial Wall. We also appreciated the State Department ceremony, hosted by Deputy Secretary Christopher Landau, that was held for the families and loved ones of the fallen.

The USAID Memorial Wall is not simply a list of names, but a testament to service. It stands as a quiet yet enduring reminder that the strength and advancement of the United States have never depended solely on military or economic power. They have also depended on the courage and dedication of Americans who chose to serve others far from home—often in difficult and dangerous places, often without recognition, and always with faith in the enduring values of this nation.



Each name inscribed on this wall represents a life devoted to something larger than self. These individuals carried the American story into villages recovering from famine, cities shattered by war, communities confronting disease, and nations striving for stability and hope. They represented not conquest, but partnership; not domination, but dignity.



Behind every one of these names stands a family—spouses who endured long separations and uncertainty, children who crossed oceans and cultures, parents who worried from afar, and loved ones who shared in the burdens of service and, in some cases, the unbearable weight of loss. Their sacrifice is written into this memorial as surely as the names engraved upon it.

What this wall honors transcends politics and ideology. It reflects an enduring belief that the United States is strongest when it embodies not only power, but purpose.

Memorials such as this ask something of us. They ask us to remember, but they also ask us to continue: to continue believing that service matters; to continue believing that America's greatness is inseparable from its generosity, decency, and willingness to engage with the world not only through strength, but through humanity.

Long after we depart, these names will remain. May we honor them not only with words, but with our memory, our gratitude, and our continued commitment to the ideals for which they lived.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

***New!* June 10, from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Development Issues Discussion with Sarah Rose on Government Partnerships in Global Health Cooperation.** Sarah Rose is the Director of Policy at

the Share Trust. She was the Senior Advisor for Localization at USAID. **[Click here](#)** for more information. This session will be conducted over Zoom. Please note that this event is open to 2026 contributing members of the UAA. A Zoom link will be sent two days prior to the event to all those who register. [Click here](#) to register.

***New!* Wednesday, August 5, 2026, the annual Vermont UAA picnic will be held in Rochester VT.** All alums and friends of USAID who will be in New England in early August are most welcome to attend. For further details, please get in touch with Ann Van Dusen (avandusen4@gmail.com), Anne Aarnes (ahaarnes@hotmail.com) or Connie Carrino (cacarrino@gmail.com).

***New!* August 30 UAA Annual Picnic at Ft Hunt Park Area A1 12-3 pm**

***New!* October 30 Post-AGM Dinner and a Show**

***New!* December 5 UAA Friendsgiving**

What's New on the Website

[In Memoriam:](#)

Charles "Chuck" Kapar, Hank Johnson, Carl Hughes Leonard, Jack Vanderryn

[News About USAID](#)

Unless otherwise stated, the links below are for information purposes only and do not convey the endorsement of the UAA, its members, or its Board. See:

- 1) **[Bulletin Board](#)**, including **Statements from UAA about Current Events**
- 2) **[Articles](#)**
- 3) **[Podcasts & Recorded Media](#)**

[Bulletin Board](#)

- On June 2, 2026, HFAC Chairman Mast introduced [HR 9087](#), a bill to consolidate USAID into the Department of State. He also co-introduced with Mike Lawler [HR 9086, the Foreign Service Modernization Act](#), which contains provisions that envision a future where development is done by State.
- At 6:00 pm on Thursday, June 11, 2026, at American University School of International Service's Abramson Family Founder's Room (Terrace level), 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC, the researcher will present survey findings on: "The Impacts of USAID's Dismantling on its Workforce and

Families.” A panel discussion will follow. For more information and to register for in-person or online by Zoom click on: www.tinyurl.com/USAIDSurveyPanel. Space is limited – register today!

- On Friday, June 12, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. the next meeting of the DACOR/LAC Discussion Group will take place. We will discuss the current state of affairs in Brazil and the political, economic, and geopolitical dynamics shaping Brazil–U.S. relations. Our panelists will be Bruna Santos and Ricardo Zuniga. We will also have a special host/moderator for this session, Ambassador Patrick Duddy. [Click here](#) for more details.
- *Celebrating the Life of Jerry Hyman on June 15 from 3:00-5:00pm* at DACOR Bacon House, 1801 F Street, NW, Washington, DC. Refreshments and light hors d’oeuvres will be served. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by June 1 to Susan Fritz at susankfritz@yahoo.com. [Click here](#) for more information.
- On May 19, Alex Carnes, Clerk/Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations (SACFO) held an off-the-record development dialogue with UAA members during which he shared his insights into Congressional priorities for foreign affairs and foreign assistance programs. [Click here](#) for a summary of that discussion.
- [AID on the Hill Message to Our Community](#), 19 May 2026
- [The Association of Black American Ambassadors \(ABAA\) release a statement on Zambia Aid](#), 7 May 2026

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 articles.)

- [When Trump and Musk Slashed Aid They Left Us Vulnerable, Too.](#) Opinion by Nicholas Kristoff, *The New York Times*, 3 June 2026
- [The UN convention on the rights of the child and child development accounts: Making them work for children in institutions.](#) By Anna Mary Coburn, retired USAID FSO, *ScienceDirect, Child Protection and Practice*, June 2026 issue

- [Legislative Update from Dottie Rayburn](#), 28 May 2026
- [NPR Interviews Former AID Health Leader Dennis Carroll on impact of USAID Funding Cuts](#). By Ayesha Rascoe, Dave Mistich, and Dianna Douglas, NPR, 24 May 2026
- [Terry Myers Letter to the Editor](#). *The Washington Post*, 19 May 2026
- [Former USAID official: Trump administration's policies contradict 'Trade Over Aid' initiative](#). By Ailia Zehra, *Inside U.S. Trade World Trade Online*, 12 May 2026
- [Two opposing views of USAID](#). By Anna Gawel, *Devex Newswire*, 12 May 2026
- [What Happened When Trump Abandoned the World's Poorest Children](#). Opinion by Nicholas Kristof, *The New York Times*, 9 May 2026
- [Mark Green to become next president and CEO of the ONE Campaign](#). By Anna Gawel, *Devex*, 6 May 2026
- [What It Was Like Inside U.S.A.I.D. Before He Blew the Whistle](#). By Janice P. Nimura, *The New York Times*, 22 April 2026
- [Redesigning US Assistance to Africa in the Post-USAID Era](#). By Mark G. Wentling, *American Diplomacy*, May 2026
- [Long Year of Struggle for Fired U.S.A.I.D. Staff](#). NYTimes letter to the editor by former USAID employee Rebecca Levy, 23 April 2026

Podcast & Recorded Media

- [This Golden Land](#), a podcast by Chris Milligan, former USAID Counselor, about Burma, an American Diplomat Podcast with Arizona State University, Leadership, Diplomacy and National Security Lab, 29 May 2026
- [Service Remembered, Service Continued: A USAID Book Talk](#). OneAID, 11 May 2026
- [PBS highlights former USAID colleague running for Congress](#). By Doug Adams, *PBS News Hour*, 4 May 2026

- [NPR Program on Very Successful USAID Somalia Project and impact of its loss](#), 4 May 2026

USAID Alumni Association 2026 Spring Reception - A Celebration of Community and Purpose

On a beautiful late-spring afternoon, May 28, the USAID Alumni Association (UAA) welcomed members, colleagues, and friends to its 2026 Spring Reception at the DACOR Bacon House in Washington, DC. With 101 attendees in person and 25 joining virtually, the event reflected both the enduring strength of the UAA community and its commitment to staying connected across distances.

Set in the elegant DACOR garden, the reception offered an ideal opportunity for reconnecting with former colleagues, building new relationships, and reflecting on the future of international development. Guests enjoyed delicious food and engaging conversation, with seamless logistics and hybrid participation made possible by the expert staff of DACOR Bacon House.

Distinguished Guests and Thought Leaders

This year's reception was honored by the presence of several distinguished guests, including Peter McPherson, former USAID Administrator, along with representatives from leading organizations such as DEVEX, the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN), AID Transition Alliance, Alliance for American Leadership, AID on the Hill, and One AID Community.



Peter McPherson and Loreta Williams



Asher Moss and Seth, American Leadership Alliance

Keynote remarks were delivered by Enoch T. Ebong, President of the Global Development Department at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and former Director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency.



Ms. Ebong highlighted the importance of community, suggesting robust engagement with the private sector, assessing what capabilities and tools we have now and how to best use them and in doing so the need to break down silos. She noted the need to tell our collective story better both qualitatively and quantitatively. She also emphasized the importance of youth and the need to harness technology. Finally, she remarked on the ongoing engagement of partners, like CSIS, to play a convening role for all parties to build conversation and trust.

As conversations flowed, participants shared ideas, action plans and news, , and the spirit of camaraderie and shared purpose was almost tangible.



Amelia Terry, Kathy Younker and Miranda Jolicoeur



Chris Crowley, Beth Hogan and Margot Ellis



Sharon Pauling (UAA), Raj Kumar (DEVEX), Enoh Ebong (CSIS) and Tod



Rachel Peniston, AID on the Hill, Jackie Ndebeka, One Aid Community

Preston (MFAN)



Woody Navin and Todd Preston, Jim Kunder and Jenny Russell (MFAN)



Spring reception participants

The 2026 Spring Reception was not only a celebration of decades-long friendships and past service but also an important step in beginning to consider how best to apply our values and mission in the future.

The UAA extends its gratitude to all who participated, both in person and virtually. We look forward to future opportunities to connect, collaborate, and contribute to the global development dialogue. We also appreciate the participation of UAA's expanding membership in the process of determining the role of UAA in contributing to the dialogue and addressing member interests. Next up: The Annual Picnic will be held at Ft Hunt Park on August 30th. More to come on possible "meet up" events.

See our Rogue's Gallery online by [clicking here!](#)

UAA Announcements

Legislative Affairs

June is a busy month on the Hill. On the appropriations front, the House has already passed its version of the FY 27 State/Foreign Operations bill at \$47.32 billion. Senate Appropriators have not yet set dates for taking up their version of the bill, as they have yet to receive their funding allocation.

Secretary of State Rubio testified on June 2 and 3, before the four key committees governing foreign assistance on the FY 27 Department of State budget request. Videos of the hearings can be found at committee websites which you can access [here](#).

Rep Titus and Senator Schatz introduced the "[PATH to the Foreign Service Act](#)," which would provide "...[a foreign service career](#)

[pathway for \[some\] former USAID officers](#)” to join the State Department foreign service.

HFAC Chairman Mast plans to rewrite the Foreign Service Act. A markup is expected in June. See Chairman Mast’s op-ed [here](#).

Free and Low-Cost Primary Health Care Facilities in the DMV Area

Many former USAID and Implementing Partner staff living in the DMV area who lost their jobs in 2025 have been unable to find appropriate health insurance. If you are in this category, you may find useful information in the attached list of free and low-cost primary health care facilities in the DMV area. The list may be especially useful for those not eligible for Medicaid. Please feel free to share the list with any USAID Implementing Partner staff who might need this information. While this information is publicly available, UAA of course cannot attest to the quality of the providers. Since this list is limited to the DMV area, alumni in other areas may want to develop similar lists if there are former USAID staff and partners in those areas who would benefit from this information. Such lists can also be posted on the UAA website. [Click here](#) to see the DMV list.

Moving Stalled Pension and Retirement Payments.

USAID alumni and Congressional offices are coordinating to resolve stalled retirement/pension payments. On February 2, 2026, a group of USAID alumni led by Beverly Johnston met with Representative Don Beyer (VA-8) and District Director Noah Simon to address FERS/CSRS retirement applications stalled after the July RIF. Most applicants had waited more than seven months—well beyond the Office of Personnel Management’s 90-day standard—without interim annuities; some also lost health insurance due to processing errors at USAID HCTM and the National Finance Center (NFC).

Rep. Beyer’s office committed to intervene. After initial inquiries yielded limited answers, his team arranged for Mr. Simon to travel to NFC in New Orleans. With NFC staff, Mr. Simon reviewed constituents’ cases, advanced packages to OPM, and identified fixes. OPM began acknowledging receipt of the packages and started paying interim annuities. Many cases require continued follow-up. Mr. Simon offered to assist other Congressional offices, especially with some cases outstanding beyond ten months.

In a parallel effort, USAID alum Don Niss worked with retirement applicants to request a review of NFC's retirement processing by the USDA Office of Inspector General. Key frustrations with NFC were the lack of visibility into case status and the absence of reliable points of contact at NFC. With 27 signatories, a request was sent to the OIG in early April, with copies to each applicant's Member of Congress and Senators. While the OIG has not yet responded, four congressional offices have asked to be connected directly with 15 impacted constituents to move these cases forward.

This engagement helped move 40 retirement packages forward through persistent advocacy by congressional staff combined with organized, data-driven action by the alumni community, including through volunteer-led groups like Our USAID Community that created space (e.g., the FERS/CSRS Retiree Signal Group) and supported retirees' engagement and collaboration.

Development Dialogues

Former USAID Administrator Brian Atwood spoke on "State and AID – Building Back Better"



On May 12 former USAID Administrator **Brian Atwood** spoke to a full house luncheon crowd at DACOR as well as another hundred or so on-line). He reflected the experience gained from his successful effort in the 1990s to keep AID as an independent agency in focusing most of his very thoughtful talk on the future – "State and AID – Building Back Better". See his full text [here](#) and the audio [here](#).

Adventures in Transitioning - Policy in Six Administrations Aid Policy in Six Administrations 1977-2016 By Mike Crosswell

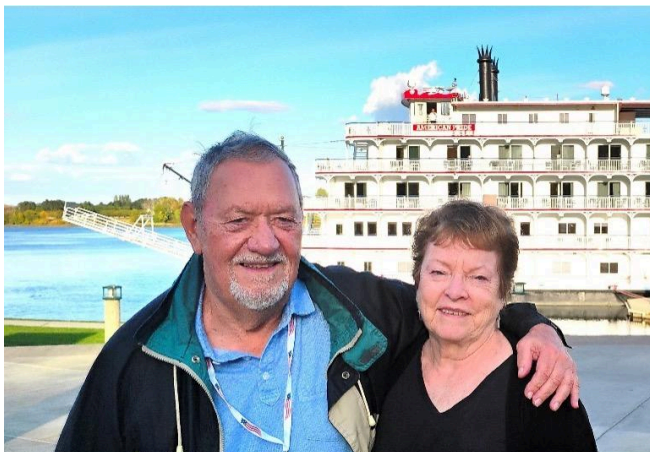
On May 26th, Mike Crosswell provided, in a Zoom meeting, a fascinating perspective on development policy at USAID across six administrations up to 2016. He noted that the past forty years of USAID development practice can be categorized into four distinct stages:



- Economic Transformation and Social Progress: The initial focus on seeking economic growth and poverty reduction in poor countries.
- Poverty Reduction: A period characterized by a narrower focus on reducing poverty.
- Expansive Stage: A stage focusing on any worthy use of foreign aid within a developing country.
- Global Progress: The fourth stage, focusing on progress in all countries as characterized by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To learn more about these stages or to catch up if you missed the session, you can view the recording [[here](#)] and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation [[here](#)]. Mike is also willing to respond to questions if you contact him.

Profile: Steve Silcox



My wife, Nancy Noyes Silcox, and I grew up in the small town of New Ulm, Minnesota. After college, we served in the Peace Corps in a bauxite mining town on the Demerara River in Guyana. Like other USAID staff and contractors, that experience whetted our appetite for international travel and foreign

assistance. For my first USAID related assignment in 1980, I spent four years on a housing and community development contract in Egypt. Then I assisted the Ministry of Planning in Jordan for a year to establish a Regional Development Office. Next, Nancy's librarian job in an international school took us to Belgium for four years.

There I learned French, received my master's degree in international management at Universite Catholique de Louvain, did market research consulting gigs, and drank lots of Belgian beer.

In 1990, we returned to the Washington, DC area and I was a Microenterprise Specialist in the Africa Bureau of USAID under Warren Weinstein. After some years as a consultant, I spent 3+ years in Ukraine as a PSC directing the Enterprise Development Division in USAID's Private Sector Development office under Steve Hadley. I finished my career with USAID as an FSL in the Economic Growth Office in Washington.

In 2021, we moved back to snowy Minnesota and, yes, we love it. We live in Northfield, MN, where I received my bachelor's degree in political science at Saint Olaf College. We have access to free concerts and lectures at both St. Olaf and Carleton colleges, and I am within a 30-minute drive of twelve golf courses. I volunteer as Chair of the International Service Committee of the Northfield Rotary Club and sponsored a project to acquire a brain monitor to treat babies born with asphyxia in the hospital in Lviv, Ukraine. I am on the board of our homeowners' association and on the finance committee of the Northfield Senior Center. Nancy discovered she loved writing after being a school librarian in international schools and in Alexandria, Virginia. Her books are available on Amazon or via her website at www.nancynoyessilcox.com.

We are enjoying a laid-back, small town life in a house across the road from a cornfield. We look forward to regular meetings with other former USAID folks in the Midwest. Please contact me at scsilcox@gmail.com or via my LinkedIn account [here](#) if you are interested in joining a Midwestern group of former USAID staff and contractors.

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USAID Alumni Association

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