



July 2019 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, July 24, 11:00 a.m. – The **annual New England “Development Wallahs” picnic** will be hosted this year by Steve Sinding and Monica Knorr in Bondville (near Manchester), Vermont. If you are in the area and want to attend, please contact Steve at ssinding@gmail.com.

Friday, September 6, 11:30 to 2:00 p.m. – **Rafe Pomerance**, one of the original environment leaders who tried to convince the world to act on climate change despite the fossil fuel industry’s fight to stop them, will address a Development Dialogue buffet lunch at DACOR. In his talk on **“Reflections on Fighting Climate Change,”** he will spell out his ideas for the major components of a serious U.S. climate policy.

Saturday, September 7, 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. - **UAA Annual Picnic** will be held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, Virginia. Please see details below.

Monday, October 7, 10:00 am to noon - **Rev. David Beckmann**, longtime President of the influential American NGO **Bread for the World** and a **World Food Prize laureate**, will speak at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue on **“U.S. Politics Now and International Development.”** David will open a conversation about Trump administration policies, bipartisan congressional support for development assistance, the elections, and advocacy strategies, all designed to find the best ways to help sustain a generation of progress against poverty.

Friday, October 25, 2019 – **UAA Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Center for Global Development (CGD), 2055 L Street, NW, 5th floor, Washington, D.C.

POSTPONED: Wednesday, June 19 The **UAA Book Club meeting**, scheduled earlier for June 19, was postponed due to insufficient attendance. It will be rescheduled in late September after summer travel and vacations are over.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page contains only one entry.
- In [Articles](#), peruse some intriguing new items on: 1) the history of USAID work in the area of nutrition; 2) how the USG inadvertently exposed personal information of 22 million people; 3) a Larry Garber piece on the relationship between economics and political stability in Palestine; 4) why “self-reliance” is the wrong goal for US aid; 5) despite concerns re. dependency, the USG continues to “pour” large amounts of aid into Somalia; 6) Mark Green thoughts on the relationship of transparency and effectively combatting the Ebola virus; 7) aid cuts in Central America – the numbers; 8) USAID efforts to use nuclear technology to address cattle disease in West Africa; and 9) new legislation that will provide new options for Federal Employees to withdraw retirement cash.
- The [Forum](#) page offers the following additions: 1) an Agency notice on the establishment of the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI); 2) GLC thoughts on what was said at the recent Democratic Party debates; 3) a piece on divorce and FS retirement benefits; and 4) Joe Ryan observations on recent UAA book review sessions.

- At a [UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR](#), William "Bill" Reese, CEO Emeritus of the International Youth Foundation USA, engaged with an appreciative audience on "**Addressing the Youth Bulge – Is it all about Youth?**". See details below.
- The [Web Links](#) page features USAID's new monthly podcast "USAID Leads." It offers in-depth discussions targeted toward USAID's workforce and serves to inform employees and the public about Agency updates and priorities.
- Want to **check if you paid your 2019 UAA membership contribution?** Easy to do. Just click [here](#).

Do you have news, an article or event you would like to share? Please send it to office@usaidalumni.org or, better still, post it on the Forum.

Looking for someone with a USAID alumni background and skills to hire or as a volunteer? If you would like to post a job or volunteer opportunity, please email us at office@usaidalumni.org, Attn: Jobs/Volunteers.

UAA Seeking New Website Manager!!

After successfully serving as our Website Manager for some nine years, to our regret David Cohen has decided to turn the baton over to someone new. As you know, our website serves not only as a tremendous resource for our UAA membership, but is also our face to the public. It is critical that we find a replacement by the beginning of September. This is a volunteer position requiring an estimated four hours a week. Managing the website is mainly a function of identifying and posting new content and does not require any real technical expertise. Please see further details by clicking [here](#), and consider joining the Executive Committee ranks in this key capacity.

2019 UAA Awards Program – Nominations Due July 31!

Only a short time remains for submission of nominations of a UAA member (or yourself) for the 2019 "Alumni of the Year" awards. Please send your nominations by July 31 to: awards@usaidalumni.org. The prestigious awards will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting on October 25. The "Alumni of the Year" award recognizes and celebrates new paths taken in retirement by USAID alumni to provide service to their communities and improve the lives of others at home and abroad. There are impressive contributions among our alumni community waiting to be recognized. Examples of categories of service that are appropriate, but not exhaustive for consideration include:

- Service with nongovernmental organizations and other groups (profit or nonprofit) that work closely with communities with special needs, at home or abroad, or both (e.g., legal services or advocacy for disadvantaged groups, foster parenting, medical service in underserved areas, etc.).
- Service with groups that promote education (at any level), or the arts and or sciences (e.g., museums, community theater, music appreciation, etc.).
- Support for civic programs of any kind (e.g., scouts movement or projects promoted by groups such as the Lions, Rotary, or similar).
- Leadership excellence, including contributions to intellectual development and implementation (e.g., for sustained extraordinary achievement, dedication and passion in a leadership role).
- Service by alumni, including retirees and their spouses or partners, who are UAA members and actively support contributions in furtherance of social and economic development and humanitarian relief at home or abroad.

Don't wait until the last minute to share those stories. All nominees, including the 2019 winner(s), will be profiled in future editions of the monthly UAA newsletter. For full details about the award and how to make nominations, [please click here](#).

UAA Meets New Deputy Administrator



Chris Milligan and Bonnie Glick

On June 26, UAA Executive Committee members introduced the new USAID Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick to the goals and work of the USAID Alumni Association. The Deputy Administrator showed great interest in our work and directed senior staff of the Agency to work closely with us to explore opportunities for further collaboration.

Co-Chairs Chris Crowley and Nancy Tumavick, Board Member Terry Myers and Committee Co-Chair Rose Rakas presented information about UAA and ongoing activities that support USAID and outlined new initiatives under discussion with USAID senior staff members who also participated in the meeting:

- FS mentoring program and its inclusion as part of the Mission Directors Training Program at FSI;
- Oral Histories program supported by UAA volunteers who conducted some 70 interviews;
- UAA expert input to USAID policy papers at the early stages of development;
- Public Outreach in conjunction with USAID Development Diplomats, power point presentations developed with LPA, and support from the UAA Alumni network across the United States;
- Annual recognition ceremony for retirees sponsored by HCTM and LPA with support from UAA;
- Assistance to PPL in review of evaluations and consolidation of lessons learned; and
- Establishment of a short-term internship for graduate students with the overseas Missions.



DA Glick with UAA Co-chairs Nancy Tumavick and Chris Crowley

8th Annual UAA Summer Picnic -- Save the date! Join the fun!

Saturday, September 7, 2019

12:00 noon - 3:00 pm

Held at Fort Hunt Park, Site B-001
8999 Fort Hunt Road (off George Washington Memorial Parkway)
Alexandria, VA 22308
Site B-001

In order for us to have adequate water and soft drinks available, please let us know that you are coming and how many adults and children you are bringing as guests. [Please register by clicking here](#)

Details:

The UAA will have its annual picnic on Saturday, September 7 at Fort Hunt picnic area. Our get together is scheduled from noon until 3:00pm. We hope everyone will come and bring other alumni, children, guitars, games, etc. The parking lot is a very short stroll to the sheltered picnic area, so we will proceed rain or shine.

Based on the enthusiastic response in prior years, we will repeat our successful covered-dish lunch, with participants bringing dishes to share. We will provide non-alcoholic beverages and water, table covers, paper goods, cups and plastic flatware. Please bring your own wine and beer - and some to share. The area has a liquor license, but for wine and beer only.

Please bring one dish sufficient for 6 to 8 people. If you have a special dish that would be great. Otherwise, please bring a dish according to the following categories:

- People with last names beginning A through D, a salad or side dish.
- People with last names beginning E through M, a main dish.
- People with last names beginning N through R, an appetizer.
- People with last names beginning S through Z, a dessert.

Directions: Fort Hunt is South of Alexandria and just north of Mount Vernon.

- From I-395, take exit 10B for the southbound George Washington Memorial Parkway.
- Merge onto the parkway and continue for about 12 miles.
- Turn right onto Fort Hunt Road.
- Continue to Fort Hunt Park.
- Follow signs to Site B-001.

[For further details click here.](#)

UAA Dacor Development Dialogue

On June 3, at DACOR, William "Bill" Reese, CEO Emeritus of the International Youth Foundation USA, engaged with an appreciative audience on "Addressing the Youth Bulge - Is it all about Youth?" Reese, a very experienced NGO leader who for nine years was also head of USAID's voluntary foreign aid advisory committee, emphasized why it was so important for the development community to help countries deal within this enormous challenge. To listen to his talk and the discussion that followed click [here](#).



Bill addresses UAA/DACOR Forum

At the UAA/DACOR



Development Dialogue on July 12, Liz Schroyer, President and CEO of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, provided the luncheon group an outstanding overview of the bipartisan efforts of the USGLC to educate political candidates and the public alike about the importance of foreign assistance and global U.S. engagement. The USGLC is a broad-based coalition of over 500 businesses and NGOs that advocate for strong U.S.

global leadership through development and diplomacy. The UAA was delighted to have the next generation of Foreign Service Officers, represented by the 2019 Payne Fellows, attend the event. The Fellows were accompanied by Howard University Ambassador-in-Residence Larry Palmer and Maria Elena Vivas-House, Director of the USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellowship Program.

UAA Development Issues

On June 13, Michael Pillsbury, head of Chinese Studies at the Hudson Institute, engaged those in attendance at the Development Issues Committee meeting in a wide ranging discussion of USAID's history and contemporary challenges. The conversation was very stimulating and interesting. Pillsbury has authored three books on China and advised several administrations on Chinese policy. He also has written an unpublished book, *AID's Secret Success*, focusing on USAID's work to improve economic policies in Korea, Taiwan and a number of other countries.

Devex PRO Development News Service

Devex.com is the leading media platform serving the global development community. Devex recently launched a new development news service, Devex PRO. For a limited time, Devex is offering a discounted subscription rate to Devex PRO for all recipients of the UAA newsletter. If you are interested in learning more, please click [here](#) for more information.

UAA Public Outreach

Public Outreach--Beth Hogan is back in the US after over 6 months in El Salvador as Acting Mission Director. She and Jim Bever will be coordinating with Barbara Bennett and others during July to reach out in the coming year to Alumni, hopefully visit some of them, link them with like-minded groups, and start public education initiatives about the importance of US foreign assistance. This will build upon the successful meeting held June 26 between the new USAID Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick and some of UAA's leadership team

Alumni Profile: Dr. Kevin A. Rushing, DVM

Kevin Rushing served as a Foreign Service Officer for 33 years and retired in October 2011 as Mission Director to Nepal and Jordan. He then embarked on a new path of public service in law enforcement and humane



society work for his Rutland County, Vermont community, but continues his interest in USAID service overseas.

During his overseas career, Kevin found ways to use his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. He treated a multitude of wild animals including chimpanzees, cheetahs, elephants, tigers, lions, reptiles, as well as domestic animals such as cats, dogs, birds, and the occasional guinea pig. He also provided routine medical/surgical services for the pets of US Embassy

staff.

After leaving USAID, Kevin, his spouse, Debbie Singiser, and their two young children began a new life in Vermont, Debbie's home state. After six-months of retirement, Kevin accepted a one-year assignment in Afghanistan as a Senior Development Officer representing USAID in Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat.

Kevin's ongoing commitment to public service led him to the Vermont State Police Academy where he graduated and accepted a position with the Rutland County Sheriff's Department. As Deputy Sheriff, Kevin found himself involved in all facets of law enforcement including protecting life and property, general patrol duties, and aiding people in emergencies. He enjoys participating in sobriety checkpoints, since traffic safety is one of Kevin's key interests with the Sheriff's Department.

While working with the Sheriff's Department, Kevin completed two short-term USPSC assignments in East Africa: Ethiopia, where he wrote the PAD for Ethiopia's Feed the Future program, and Tanzania, where he served as Senior Program Budget Advisor.

In October 2017, Kevin returned to his passion of animal welfare when he accepted the appointment as Executive Director for the Rutland County Humane Society. During his 13-month tenure, Kevin was responsible for the health care of more than 1,400 shelter animals, improving overall operations and decreasing the shelter's deficit. Kevin enjoyed his brief stint at the County Humane Society and believes his veterinary skills, leadership abilities, and dedication to community service helped him effectively lead the organization in its mission to build a more humane society for all.



The international development bug caught Kevin again and, since December 2018, he is based in Juba, South Sudan leading a team of technical advisors and staff supporting the peace process. He's also found time to advise and provide technical support to a local South Sudanese veterinarian.

Kevin would be glad to hear from USAID friends. He can be reached at zoodoc92@yahoo.com

Newsletter schedule

The UAA newsletter is usually sent the first Monday of the month or early in that week if

Monday is a holiday. As previously noted for the remainder of this year, however, the UAA newsletter publication will generally be every 45 days instead of each month. Thus, the upcoming newsletters are scheduled for **September 9** (covering July 16-Sept 9 period post-holiday); **October 7** (Sept 9-Oct 7 period focused on pre-AGM), **November 18** (Oct 8-Nov 18 period focused on post-AGM), and **January 6, 2020** (Nov 19-Jan 6 period).

If you have information you would like to share with your fellow alumni, your contributions are welcomed. Please send the information, with a picture and caption of the event, date, and people shown to office@usaidalumni.org.

[Make your 2019 UAA Membership contribution here](#)

USAID Alumni Association