



USAID Alumni Association

September 2019 Newsletter

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming UAA Events

Wednesday, September 18, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. - The **UAA Book Club** will meet at the BISTRO 1521 Restaurant, 900 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA 22203, which is near the Ballston Metro Station. Jim Elliott and Clarence Zuvekas will lead a discussion of Vargas Llosa, *La Ilamada de la Tribu (Call of the Tribe)*, Alfaguara, 2018, 320 pages. This book is in Spanish, but Jim and Clarence have prepared a written review in English that will be distributed beforehand. Please let stucallison@yahoo.com know if you plan to participate.

Thursday, September 26, 2:00-3:30 p.m. - The Development Issues Committee has invited **Alexis Bonnell**, USAID Chief Innovation Officer, to lead a discussion on "**Innovation at USAID**" at the next meeting on September 26. Ms. Bonnell was one of the founding senior members of the Global Development Lab. A description of her distinguished career can be found [here](#). Please let Committee Co-Chairs Jim Fox (jameswfox@cox.net) and Steve Giddings (sgiddings5@gmail.com) know by Monday, September 23, if you will attend the meeting that will be held in the conference room of Arizona State University's Washington D.C. Center, 1800 I (eye) St, N.W.

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. See detailed information below.

New on USAIDalumni.org

- **Obituaries:** The [In Memoriam](#) page contains several new entries.
- In [Articles](#), take a look at some intriguing new items: 1) the approval of USAID's structural reforms and related leadership actions; 2) despite Congressional opposition, the Administration continues to slow-walk \$4b in program funds; 3) Pres. of Brookings and former Marine General offers thoughts on the value of foreign aid; 4) the designation of a new coordinator of US foreign assistance (aka the head of State's F Bureau); 5) with concern about China, Japan aims to increase aid and investment in Africa; 6) four charts reveal how vulnerable development and humanitarian aid projects are to US funding cuts; 7) after Trump calls such assistance "wasteful," State says it will assess its programming and redirect all funding on foreign aid; 8) USAID May get a new logo for the 'America First' era; 9) Trump aid cuts would have spared programs favored by Ivanka and Pompeo; 10) how to save foreign aid in the age of populism; 11) Based on the discovery of two new drugs, Ebola may no longer be incurable; 12) after an outcry from Congress, the Administration announced they will not move forward with plans to cut billions of dollars in foreign aid (**note:** there are several posted articles on Trump's attempted

rescission of aid resources); 13) a new report outlines how New Development Finance Corporation and USAID will work together; 14) Brazil's Amazon monitor was fired after a dispute with Bolsonaro; 15) an assessment of the implementation of USAID's urban policy; 16) USAID's 'Countering Kremlin' framework is not about Russia; 17) with 2 months until launch, how is the new US DFC shaping up? 18) how a retiring American diplomat helped navigate a perilous minefield; 19) 2020 and beyond: maintaining the bipartisan narrative on US global development; 20) Baby Boomers are staying in the labor force at rates not seen in generations for people their age; 21) an open letter to the candidates: what your pollsters may not know about America and foreign policy; 22) the new UNDP global Multidimensional Poverty Index shows that there has been a substantial reduction in world poverty; 23) USAID announces funding under New Partnerships Initiative in global health; and 24) The loss of U.S. leadership in advancing democracy abroad is a major blow, but others are attempting to fill the vacuum.

- The [Forum](#) page offers one addition: A note From GLC's Liz Schrayner on the attempted Trump cancellation of State/USAID resources.
- There are eight new entrees in [Syllabi For Development Courses and Speakers](#), including contributions from Jonathan Addleton, Neil Levine, Kiert Toh and Mark Ward.
- [Listen](#) to the latest USAID/DACOR **Development Dialogue featuring Rafe Pomerance's** discussion the nature of the global climate crisis
- The [Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities](#) page offers several intriguing new opportunities for USAID alums.
- The quarterly update of the [Bibliography of USAID Authors](#) has added an entry.
- 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 Annual General Meeting

The 2019 UAA Annual General Meeting will be held on **October 25, 2019**, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Center for Global Development, 2055 L St. NW, 5th floor, Washington, D.C.

This year's meeting highlights include:

- A panel discussion on Democratic Governance: How do USAID Missions Overcome Obstacles, Achieve Results, and Navigate the Inevitable Landmines? The panel features *Tom Carothers*, Senior Vice-President, the Carnegie Foundation, and UAA members *Chris Crowley*, *Beth Hogan* and *Susan Reichle*;
- *Peter McPherson*, President of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and former USAID Administrator, in conversation with Alex Shakow, UAA;
- Discussion on foreign aid and the 2020 elections with *Lindsay Plack*, Senior Director, US Global Leadership Coalition; and
- Comments by *Ambassador Mark Green* (invited).

The agenda, [linked here](#), also includes UAA Board election results, alumni awards, and time to catch up with old friends.

Please [click here](#) to register for the AGM if you have not done so already.

Please note that members will need to vote for Board Members electronically in advance. No voting will take place at the AGM. To be eligible to vote Alumni need

to be contributing members for 2019. Note that contributing membership offers many UAA benefits, such as attendance at no cost at several social events throughout the year and the annual general meeting, voting privileges to select Board members, nominating your friends and colleagues for the Alumni of the Year awards, and the opportunity to volunteer to help advance the UAA goals. If not a 2019 contributing member, you may make a 2019 contribution by clicking [here](#).

For **voting and information on the UAA Board slate of candidates**, please click [here](#).

The link to the **UAA 2019 Progress Report and Strategic Plan for 2019-2021** will also be provided in a subsequent email prior to the AGM.

UAA Annual Awards Program

As of the past July 31 nomination deadline, we received a number of excellent nominations for this year's "Alumni of the Year" awards. The Awards Committee is currently reviewing these well written narratives for all nominees for their international or domestic service, and we promise you a selection of winners that you can be proud of as fellow alumni and friends. We especially want to thank the members who made the effort to nominate their friends and colleagues for the prestigious UAA awards. Please join us at the Annual General Meeting on October 25 where the 2019 award winners will be announced.

UAA 8th Annual Summer Picnic Enjoys Near-Perfect Weather



UAA picnickers enjoy Ft Hunt pavilion



UAA picnic banner adorns Ft Hunt pavilion



UAA co-chairs greet alumni & guests

On Saturday, September 7th, about 60 USAID alumni and their guests gathered at Fort Hunt Park south of Alexandria. We were warmly welcomed by UAA Co-Chairs Nancy Tumavick and Chris Crowley. There were many familiar faces and new retirees and first-time attendees as well. Our intent was simply being in the company of those with whom we'd spent so much of our lives, and it was well-achieved.

As we have come to expect, we also had some outstanding food, with many dishes that are not found at a "standard" American picnic. The "nearly" part of the weather was that there was a gusty wind, which made keeping the tablecloths on the tables questionable, although that was solved by knotting the corners, creating mitered tablecloths. (Very clever, these USAID alums!) Alas, this didn't prevent a few items blowing off the table as we concentrated on eating, but no real harm was done.

LOST AND FOUND: Someone brought a game to the picnic and, regrettably, left it behind. If you're missing your game, please contact Bette Cook at 703-971-0025 or bettecook@cox.net.



David Cohen, Chris Crowley
& Pam Mandel (in
foreground)



Terry Myers, Wayne
Nilsestuen, Joni Sarles &
Carol Dabbs



Group picture for your fun in
identifying Alumni & friends

New England Development Wallahs Picnic

On July 24th, Steve Sinding and Monica Knorr hosted the 11th annual "New England Development Wallahs" picnic at their family home near Manchester, Vermont. It was a gorgeous day, and some 17 USAID alumni (and partners) enjoyed a lovely afternoon on their deck looking out over Stratton Mountain. Connie Carrino has already bid to host next year's gathering. So if your summer 2020 plans include a visit to Stowe, Vermont, let Connie know!

UAA Development Dialogue



To an overflow DACOR luncheon crowd on Friday, September 6, climate pioneer Rafe Pomerance described with great clarity the nature of the global climate crisis and the essential steps required to address it. Rafe's knowledge of the climate crisis is based on his more than forty years of leadership on this issue.

Mentoring Program Recruitment Announcement - Cohort 9

This is an opportunity for you to participate in a challenging but highly rewarding program that contributes to USAID by strengthening its field-based staff. The UAA/USAID Mentoring Program has been expanding over several years and now includes partners across the Agency. Through this program, UAA helps develop the next generation of Agency leaders at all levels, from new officers to Mission Directors. To date eight cohorts have resulted in over 100 mentor/mentee pairs.

The level of commitment is modest and determined by the mentor-mentee pair, but usually consists of an hour's conversation once every one to two weeks. USAID is very pleased with results of the program to date. This is a rewarding and enjoyable activity and will keep you engaged and up to speed with what is happening in the field and the evolution of Agency policy. Excellent training is provided to the mentors and the mentees at the start of the program.

We sincerely hope that those of you who are interested will respond by clicking [here](#) to fill out your mentor profile. For further information please contact the program co-chairs: Rose Rakas at rosetrakas@gmail.com or Roberta Mahoney at robertacairo@hotmail.com.

Public Outreach

At the request of George Washington University to the UAA, the Public Outreach Committee is looking into lining up UAA alumni speakers for a course this Fall for medical students at GWU Medical School relevant to what the students should know about health in the developing world. If you are interested in participating in this course, please contact Jim Bever (bentonboy@gmail.com), Beth Hogan (bethhogan123@gmail.com), or Joy Riggs-Perla (jriggsperla@yahoo.com).

USAID History Project

The USAID History Project author, John Norris, continues to prepare draft chapters for the book. While his original intention was to complete his draft by mid-2019, his more realistic target is now the end of 2019. By early September, 2019, the UAA Advisory Committee - comprised of Alex Shakow (Chair), Jim Michel, Carol Peasley and Dan Runde - had reviewed eight draft chapters (out of a proposed 13) and provided advice and concrete suggestions to complement John's well-written and very interesting drafts. We shall soon ask the membership to exercise their most creative talents to help John decide on a title for the book. There are no promises that any of our suggestions will be taken, but the door is open for great ideas. Stay tuned.

The UAA, and particularly this Advisory Committee, suffered a great loss with the death mid-year of John Sanbrailo, a treasured UAA friend, colleague and learned historian of American foreign aid.

Alumni Profile: Frank Almaguer



Frank Almaguer retired from USAID in 2002, after serving three U.S. foreign affairs agencies over a 35-year career, beginning as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Belize (1967-69), where he met fellow Volunteer, Antoinette Gallegos. In August, Frank and Antoinette celebrated 49 years of marriage, which produced two children and now four grandchildren. He considers his family his greatest achievement and treasures every opportunity to be with them.

His career at USAID included serving as Mission Director in Ecuador, Eastern Europe and Bolivia, as well as head of personnel. His U.S. Government career culminated in service as ambassador to Honduras, a country in which he had previously served as Peace Corps Director.

Retirement for Frank has been anything but: He continued to serve in the international arena as Secretary for Administration and Finance at the Organization of American States and currently on the Foreign Service Grievance Board, a "court of appeals" for Foreign Service personnel cases emanating from the five foreign affairs agencies.

Frank continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of Zamorano University, located in Honduras, which is one of the leading agricultural schools in Latin America where he has the opportunity to support students from throughout Latin America, most of whom have limited means, and to head Zamorano's fund-raising efforts to ensure that this 76-year-old academic institution continues to maintain its high standards and commitment to developing the agriculture and environmental sector leaders of tomorrow. Frank points out that "A life-long commitment to providing development opportunities for future generations animated my career and I am delighted to continue to do so in my 'retirement' years."

His other major volunteer experience has been with the USAID Alumni Association, where he served on the UAA Board and Awards Committee. Frank and Antoinette have also enjoyed hosting two annual Winterfests where UAA members can remain in touch professionally and socially with fellow alumni.

Frank and Antoinette have also enjoyed multiple opportunities to travel both at home and abroad, visiting China, Europe and Middle East countries, east and southern Africa, and Latin America, most recently in Mexico. They have enjoyed multiple cross-country trips in the United States, most recently driving to California and back and visiting friends and family along the way. A planned visit to Oregon in 2020 will complete his goal of visiting all 50 states. He proudly observes: "For those of us whose careers have focused on the world beyond our borders, these domestic trips serve to remind us of the greatness of our country and its people. Despite the challenges we face as a society, we continue to be blessed in so many ways."



Frank and Antoinette with four grandchildren

Newsletter schedule

The UAA newsletter is usually sent the first Monday of the month or early in the week if Monday is a holiday. During the summer months, however, we have extended the 30-day schedule to 45 days. Thus, for the remainder of this year you will receive the UAA newsletter on **October 7** (covering Sept 10-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).

We welcome information that you would like to share with your fellow alumni. 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

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