



USAID Alumni Association

September 2020 Newsletter

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

VIRTUAL. Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 12:30-1:30 p.m. -- At the **UAA/DACOR virtual Development Dialogue, UNICEF Executive Director (and former USAID Administrator) Henrietta Holsman Fore** will speak on "**From USAID Administrator to UNICEF Executive Director - Challenges and Opportunities.**" She is a great friend of the UAA - and was in fact the USAID Administrator who initially suggested that USAID retirees should organize in an alumni organization. This promises to be a great treat for all, with plenty of time for a Q&A session. This virtual event is open only to UAA and DACOR members. To register please [click here](#). All those who register will be sent an email with information on how to join the event.

VIRTUAL. Friday, October 30, and Friday, November 6, 2020 -- UAA Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on two dates.

- The first session on October 30 morning will address development issues related to climate change by two panels, and the second session on the morning of November 6 will cover UAA activities and priorities. The October 30 session will feature Kerri-Ann Jones (Pew Charitable Trust) in conversation with Masood Ahmad (Center for Global Development) discussing key dimensions and challenges of climate change, and a panel on implications for development moderated by Bob Ichord (Atlantic Council), with Dennis Carroll (Global Virome Project), Manish Bapna (World Resources Institute), and Homi Kharas (Brookings).
- The November 6 session will include an update on UAA activities and possibilities for expanding UAA horizons, a discussion of the UAA mentoring program at 10 years, presentation of UAA awards, and more. More details will follow soon. Contributing UAA members are welcome to participate in both sessions but the UAA membership contributions for 2020 must be received by September 30 to ensure an invitation. Please check the UAA website listing [here](#) to assure that you have contributed in 2020.

POSTPONED. Please watch for an email announcing any rescheduling details of the **UAA Book Club** virtual meeting to review **Daniel Markovits's new book**, *The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite*.

New! on USAIDAlumni.org

- **[In Memoriam](#)**: The In Memoriam page under the Alumni tab features eight new obituaries of USAID colleagues, including John Henry Huber, Guy Baseler Baird, Barbara Bradford Williams, Harold Lubell (2015), David Gregory Mathiasen, Carl J. Hemmer Jr., Daniel Ian Stoll, and David

Edward Mutchler. Also, please note that the In Memoriam section has been reworked to offer a Recent Tributes section (at the top of the page) followed below by an alphabetically arranged Previous Tributes section, featuring all obituaries of UAA members from the earliest days of the UAA.

- **Articles:** Under the Development Resources tab, we feature many articles published in July-August. Some recent posts include:
 - [New study shows benefits, limits of cash transfers](#) (Devex, September 3, 2020)
 - [What's behind the backlash against a White House pandemic proposal?](#) (Devex, August 31, 2020)
 - [Disrupt and compete: How Trump changed US foreign aid](#) (Devex, August 21, 2020)
 - [What would Biden's foreign aid policy look like?](#) (Devex, August 19, 2020)
 - [Trump administration's abortion policy has little effect on aid to foreign health-care programs, State Department says](#) (WashPost, August 18, 2020)
 - [USAID should lead global pandemic response in an age of great power competition](#) (The Hill by Dan Runde, August 17, 2020)
 - [It's past time to be rid of the legacy of Jesse Helms](#) (The Hill, August 7, 2020)
 - ['Irresponsible and wrong': Boris Johnson's decision to merge aid and Foreign Office could cost £50m, says Labour](#) (Independent, August 11)
- **Bibliography of USAID Authors:** You will see a new arrangement of the bibliography, starting with a subject-matter Table of Contents and an alphabetical listing of authors, their book category and the book title. Try selecting an author, then clicking on the blue category by the name, which will bring up the full list of book titles, which when double-clicked will automatically pop up the summaries of the books.
- **Bulletin Board:** The former Forum has been reconfigured as the "Bulletin Board" to feature interesting topics such as: the USGLC's summary of Kamala Harris Foreign Policy profile; a National War College Award-winning thesis by USAID's Debra Mosel; Changing the risk paradigm for US Foreign Affairs Agencies; Moving Forward as One USAID; and a USAID announcement on the establishment of the new Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization.
- **UAA Mentoring:** This section has also been reorganized to make it much easier to find needed information from among the categories (basic program documents/agreements, program surveys/evaluations, and tools for mentors and mentees.)
- **AFSA Opportunity:** The American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) invites retired USAID Foreign Service Officers to join their organization. If you choose to join, please visit the AFSA [website](#) or send them an email at member@afsa.org.

Call for UAA Volunteer Mentors

The Strengthening USAID Committee of UAA needs more mentors! We face a high, and rapidly growing, demand for mentors. This reflects the value USAID Foreign Service Officers place on mentors and also the deep satisfaction our mentors derive from their conversations with newer USAID FSOs. A significant number of UAA members volunteer to serve as mentors, but durable matches require complementary skills, experiences, and even time zones to

succeed. Thus, not all who volunteer to mentor, nor all FSOs who request a mentor, get matched in a given year — though we get close. If you've volunteered in the past two years, trust us — we still have your name! But with rapid program growth, we need a growing cadre of mentors. Join us! We provide professional training, camaraderie, and even, at least in the pre-covid-19 world, a free lunch during training!

Please complete the Mentor Profile by clicking [here](#) to summarize your experience to help us match you to a promising FSO, or just let us know you are interested in being a mentor. Please send your expressions of interest to Roberta Mahoney (robertacairo@hotmail.com) or Rose Rakas (rosetrakas@gmail.com).

UAA Annual Picnic

The UAA 10th Annual Picnic was held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, September 12. Over 50 alumni and guests joined the two-hour fun event that enabled the participants to see and hear from friends and colleagues around the country and overseas about their post-retirement activities, catch up with others through the chat room, play a game of Scavenger Hunt at home, and compete for awards for different activities. If you are interested in learning more, you can view the video of the event by clicking [here](#)



UAA Development Issues Committee

- The Development Issues Committee held its first virtual meeting via Zoom on August 27. Our guest discussion leader was Andrew Herscowitz, Chief Development Officer of the recently created U.S. Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the successor to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Mr. Herscowitz, a Minister Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service, and formerly the Coordinator of USAID's Power Africa Initiative, led a discussion of the origins of the DFC in the Build Act of 2019 and the accomplishments and challenges of the organization's first nine months of operation. For a summary of the presentation, click [here](#).



Andrew Herscowitz

USAID History Project

The USAID History Project author, John Norris, completed the manuscript late last month. The manuscript, entitled *The Enduring Struggle - The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy*

Transformation of the World, has received very positive endorsements already from several former USAID Administrators. We are pleased to report that a commercial publisher has expressed interest, and if all goes well, a contract will be signed soon with a publication date set for early in 2021.

UAA Annual Awards Program

The July 31 deadline for award nominations has passed, and the Awards Committee received excellent nominations for the prestigious 2020 "Alumni of the Year" awards. The UAA promises you a selection of winners that you can be proud of as fellow alumni and friends. We thank the members who made the effort to submit well written nominations of deserving alumni for their international and domestic services after retirement. Please join us at the Annual General Meeting on November 6 when the 2020 award winners will be announced.

Alumni Profile: James Norris



Jim Norris joined USAID in 1965 right out of grad school and retired in 1996. For the first 15 years, he served as program economist in Tunis, Jakarta and Cairo. When he and his wife Cathy went overseas, they had one daughter, and when they returned for his first U.S. assignment, they had two daughters and one son. During the next 16 years, Jim had two tours in Washington during which he was the office director for Bangladesh and India, Counselor for the Agency, and DAA for Asia and Near East. Jim also had overseas assignments as Mission Director in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Russia. He said he loved all of these assignments.

After retiring in 1996, Jim became Chief of Party managing an urban planning and development project in St. Petersburg, Russia for two years. After returning to the States, Jim was called back to USAID to be interim Deputy Associate Assistant Administrator of the Economic Growth and Agricultural Development Office for four months, then went back to Egypt to be Chief of Party for an economic planning and reform project. Jim and Cathy returned to the States in 2003 and settled into a house in Arlington after gutting and remodeling it. Jim happily spent his time putting around the house and yard and building some furniture. They also watched with pleasure their children get married and start having children.

At the end of 2009, Jim returned to USAID to work on the first Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review for five months. He said he found it interesting to engage on the issues, but in retrospect, he believed it was not a productive exercise. Jim continued to work on procurement reform at USAID until 2012. In contrast, he said, "This I found to be interesting and, hopefully, it was productive."

Jim said that he and Cathy thoroughly enjoyed their USAID assignments and have also found retirement to be a pleasure. In Jim's second retirement, they are doing more remodeling of their home, and are enjoying visiting, and being visited by, their three children and five granddaughters and keeping in touch with fellow USAID retirees in the Washington area. They welcome hearing from their USAID alumni friends and colleagues at ja_cwnorris@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Schedule

During the remainder of the year 2020, only two more UAA newsletters are planned: **October 12** (covering the Sept 15-Oct 11 focused on pre-AGM); **November 23** (covering Oct 12-Nov 22 focused on post-AGM), and January 4, 2021 (covering Nov 24-Dec 31 focused on 2020 year-end). In 2021, we will begin publication on the first Monday of each month. If you have information you would like to share with your fellow alumni, your contributions are welcomed. Please send the information with a captioned picture of the event, date, and people shown to office@usaidalumni.org.

Make Your 2020 UAA Membership Contribution
USAID Alumni Association

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