



# USAID Alumni Association

## November-December 2020 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

The UAA Board was disappointed to hear of the recent Administration decision to immediately relieve USAID Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick of her position. In recognition of her support of the UAA volunteer activities including USAID's Memorandum of Understanding with the UAA, the Co-Chairs sent her a letter of appreciation on November 10, 2020. You can read the letter [here](#).

Administration transition teams for all U.S. Government departments and agencies were announced, including USAID in the International Development Group headed by former Assistant Administrator for Africa Linda Etim. To offer assistance to the transition team, especially from recent senior retirees, the UAA Board is reaching out to the transition team members who are listed [here](#).

We are pleased to announce that the Board has elected four Board members to serve as officers for the next year. They are: Anne Arnes and Margaret Neuse, Co-Chairs; Terry Brown, Secretary; and Carol Dabbs, Treasurer. The Board and Executive Committee expect several topics to remain high priorities for the next few months:

- First, we are considering topics for presentation or discussion with the new U.S. Administration that will take office in January. We welcome suggestions of agenda items for these discussions. Please send them to Carol Peasley by sending an email to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).
- Second, UAA's new Public Advocacy Policy, which was introduced at the AGM on November 6, provides the foundation and guidelines for UAA to engage publicly on issues concerning USAID's policies and operations, and other issues related to international development. If you would like to suggest a specific issue on which UAA engagement would be useful, please contact a UAA Executive Committee member at [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org) to discuss it.
- Third, mentoring! The resounding success of UAA's FSO mentoring program over the past eight years means that USAID leadership and staff are eager to expand the program. There is a high demand for USAID alumni mentors, so if you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Roberta Mahoney or Rose Rakas, co-chairs of UAA's Strengthening USAID committee, at [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org). For more information, please click [here](#).

### UAA USAID History Project Update

Breaking News! On November 19, 2020, agreements for the publication of the completed USAID History were signed by our author, John Norris, the UAA, and Rowman & Littlefield, a leading publisher. John delivered the final manuscript to R&L on November 20, and the expectation is that the book will be published by mid-2021. The book is titled *The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*. For the next steps, please read [here](#).

## Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** -- The **UAA Book Club** will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom for which Richard Blue has volunteered to review and lead a discussion of *Good Economics for Hard Times*, 2019, by Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. Richard will provide a short review paper beforehand. Please note that this meeting is open only to 2020 UAA contributing members and those who register no later than **December 7** by clicking [here](#). Those who register will receive information on how to join the virtual meeting.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

**Sunday, February 14, 2021, 4:00–6:00 p.m.** – The **UAA Winterfest**, our first social event of the year, will be held virtually via Zoom. UAA registrants and spouses or partners are invited to beat the winter doldrums and pandemic isolation by sharing this time with friends and former colleagues. Information will be provided later concerning signing up for this event. Please mark your calendar and join us.

**February 2021, dates/times TBD** - The Development Issues Committee will resume holding meetings on a number of interesting topics with engaging speakers. Stay tuned for the scheduled events.

## **New!** on [USAIDAlumni.org](http://USAIDAlumni.org)

- The website frontpage presents important UAA actions affecting all members and registrants:
  - A summary of **the 2020 Annual General Meeting (Parts I and II)**,
  - A statement on the new **UAA Public Advocacy Policy**,
  - A call for **UAA Volunteer Mentors**; and
  - **Development Dialogue** pieces on two sessions – **Brian Atwood and Alex Thier**.
- **Board Members roles**: On the Home Page under About Us, you can find the recent changes within the Board of Directors.
- **Obituaries**: Since our October newsletter, we have posted four obituaries: Rutherford M. Poats (Nov 2020), Ambassador Edward J. Perkins (Nov 2020), Thomas Kellermann (Oct 2020) and Dr. Curtis R. Nissly (October 2016).
- **Articles**: In recent months, we featured numerous articles, including items on:
  - [Under Biden, State Department needs to be rebuilt. But better.](#) (*Christian Science Monitor, November 18, 2020*)
  - [Bonnie Glick is moving on after being fired from USAID](#) (*Jewish Insider, November 17, 2020*)
  - [How President Biden can reinvigorate global development and diplomacy](#) (*George Ingram, Brookings, November 9,,2020*)
  - [USAID deputy leader ousted in staff shakeup amid vote counting](#) (*The Hill, November 6, 2020*)
  - [\\$1 Billion for a Green and Equitable Recovery](#) (*Rockefeller Foundation by Raj Shah, October 29, 2020*)
- **Bulletin Board (formerly the Forum)**: features six new items of interest, including:
  - MFAN's recent document on Modernizing Foreign Assistance in Turbulent Times: Recommendations for a New Administration;
  - Remarks by Dr. Jonathan S. Addleton at the Installation Ceremony

- as the New Rector of Forman Christian College, Lahore Pakistan
- Executive Message to the USAID Workforce Announcing Deputy Administrator Bonnie Glick's last day at USAID.
- Federal Retirement and Social Security benefits to increase by 1.3 percent in January;
- A November 2020 Foreign Service Journal article by George Schultz on the future of the State Department, Foreign Service and US Diplomacy.
- **USAID Job Opportunity:** Under the Job and Volunteer Opportunities tab you will find a new USAID job opportunity: **Part-time SLG Senior Advisor ACC** (5311) – As part of USAID's Office of Human Capital and Talent Management (HCTM) Foreign Service Center, the incumbent works in tandem with the Director and Deputy Director of the Foreign Service Center, the SLG support team, and the Assignment and Career Counselor team. See further details [here](#).

## 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2020 UAA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held as an all-virtual meeting, due to the covid-19 pandemic. Thus, the opportunity for members to interact directly was limited, but participation from across the country and the world was allowed. The meeting was held as two webinars and comprised of six main sessions: On October 30, (1) a discussion on climate change by Kerri-Ann Jones, formerly of Pew Charitable Trust, and Masood Ahmed, of the Center for Global Development; and (2) a panel on implications of climate change on development, moderated by Bob Ichord, of the Atlantic Council, with Dennis Carroll, of the Global Virome Project; Manish Bapna, of the World Resources Institute, and Homi Kharas, of the Brookings Institution.



Masood Ahmed



Kerri Ann Jones



Bob Ichord



Homi Kharas



Manish Bapna



Dennis Carroll

On November 6, (1) Co-Chairs, Nancy Tumavick and Anne Aarnes gave a welcome and update on UAA activities, including results of the election of board members, in which Anne Aarnes and Terry Brown were re-elected for a second two-year term; (2) a presentation on expanding UAA horizons by Jim Bever, with comments by USAID Counselor Chris Milligan; (3) a panel on the UAA USAID mentoring program convened by Roberta Mahoney, Rose Rakas and Neil Levine; and (4) a presentation of annual UAA awards by Bette Cook. David Cohen and Paul White received Alumni of the Year awards this year for both domestic and international service.



Roberta Mahoney



Rose Rakas

Chris Milligan



Neil Levine



Bette Cook



Nancy Pielemeier

A report of the 2020 AGM with summaries of the presentations is available on the UAA website [here](#), along with videos of both sessions [Part I](#) and [Part II](#). The AGM Committee looks forward to participants' feedback on the 2020 AGM. Click [here](#) to provide feedback on Part I and [here](#) on Part II.

## UAA Development Dialogues

On October 14, nearly 100 UAA and DACOR members from around the country were treated to a very thoughtful and challenging presentation by Jeremy Konyndyk on "Responding to Pandemic and Humanitarian Crises," hosted by Alex Shakow. View the [video](#) of his presentation and responses to many audience questions.

On Wednesday, November 18, former USAID Administrator Brian Atwood spoke at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue hosted by Alex Shakow. Brian's topic was "How Development Fits in a Future 3-D Development Strategy" which gave him a great opportunity to spell out his views on how a Biden Administration could bring the United States back into a leadership role on international development initiatives. His extraordinary depth of experience and range of current interests and contacts was evident throughout the hour-long program. Particularly touching were his expressions of appreciation for the valuable USAID service and advice he had received during his tenure as Administrator from many of the UAA members who asked questions during the Q&A period. You can view the [video](#) of the event and read the text of his presentation [here](#).



Brian Atwood and Alex Shakow

## UAA Development Issues

The Development Issues Committee held a highly successful virtual meeting on November 12 featuring **Alex Their**, former USAID Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Learning, as discussion leader. Alex is currently the Co-Chair of a Task Force on U.S. Strategy to Support Democracy and Counter

Authoritarianism and a Senior Fellow at Freedom House. The Task Force, launched in October, is being sponsored by Freedom House, CSIS and the McCain Institute. The wide-ranging discussion touched on the many challenges facing democratic freedoms throughout the world. Freedom House's upcoming report on *Freedom in the World* will note that 2020 will be the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year when the number of countries experiencing democratic decline will outnumber those making progress. Alex noted that President-Elect Biden has called for a "Democracy Summit" as part of his foreign and domestic policy agenda and that Task Force working groups will be preparing reports in five areas: Pillars of Democracy; Architecture and Alliances; Technology; Corruption, Kleptocracy and State Capture; and Economic Policy. Alex would welcome UAA members to contribute to the work of the Task Force. He can be reached at [jalexanderthier@gmail.com](mailto:jalexanderthier@gmail.com). For a brief review of the discussion, please see the article on the website home page. A more complete summary of the discussion, prepared by Amb. Jim Michel, can also be found [here](#).



## UAA Book Club

The UAA Book Club held two virtual meetings on October 21 and 28, in which Bobbie van Haeften reviewed and led discussions of Daniel Markovits's new book, *The Meritocracy Trap: How America's Foundational Myth Feeds Inequality, Dismantles the Middle Class, and Devours the Elite*, 2019. About 12 people participated in the review. Copies of three professional reviews of this complex book are posted in the UAA Book Club Reviews section of the UAA website and may be read by clicking [here](#).



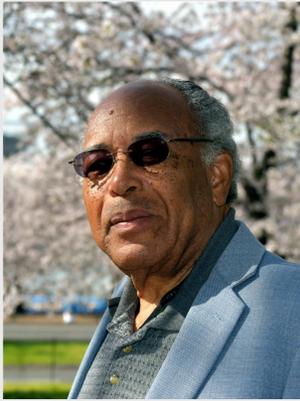
## Bibliography of USAID Authors - December update; 7 new entries

You'll find several names you know (and some no one will know) in our upcoming update. Roy Stacy's memoir, *A Delinquent's Detour*, is a fascinating personal story but also a primer in how development works. Bill Frej's *Maya Ruins Revisited* and Alex Dehigan's *The Snow Leopard Project and Other Adventures in Warzone Conservation* take us to challenging areas Foreign Service Officers know best. Jack Riggs, who ran USAID land reform programs for five years in Vietnam has just published *High Tension: FDRs Battle to Power America*.

Hubert Addleton's *Memories of Ben Hill Drive: A Southern Story* includes his 15 years as a Baptist missionary in Pakistan where his son Jonathan was raised. Three new books directed to young readers are *The Drawing Game* by Deborah Bowen Llewellyn, wife of USAID health officer Charles; and *The Trip of Your Dreams* and, my favorite title, *Escape from the Baggage Claim* by FSO Morgan Limo.

Finally, maybe it's the virus but we have two authors who are hiding behind their pen names: Caleb A.A. Constantine's *The Reconstitution of South Zaigepia: The Great Seven Day Debate*; and Alex Guisse's *The Magician*. You still have time to send additional new titles before the mid-December posting to [Jpielemeie@aol.com](mailto:Jpielemeie@aol.com). And [link](#) onto the Bibliography to find ideas for Christmas presents.

## Alumni Profile: Paul E. White



Paul White had a long and distinguished international development career, first with International Volunteer Services in 1966 and then with USAID beginning in 1973. He worked primarily in Asia and Latin America including in Laos, Korea, Panama, Peru and Guatemala. During his last decade with USAID, he served as the Development Counselor in Japan and then in Mexico before he retired in 2002.

Because of the leadership skills that Paul developed at USAID and his passion for Toastmasters, his chosen path over the last 15 years has been to expand and strengthen Toastmasters International's presence in

Southeast Asia and to develop bilingual programs in the United States.

Paul became Toastmasters International's District Governor of the 10th largest Toastmasters District in the world—the District that includes Washington, DC, southern Maryland and northern Virginia with some 240 clubs and almost 5,000 members. While District Governor, Paul made the development of bilingual clubs a priority, establishing five in Washington, DC and northern Virginia including Spanish-English, Chinese-English and Japanese-English.

Subsequent to his term as District Governor, he has focused on developing international programs for Toastmasters. Paul traveled to Laos and Cambodia to form Toastmasters programs in both countries. He also provided key support to the fledgling programs in Vietnam. As a result of his work in expanding Toastmasters International in emerging market countries of Southeast Asia, Thailand was made a regional Toastmasters District serving Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Burma. Based on his efforts in Southeast Asia, Paul was awarded a Presidential citation from Toastmasters International President in 2013.



Paul conceived of and implemented a series of Toastmasters speech programs involving participants from countries around the world as well as in United States, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of conducting Toastmasters meetings using interactive meeting technology like Zoom and Skype.

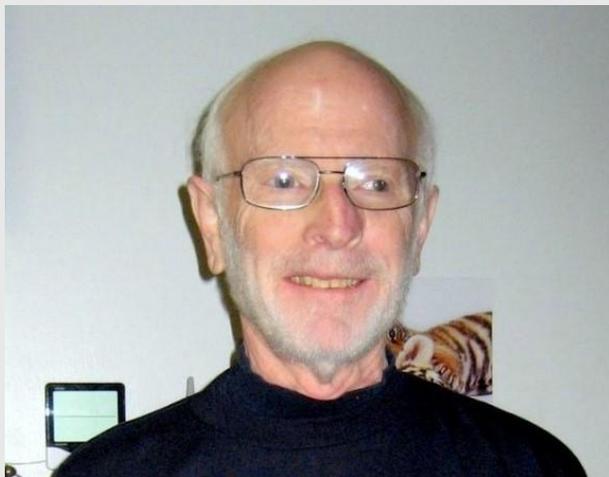
Paul and his wife Clelia also organized a virtual meeting with over 80 participants of the bilingual Spanish-English Toastmasters club in Washington, DC and a similar club in Mexico. The CEO of Toastmasters opened the international event that included the Mexican Ambassador in Washington, DC as a speaker.

Paul also served as the District host for the 2016 Toastmasters International convention held in Washington, DC with the participation of some 5,000 Toastmasters from around the world. One of his proudest moments, he said, was carrying the American flag in the parade that featured the flags of over 100 nations.

Finally, through his Toastmasters speeches, Paul has educated a very broad sector of society that is unfamiliar with USAID and United States foreign assistance programs, a key goal of UAA.

## Alumni Profile: David Cohen

### UAA 2020 Alumnus of the Year for Domestic Service



New Jersey born and raised, David Cohen earned undergraduate (Rutgers) and graduate (NYU) degrees before joining USAID in 1969. For the next 30 years, he served in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and several USAID/Washington offices before taking on a number of senior executive positions overseas. They included Deputy and Acting Director in Guyana (1980-82); Deputy and Mission Director in Bolivia (1982-87); and Mission Director in Panama (1987); Haiti

(1990-93) and Sri Lanka (1994-1997). David also served two years as the USAID faculty member at the National War College. After 30 years, he retired but rejoined USAID as the Administrator's liaison to the U.S. military Southern Command after the 2010 Haiti earthquake.

David has dedicated the past ten years of his USAID retirement to building and improving the UAA as an active member of the Executive Committee, webmaster, and mentor. His long, wide-ranging and distinguished USAID career made him a natural to start a pilot UAA Mentoring Program with senior managers in USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia and expand it very successfully to other parts of the Agency. This program stands as one of the most significant UAA achievements in collaboration with USAID. Eleven years later, he is still deeply engaged with the program where he maintains contact, and some mentoring relationships, with multiple USAID mentees.

A former Mission Director turned WordPress techie, David has given UAA members an online place to belong, to communicate, and to learn. In 2011, David led the design and implementation of a full re-make of the website, which he managed for eight years both for content and technical needs. David's post-retirement activities at UAA have had a profound impact on USAID activities in communities and countries overseas through his work with active USAID employees through the Mentoring Program. Moreover, the informational network he has created through the extensive UAA website provides research opportunities to help others in educational efforts both in the United States and abroad. His influence is broadly recognized and greatly appreciated in the international development and humanitarian assistance world.

David's own words summarize the pride and the sense of purpose among so many USAID retirees that belong to UAA: "I have long thought that working in USAID is a calling. It becomes part of our personal definitions, something that is a matter of pride of association. To stop working for AID does not mean that one ceases to care about the things that have been important and fascinating for most of one's adult life. The UAA provides us with a way of continuing to connect with all that."

David's volunteerism also engages him in community service closer to home at the Arlington Free Clinic where he has been a long-time volunteer. The clinic provides free, high-quality healthcare to low-income, uninsured people living in Arlington County.

## Newsletter Schedule

This is the last UAA newsletter of 2020. We take this opportunity to wish you happy holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year) throughout the remainder of the year. On January 4, 2021, we begin a new year of monthly newsletter publications 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 and, if possible, include a captioned picture of the event, date, and people shown to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

**Make Your 2020 UAA Membership Contribution**  
**USAID Alumni Association**