



# USAID Alumni Association

## March 2021 Newsletter

### Note from the UAA Board

On February 25, 2021 UAA Board members met with USAID Acting Administrator Gloria Steele to introduce her to UAA and to discuss how we can support the Agency. The meeting covered both on-going programs and future activities including those to be carried out under the USAID-UAA Memorandum of Understanding. We updated her on an earlier meeting with USAID Counselor Chris Milligan and senior leaders of the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL), Office of Human Capital and Talent Management (HCTM), and Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) during which the UAA team agreed with their colleagues to focus on exploring a set of activities concerning program development and evaluation, personnel recruitment and training, and public outreach. Gloria was very supportive of all UAA's contributions to USAID. Plan to participate in the Development Issues session with Gloria. See details below.

In early February, UAA joined the education arm of the US Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) by donating \$500 for 2021. USGLC is an affinity organization dedicated to strengthening support for a strong international affairs budget for diplomacy and development. It includes a wide range of members in the nongovernmental organizations and private sectors. This is the first donation of its kind by UAA, and we hope to collaborate with USGLC in related activities.

### Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.** – UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue will host **Jerry Hyman**, former Director of USAID's Democracy and Governance Office, to speak on "**Whither or Whether Democracy Promotion? Democracy Assistance, Development and Foreign Policy**," Please join us to hear, and comment on, Jerry's unconventional view of what has been done and what the future of democracy programs should be. Click [here](#) to sign up.

**Thursday, March 18, 2021, 2:00-3:30 P.M. EST.** The UAA Development Issues Committee will hold its next virtual meeting on Zoom on Thursday, March 18th from 2:00 – 3:30 P.M. EST. Our guest speaker will be **Gloria Steele, USAID Acting Administrator**, who will discuss the foreign assistance priorities of the new administration and the transition between administrations. Instructions on how to register for this event and on how to join the discussion on Zoom will be forthcoming in a separate announcement in early March. The meeting will be open to all UAA contributing members in 2020 or those who contributed during January or February of 2021.

**Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** -- The UAA Book Club will hold a virtual meeting via Zoom for which Richard Blue will lead a review and discussion of the book, *The Upswing: How America Came Together a Century Ago and How We Can Do It Again* (2020, 480 pages), by Robert D. Putnam

with Shaylyr Romney Garrett. A review of the book will be circulated before the meeting. Please note that this meeting is open only to UAA contributing members from 2020 and 2021 who register no later than **March 22** by clicking [here](#). Those who register will receive information on how to join the virtual meeting.

**Thursday, April 8, 2021, 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm** – UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue – **“Bob Gersony in Conversation with Rick Barton.”** Gersony and his many decades of extraordinary work for USAID and the State Department are the subject of a just-published book by best-selling author Robert Kaplan entitled ***The Good American – The Epic Life of the U.S. Government’s Greatest Humanitarian.*** Ambassador Barton, with long experience in USAID and State addressing global conflicts, is the author of ***Peace Works – America’s Unifying Role in a Turbulent World.*** This 90-minute program will offer ample time for an extended Q&A period. Watch for an email closer to the event with details on how to sign up.

## SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday, May 23, 2021, 4:00-6:00 p.m.** – The **UAA Spring Reception**, our second social event this year, will be held virtually via Zoom. More details will be provided closer to the event.

**Saturday, September 11, 2021, time TBD** – The **UAA annual Summer Picnic** will be held at a gathering in the D.C. area or virtually via Zoom, depending on the coronavirus pandemic situation nearer the planned date. A hybrid picnic, held both in person and virtually, is also being considered. Stay tuned.

**Friday, October 29, 2021, time TBD** – The **UAA Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Center for Global Development in Washington D.C., if conditions permit. More details will be provided nearer the event.

## **New!** on USAIDAlumni.org

**In Memoriam:** The [In Memoriam](#) page features obituaries of USAID colleagues. In the recent past, we lost the following USAID alumnae: Archie Columbus HOGAN, Jr., William T. DENTZER, Jr., Donna BALTZ, Arthur DANART, Daisy Portee WITHERS, Frank D. CORREL, Elaine Stahl LEO, Don BOYD, Jr., William H. (“Bill”) LYERLY, Jr., Barry RILEY, and Marilyn Elizabeth Wilkey MERRITT.

**Articles:** With the arrival of new national leadership, we featured more than the usual number of articles this month--12 articles. Examples include:

- [USAID nominee Power calls for US to lead on global COVID-19 response](#) (*Devex by Adva Saldinger, February 4, 2021*)
- [Restoring US Leadership Abroad](#), with 60 years of experience, USAID tackles historic crises (*Medium by Gloria Steele, February 4, 2021*)
- [USAID’s Policy Voice Should be Heard](#) (*Brookings by J.Brian Atwood and Larry Garber, February 10, 2021*)
- [Foreign Aid Is Having a Reckoning–The Black Lives Matter movement has given leaders from the Global South new traction for change.](#) (*New York Times by the Editorial Board, February 13, 2021*)
- [Four Ideas for Samantha Power’s USAID](#) (*Devex by Charles Kenney, February 1, 2021*)
- [Making USAID a premier development agency](#) (*Brookings by George Ingram, February 17, 2021*)

**Bulletin Board:** The Bulletin Board was also busy with 12 diverse items, examples of which include:

- ADST’s two public statements on strong support for the democratic

process;

- A notice on a talk by Robert Kaplan on his recent book, "The Good American—the Epic Life of Bob Gersony, the US Government's Greatest Humanitarian";
- Two articles listing USAID's new political appointee leadership and staff;
- Kelly Kammerer's oral history entitled "*The Consequences of Serendipity: From Peace Corps to USAID*";
- A beautiful video of a virtual exhibit by Alessandra Manzotti entitled "Journey to Mongolia"; and
- A public statement by AAD and the Cox Foundation entitled "Changing the Risk Paradigm for U.S. Diplomats."

**Job and Volunteer Opportunities:** The listings include two new items:

- An exciting opportunity for several UAA volunteers to participate with USAID's Office of HCTM to serve virtually on the 2021 Senior Foreign Service (SFS) Consolidated Performance Board (which will convene o/a June 1 for about five weeks. **Individuals interested in serving on this panel, please send a copy of your CV to Sarah Wines at [boardretirees@usaid.gov](mailto:boardretirees@usaid.gov). Applications are due by COB March 5, 2021;**
- Two recently-issued contracts for senior level assignment and career counseling advisory services to USAID FSOs as part of the Career Candidate Corp (C3) Initiative -- available only to USAID SFS retirees.

## Annual UAA Winterfest



The UAA hosted a highly participatory virtual Winterfest on February 14, Valentine's Day, for about 60 members and guests.

Everyone enjoyed a baker's dozen of shared Valentine's stories by alumni and participated in the game of Battle of the Sexes, with 15 men competing against approximately the same number of women who won the game.



For a review of this this fun event, click [here](#).

## UAA Development Dialogue

On February 12, the UAA/DACOR (virtual) Development Dialogue featured **John McArthur**, the first



director of the new Center for Sustainable Development at the Brookings Institution. He led the audience of over 100 USAID alumni and DACOR members through a very thoughtful presentation of how best to understand the significance of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their relevance to policy-making in both developed and developing countries. Learn the results of this interactive and stimulating event by clicking [here](#).

## UAA Book Club



Neil Levine



Grande Lum

The UAA Book Club held a virtual meeting with 20 participants via Zoom on February 17, 2021, for which Neil Levine and Grande Lum led a discussion of *America's Peacemakers: The Community Relations Service and Civil Rights* by Bertram Levine (Neil's late father) and Grande Lum. To see a summary of the book on the UAA website click [here](#).

## Payne Fellowship Mentors Needed

The Donald M. Payne Fellowship Program is now accepting expressions of interest from UAA Members for its mentoring program. The Payne Fellowship is a USAID program, administered by Howard University, which seeks to attract and prepare outstanding individuals for careers as USAID Foreign Service Officers (FSO). Payne Fellows receive support for graduate school, professional development opportunities, and gain employment with the Agency in a rewarding career in the Foreign Service.

The 2021 Payne Mentors will be selected by early April and matched with their mentees before their summer internship starts. The time commitment for the mentor is minimal but can make a big difference for a USAID Payne Fellow and future FSO. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please click [here](#) for more information. Or to fill out the Mentor Interest Form, go to: [https://howard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4ZQ6Jyri6DFtfmK](https://howard.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4ZQ6Jyri6DFtfmK).

## Alumni Profile: Rose Marie Depp

Rose Marie retired 15 years ago after a career that began as a USAID summer intern clerk-typist more than thirty years earlier. She served in Washington in the Near East, Africa, Legislative Affairs, Policy and Management Bureaus plus assignments in Africa (Tanzania, Somalia, Rwanda, The Gambia and Zimbabwe). Her career was blessed by the 'warm fires made by others' and taught by the gurus who may have been heavy with red pens, but who also

always took time to teach.

After retiring in Sisters, Oregon, she learned to play, starting with "Sally" basket-making shared by women from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. She returned to oil painting learned in her youth and then threw them out as too fussy. She tried water colors and abandoned them as too hard. In between were ten years of mosaic-making that became a bit too much. After a "let's do around the toilet" project turned into 100 square feet of stories and seven years of sitting on a cement floor, she's back to water colors.

Her love affair with Zimbabwe where she served as Mission Director, the frequency of post-retirement visits and length of the Central Oregon winter resulted in purchase of a property on a hill in Harare to which she has fled each winter since 2013. There she is renovating an old property and transforming the manicured lawns into an urban forest.

Inspired by the South African leaders and how they contributed to the 1994 democratic transition, she studied their attempt at truth-telling and reconciliation. She then ventured into peacebuilding by addressing unhealed trauma especially that resulting from organized state violence. As a trustee, she is gratified that *Tree of Life Zimbabwe* is gaining international recognition and affirmation through research on how the brain reacts to trauma and the efficacy of non-pharmaceutical, community-based interventions.

After serving on NGO boards and sitting on the 'grantee' side of the table for more than a decade, she's concluded we need a new paradigm for engaging in real partnership with indigenous NGOs. She invites dialogue with other alumni to explore their experiences.

The annual treks to Zim have been enriched by new colleagues and friends who are teaching her about becoming part of *ubuntu* wherein individualism is less valued than what one contributes to another's personhood.

She encourages everyone who is able to sign up as a UAA Mentor and notes it is gratifying when you see your mentees succeed.

## Newsletter Schedule

The next UAA newsletter will be sent on April 5, and subsequent issues will be published on the first Monday of each month. We welcome any information you would like to share with your fellow alumni. Please send the information, along with a captioned picture of the event, date, and people shown, to [office@usaidalumni.org](mailto:office@usaidalumni.org).

**Make Your 2021 UAA Membership Contribution**

**USAID Alumni Association**

