



USAID Alumni Association

July 2021 Newsletter

Note from the UAA Board

The highlight of the past month was the publication of the USAID history, *The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*. Other UAA activities also kept us busy. Over the past couple of years, UAA's activities have expanded to include a larger mentoring program for USAID officers; a new focus on diversity, equity and inclusion; collaborative work with all parts of USAID under the USAID/UAA Memorandum of Understanding; and engagement on public issues, as well as continuing events to explore development issues and help maintain connections among retirees. We welcome more volunteers to keep these activities going! Please contact us at office@usaidalumni.org if you're interested in joining a UAA committee or helping address particular issues.

Calendar of Upcoming UAA Events

Thursday, July 29, 2021, 12:30 pm EDT – The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training resumes its virtual **Diplomatic Lunch Discussion**, featuring **John Norris**, author of *The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*. **Jim Bever**, member of both the UAA and ADST Boards, will also participate. This event is open to the public, including especially UAA alumni. No advance registration is required; simply click [here](#) to join the meeting at the time of the Zoom event.

Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – The annual **Vermont Development Wallahs picnic** will be held in Rochester, Vermont. Any UAA members and friends in the area are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Ann Van Dusen at avandusen4@gmail.com.

Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm EDT. The Development Dialogue at DACOR (hosted by DACOR and the USAID Alumni Association) will feature **John Norris** speaking on "**Competing Visions of Development and Diplomacy**." John is the author of the just published volume *The Enduring Struggle: The History of The U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World*. He will discuss how different views of how development can best serve U.S foreign policy and national interest have played out since the early 1960s through today. Watch for an announcement closer to the date for this event.

Sunday, September 19, 2021, 12:00-3:00 p.m. – The **UAA Annual Summer Picnic** will be held at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria, Virginia. Please

see details below.

Friday, October 29, 2021, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – The **UAA Annual General Meeting** will be held in Washington D.C.; we are still working to confirm the site. We hope to have an opportunity to hear from Administrator Samantha Power. We have organized a special panel session on “Development Cooperation: Response to COVID-19 and Efforts to Advance Health Security,” and a session (and book-signing opportunity) with John Norris on his new book, *The Enduring Struggle*, about the history of USAID. The AGM will also have a session on how UAA Alumni can engage in more organized community outreach on development issues. Further details to follow.

New! on USAIDAlumni.org

In Memoriam: Thankfully, the page features only one recent obituary: **Joseph C. Huber**.

Articles: Under the Development Resources tab, we feature many articles published online in May/June, which include:

- **USAID’s Sharon L. Cromer to be U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia** (*Diplo pundit by Domani Spero, June 24, 2021*)
- **The New Climate Narrative** (*Op-Ed by Kemal Dervis at Brookings on June 7, 2021*)
- **Biden’s First Budget: What the FY22 Request Could Mean for Development Policy** (*CGDEV by Erin Collinson and Jocilyn Estes, June 7, 2021*)
- **Russian hack targeted USAID, human rights groups** (*MSN News/Aljazeera, May 28, 2021*)
- **Senate hearing addresses broad USAID funding goals, few details.** (*Devex by Adva Saldinger, May 27, 2021*)
- **Time to Rethink Development Assistance in the Sahel** (*by American Diplomacy, Mark Wentling, May 2021*)

Bulletin Board:

- [Author of Book on Vietnam Seeking Photographs](#)
- [A Foe in Need: Famine in North Korea: ADST Conversation with Len Rogers](#)
- [New York Times - Michelle Goldberg Column on Samantha Power 6/15/21](#)
- [American People’s Foreign Policy: USAID’s Role in Apartheid South Africa: Wendy Stickel interview](#)
- [Five Former Administrators Confirm the Importance of Adding the Head of USAID to the NSC](#)
- [Administrator Samantha Power Establishes a Two-Deputies Structure for USAID](#)
- [ADST Interview with Andrew Natsios by Carol Peasley](#)

Job and Volunteer Opportunities: The Director of the Office of Workforce Planning, PPSM, is seeking talent for the positions of:

- **Senior Project Manager (5576).** This USAID/Washington position is under the supervision of the Director of the Office of Workforce Planning, Policy and Systems Management (PPSM) and serves as the Senior Project Manager of the Task Team for Foreign Service Performance Management and Promotions, within the USAID Office of Human Capital and Talent Management (HCTM). See the full description of the job advertisement [here](#).

- **Senior Business/Program Development Associate.**

Location: Remote (occasional meetings, Arlington, VA); Status: Part-time or contract; General Description: IT Shows, Inc. is seeking a Senior Business/Program Development Associate. The Senior Associate will assist in IT Shows' business and program development efforts in the public sector with various client agencies such as USAID, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and State. Click [here](#) for detailed position description.

2021 UAA Awards: Nominations due July 31

Only 18 days remain for submission of nominations of a UAA member (or yourself) for the 2021 Alumni of the Year awards for International or Domestic Service. **Please send your nominations from now until July 31 to awards@usaidalumni.org.** The prestigious awards will be announced at the UAA Annual General Meeting in October.

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.

Don't wait until the last minute to share those stories. All nominees, including the 2021 winner(s), will be profiled in future editions of the monthly UAA newsletter. For details about the award, including appropriate but not limited categories of service and how to make nominations, please [click here](#).

10th Annual UAA Summer Picnic

**Save the date! Join the fun!
Sunday, September 19, 2021
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

The UAA will have its annual summer picnic on Sunday, September 19 at Fort Hunt picnic area. Our in-person get together is scheduled from noon until 3:00pm. If unvaccinated for the covid-19 virus, please plan to wear a mask. 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.

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](#).**

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.

"A Late Show" Host Colbert interviews USAID Administrator Power



Stephen Colbert and Samantha Power

On June 10, 2021, **USAID Administrator Samantha Power** participated in a one-on-one interview with **Stephen Colbert** on his nighttime **"A Late Show."** Colbert asked questions to educate the audience about the role of the US Agency for International Development in the world. Power explained the global presence and breadth of focus of USAID's engagement, both in terms of development content and geography – "a soft power arsenal." She also discussed the "major" job for USAID in the \$500 million vaccine doses to developing countries and the agency's role as the primary entity in exercising President Biden's "root causes strategy" in the Northern Triangle for the border issue. For you early-to-bed members who may have missed this late-night show, you can view the interview by clicking [here](#).

UAA Development Dialogue at DACOR



Jim Michel and Andrew Natsios

On June 18, 2021, **former USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios** entertained about 100 UAA and DACOR members at a very candid and stimulating session of the Development Dialogue at DACOR, co-hosted on behalf of the UAA by **Ambassador Jim Michel**. Natsios described his new co-edited book ***Transforming Our World: President George H.W. Bush and American Foreign Policy***. Natsios, currently Director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Policy, Texas A&M University, briefly described the gist of each of the book's chapters, peppering his comments with many interesting anecdotes and personal stories. He often referred, with great appreciation, to individual USAID alumni with whom he had worked closely during his period as director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). Click [here](#) to see a video of his talk and the Q&A session that followed.



From top left: Greg Starr, Alex Shakow, Chris Crowley and Jim Bever

On Wednesday, July 7, 2021 the **UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue** featured the Honorable **Greg Starr**, lead author of a recent American Academy of Diplomacy report, ***Changing the Risk Paradigm For US Diplomats***. Starr, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, described the origin of the report and highlighted its three major recommendations designed to address the alarming level of risk intolerance in the State Department and in U.S. missions abroad. Two very experienced former USAID mission directors, **Jim Bever** and **Chris Crowley**, strongly endorsed the report's findings and reflected on the serious impact such

constraints have on USAID staff being able to carry out the agency's programs. Watch the video of the session, including the Q&A period, [here](#).

UAA Development Issues



Bonnie Glick Justin Finnegan

On June 16, 2021, the **Development Issues Committee** sponsored a highly informative discussion of "U.S. Assistance is More Valuable than One Belt, One Road; A Conversation about Competition with China," attended by about 40 UAA alumni. The discussion leaders were **Bonnie Glick**, Senior Advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and former USAID Deputy Administrator from 2019-2020, and **Justin Finnegan**, Managing Director of Asia/Pacific (APAC) for Bloomberg New Economy and former Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID's Bureau for Food Security.

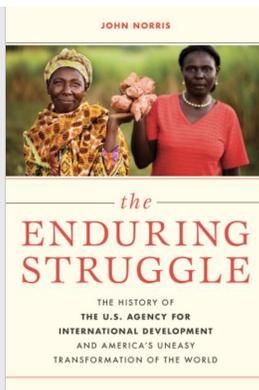
The remarks of the two discussion leaders were followed by a robust Q & A session that touched on World Bank approaches, natural resources, telecommunications, and the need for a more coordinated approach to development assistance. A more complete summary of the discussion can be found [here](#).

USAID Book Club

The UAA Book Club held a virtual meeting with 10 participants via Zoom on June 23, 2021, for which **Joe Ryan** led a review of ***The Authoritarians***, 2006, by Bob Altemeyer. The interesting thing for UAA about Prof. Altemeyer's online book is that it is relevant for the question about whether populations have a taste for international cooperation, or whether to the contrary they tend to be hostile to foreigners. Copies of Joe's presentations for the review and a pdf copy of the book itself can be found on the UAA website by clicking [here](#).

USAID History Project

The USAID history by John Norris entitled **The Enduring Struggle: The History of the U.S. Agency for International Development and America's Uneasy Transformation of the World**, has been published, and copies are now available for purchase. *(To buy the book from the publisher at a 30 percent discount please use the form at this [link](#)).* There are already three events coming up in which John Norris will talk about the



book: at the ADST Diplomatic Lunch on July 29, at a UAA/DACOR Development Dialogue on September 15, and at the UAA Annual General Meeting on October 29. There will no doubt be other events scheduled, including a UAA Book Club discussion. Alumni with suggestions for events that will popularize the book and/or generate reviews should send their suggestions to Alex Shakow at ashakow@comcast.net.

Alumni Profile: Denise Rollins



Denise Rollins with son Amari, his friend Cara, & grandpuppy Najee

Denise Rollins had planned to become a pharmacist when she graduated from high school in Detroit. Her counselor, Mr. Stewart, tried to convince her to become a teacher instead, because "you're only going to get married and your husband will take care of you." Undeterred, she applied for and was accepted at Wayne State University's College of Pharmacy. After four years at Wayne, she realized that she had a wanderlust not satisfied by filling prescriptions for the rest of her life. How she ended up as a Senior Foreign Service Officer (Minister Counselor) on a 27-year journey is a story to be told.

Denise's stint in the foreign service allowed her to serve in six countries -- Jamaica, Ghana, Uganda, Nigeria, South Africa as Deputy Mission Director, and Bangladesh as Mission Director. After serving 23 consecutive years overseas, she returned to Washington as Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia Bureau, and later as Acting Assistant Administrator. She retired in December 2014 and was called back by the Agency in February 2015 to lead the Agency's Africa Ebola Unit for 18 months.

Denise's road to USAID was long and winding with many stops along the way, including:

- Dropping pharmacy studies after four years;
- Working on Capitol Hill for Congressman John Conyers during the Nixon impeachment era and for Rep. Paul Simon on Black Lung Disease;

- Traveling to the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (Festac '77) in Lagos, Nigeria where she "witnessed first-hand the significance of development and its impact on the people of the country";
- Establishing a Nigerian business company in London;
- Joining the African American Institute Performing Arts Program; and
- Completing her BA at Howard University and a Masters of International Public Policy in international economics and finance at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Denise joined USAID in November 1987 and has not missed a beat since during her whirlwind experience. She met her husband on her first assignment in Jamaica, and they raised their son overseas. She received numerous awards for her work over the years, including the USAID Administrator's Award for Distinguished Career Service.

Since retiring in 2016, Denise serves as board member of two performing arts organizations – Dance Place and the Women's Committee of Washington Performing Arts. Denise has been associated with Dance Place since 1981 when the National Dance Theater of Zaire visited the United States. She became Board Member in 2015, and Board Chair in 2017. As an officer on the Women's Committee, she helps promote and supports performances presented by Washington Performing Arts. She enjoys attending performances at Arena Stage, Kennedy Center, Strathmore and 6th & I Synagogue.

We wonder what Mr. Stewart would say now about Denise's career prospects? Friends and former colleagues can contact her at denise_rollins@hotmail.com.

UAA Membership: Renewed Call for 2021 Membership Contributions

This year, the UAA has continued to increase its membership while also expanding and extending the reach of activities of interest to our members, no matter where you reside. To make this happen, we need your active participation, ideas, and generous financial support.

We encourage you to become a UAA 2021 contributing member by making a tax-deductible financial contribution now. All annual memberships are on a calendar year basis, regardless of the month in which you make your contribution, and half of the year remains for you to enjoy the full benefits of membership. Only contributing members may vote for members of the UAA Board and participate in Development Issues events. The suggested contribution levels are:

- \$25 for U.S. residents who live 50 miles outside the D.C. area, residents of foreign countries, former FSNs wherever they live, or Associate Members (widows, widowers, and former spouses and partners of USAID alumni eligible for UAA)
- \$75 for those who live within a 50 mile radius of D.C.

And we welcome you to join with other "angels" who have generously contributed \$100 or more as "Friends of UAA."

To become a member or renew your membership electronically by **credit card**, please click [here](#).

Or you may contribute by **check** made out to USAID Alumni Association and mail it to: Treasurer, USAID Alumni Association, P.O. Box 16723, Alexandria, VA 22301.

So, don't delay! Make your 2021 annual membership contribution today, and encourage your friends and former colleagues to sign up and contribute to UAA as well.

Newsletter Schedule

The next newsletter will be sent on September 7, following the Labor Day holiday. We hope you enjoy receiving this news of your fellow alumni activities. If you have information you would like to share, your contributions are welcomed. Please send the information, along with a captioned picture of the event, date, and people shown, to office@usaidalumni.org.

Make Your 2021 UAA Membership Contribution

USAID Alumni Association

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