In this edition of Focus on Africa, we present a wide and detailed look into the work of the Yale Africa Initiative, past and present. Following up on President Peter Salovey’s visit to Africa last spring - which is documented and highlighted in the video you will see immediately below this message - Pericles Lewis, Vice President for Global Strategy and Deputy Provost for International Affairs, traveled to the continent. In his time in Ethiopia, Uganda, and South Africa, Vice President Lewis witnessed the impact of the work of the initiative and reinforced key partnerships. This spring alone, Yale's alumni, students, and faculty have demonstrated deep commitment to the mission of the Yale Africa Initiative. We are honored to showcase the stories, contributions, and successes of our community with you in this edition of Focus on Africa. We hope you enjoy.

- Eddie Mandhry, Director for Africa

The Yale Africa Initiative and the Power of Partnerships

The Yale Africa Initiative (YAI) was announced by President Peter Salovey during his inaugural address in 2013.

Now, more than five years later, this video offers a brief update on YAI and how Yale is leveraging the power of partnerships and global networks across the continent. More >>
Vice President Pericles Lewis Visits the Continent

On First Leg of Trip to Africa, Pericles Lewis Participates in Women's Leadership Forum in Ethiopia

Pericles Lewis, Yale University's vice president for global strategy and deputy provost for international affairs, attended the Leadership Forum for Strategic Impact during his visit to Ethiopia. More >>

Supporting Primary Health Care Transformation Initiative (PTI), Yale VP Visits Health Center in Ethiopia

Vice President Pericles Lewis visited a health center site in East Shoa, Ethiopia on March 12 in support of the Yale-led Primary Healthcare Transformation Initiative (PTI). More >>

Bonds of MUYU Partnership Strengthened During Makerere University Visit

On March 13, Vice President Pericles Lewis visited Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda (MUK) on March 13 to meet with university leaders, alumni, and medical residents. More >>

In South Africa, VP Pericles Lewis Visits African Leadership Academy

On the final leg of his trip in Johannesburg, South Africa, Vice President Pericles Lewis visited the African Leadership Academy (ALA) campus, co-founded in 2004 by Yale alumnus Chris Bradford '00. More >>

Spotlights

Dr. Amir Aman Hagos, Yale GHLI Alumnus,
Leading Ethiopia's Health Care Agenda

Dr. Amir Aman Hagos, Ethiopia's newest minister of health, is one of the youngest healthcare influencers on the African continent. He is often described as a leader determined to set the country's health sector on the right track. More >>

Yale GHLI Alumna Leads Efforts for More Equitable Health Care in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Minister of Health Dr. Amir Aman Hagos was so impressed with Dr. Lia Tadesse's commitment to improving the country's health care delivery system that he named her the newest state minister of health. More >>

School of Architecture Alumna Leads African Modernism Exhibition in Uganda

In her hometown of Kampala, Uganda, Doreen Adengo '05 M. Arch. co-curated a chapter of 'African Modernism' - an exhibition that documents how African nations celebrated their postcolonial identity through architecture. More >>

Sutton Lab Researcher Brings Yale Experiences Home to Uganda

George Ssenyange is a medical exchange student from Uganda, here through the Makere-Yale University (MUYU) collaboration. Ssenyange describes the day he received the news that he had been selected to participate in the collaboration as "one of the most joyous and most cherished moments of (his) life." More >>

Alumna Lina Ayenew Is Connecting the Dots Between Africa and China

Lina Ayenew '10 B.A., '11 M.P.H. began learning about China after receiving a teaching fellowship from the Yale-China Association. Now, she devotes much of her work to understanding and strengthening Africa-China relations. More >>
Faculty News

Friedland Honored for Career's Work in South Africa

Gerald Friedland, MD, professor emeritus and senior research scientist in medicine (infectious diseases) and professor emeritus of medicine, epidemiology and public health; was recently honored at a ceremony at the HIV clinic in Tugela Ferry, KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa. More >>

Faculty Work & Research

Looking for Balance Between Conservation and Development in Africa

Helen Gichohi, this year's McCluskey Visiting Fellow in Conservation, is at F&ES this semester to further her research on the possible threats Africa's rapid development could pose to the environment. More >>

Yale Doctor Helps Highlight Need for Worldwide Focus on ‘Silent Killers’

Dr. Christine Ngaruiya, an assistant professor in the section of global health and international emergency medicine at the Yale School of Medicine, is taking a leadership role to combat the grave dangers of NCDs worldwide. More >>

Yale School of Architecture Partners to Address Challenges Faced by Rapidly Urbanizing Africa

UN Environment, UN Habitat, the Yale Center for Ecosystems in Architecture and associated partners are working together to create smart, environmentally conscious housing designs as one step in addressing the rapid urbanization of the African continent. More >>

HAPPINESS Project Increases Access to Mental Health Treatment in Nigeria
In 2018, Dr. Theddeus Iheanacho, assistant professor of psychiatry at Yale, partnered with a group of other researchers to kickstart the HAPPINESS Project (Health Action for Psychiatric Problems In Nigeria including Epilepsy and Substances), a pioneering program based in Imo State, Nigeria. More >>

For F&ES Scholars, Africa Trip Offers Glimpse of Partnership Opportunities

During a recent trip to a research center in central Kenya, three F&ES faculty members - including Dean Indy Burke - discovered the potential for long-term collaboration that could re-shape the experience for the next generation of F&ES students and scholars. More >>

A Dream of Sustainable Surgery in Uganda

When Dr. Ozgediz, an assistant professor at Yale School of Medicine, first traveled to Uganda in 2003, most visiting doctors were helping to manage such problems as HIV and malaria. "Little had been done to tackle surgical diseases," he says. "There were major challenges as far as infrastructure, poverty... The question was, what could we do?" More >>

Campus News

Author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie '08 M.A. to Speak at Class Day

The celebrated novelist and essayist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who received her master of arts in African studies from Yale in 2008, will be this year's Class Day speaker, members of the Yale College Class of 2019 have announced. More >>

Fifth Annual Africa Salon Festival Celebrating Arts and Culture of the Diaspora

This year's Africa Salon marked five years of the African arts
and culture celebration at Yale. The incredible lineup of artists and events made for an exciting and successful weekend. Click "more" to see the full schedule, lineup, and a gallery of photos from the weekend. More >>

Three More Yale affiliates Named Gates Cambridge Fellows

Three more Yale affiliates have been named Gates Cambridge Fellows - they include Ololade Aliyu Sionbola, of Nigeria, who is a current master's degree candidate in African studies at Yale and alumni Onon Bayasglan ’13 M.E.M., of Burundi. More >>