



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2017 - 2018



# COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

ANNUAL REPORT

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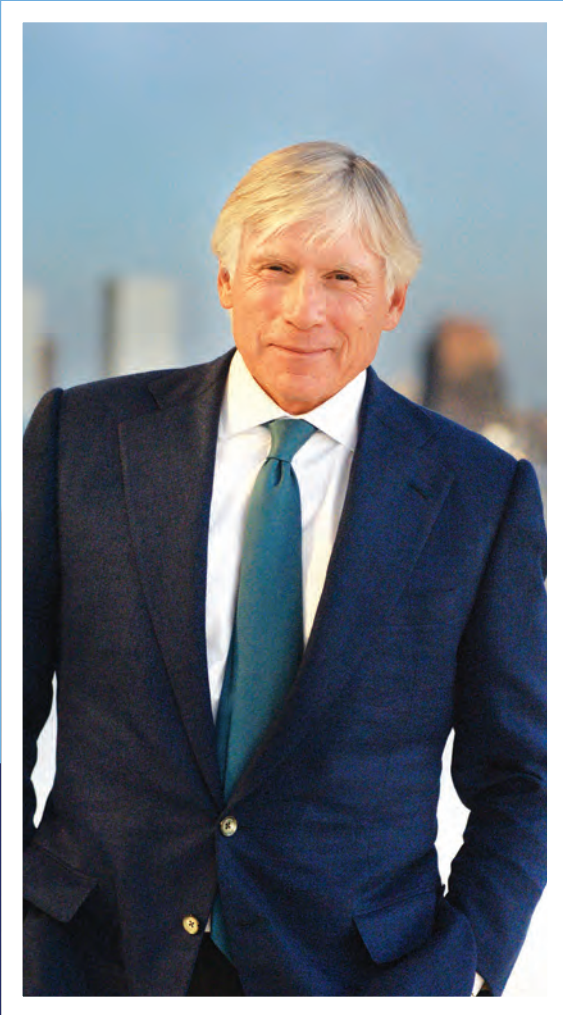
# CONTENTS

- 06 A MESSAGE FROM LEE C BOLLINGER, President, Columbia University
- 08 A MESSAGE FROM SAFWAN M. MASRI, EVP, Global Centers and Global Development
- 09 A MESSAGE FROM DR. MURUGI NDIRANGU, Director, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi
- 10 COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK
- 12 THE EVOLUTION OF COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI
- 14 NAIROBI CENTRE FACULTY STEERING COMMITTEE
- 16 THE CENTRE TEAM IN NAIROBI
- 18 COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI FINDS A NEW HOME
- 19 CENTER HIGHLIGHTS & MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# CONTENTS

- 20 THEME: KNOWLEDGE SHARING
- 22 THEME: BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT
- 24 THEME: CREATIVE & LIBERAL ARTS
- 26 THEME: HEALTH INITIATIVES
- 30 PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS
- 32 PUBLIC PROGRAMMING
- 35 THE PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND (PGIF)
- 37 SPECIAL FEATURE ON KENYAN STUDENTS - MADELEINE MATELI NZASU
- 38 SPECIAL FEATURE ON KENYAN STUDENTS - CYNTHIA JUMA WELINGA



## MESSAGE FROM

### LEE C. BOLLINGER

**PRESIDENT, Columbia University**

Why does art provoke state censorship? How can pluralism be harnessed for positive political change? What role does religion play in protecting women from gender-based

“No enterprise at the University more fully embraces the future than our network of Columbia Global Centers.”

violence? Columbia's Global Centers are home to ongoing discussions of these and many other questions drawn from fields ranging from healthcare and sustainability, to social justice and armed conflict. These lectures and workshops, led by distinguished scholars from Columbia and other universities, are just one dimension of the rich intellectual life of the Global Centers. Our students are becoming proficient in foreign languages, and studying architecture and political science; researchers from diverse disciplines and backgrounds are collaborating to advance their scholarship.

As the world continues to change in ways that make us all feel more closely interconnected, and global society attains new levels of economic and technological integration, Columbia is evolving so that our scholarship



**“The new perspectives that our faculty and students acquire in Columbia Global Centers bring all of us in closer contact with the rest of the world.”**

and teaching reflect this reality. No enterprise at the University more fully embraces this future than our network of Columbia Global Centers. They are essential to expanding our understanding of the world and to preparing new generations to confront urgent problems that refuse to be cabined by national boundaries. The new perspectives that our faculty and students acquire in Columbia Global Centers stretching from Santiago to Beijing enrich the intellectual dialogue occurring on our New York campuses and bring all of us in closer contact with the rest of the world.

This is what we hoped for when we set forth to build Columbia Global Centers. With each

passing year, we see a growing volume of innovative scholarship—in many instances, the product of collaborative programming involving multiple Centers. For this, we are indebted to you, our supporters, and to all of the remarkable faculty members and energetic students who are responsible, each in their own way, for creating this essential part of Columbia’s future.

**Sincerely,**

**LEE C. BOLLINGER**

# PROFESSOR SAFWAN M. MASRI

## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

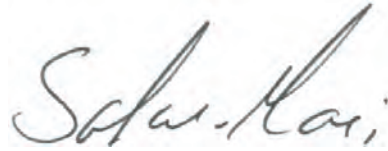
### Global Centers and Global Development, Columbia University

This past calendar year was a time of great global changes and challenges. The world experienced political upheavals, refugee crises, and contentious elections, the impacts of which were deeply felt by our Global Centers and our local, regional, and global partners. The acute and widespread effects of these events, however, reinforced that our network of Centers is uniquely positioned to take on the most pressing global issues of our time. By responding to and engaging with our individual local contexts, the Columbia Global Centers have helped us better understand each other, and brought firsthand perspectives back to our campus in New York City.

Our network also experienced many important developments during the year. We welcomed a new Director to our Center in Nairobi and laid the foundation for a new Global Center in Tunis. Across our network, we deepened our connections with local audiences through education programs, research projects, and public engagement. Collectively, our network held over 350 events worldwide.

On campus, and under the visionary leadership of President Lee C. Bollinger, we beheld the awesome development of an entirely new 17-acre campus in Manhattanville, which will soon add the new University Forum building – a space where scholars and thought leaders from various fields can come together to share ideas. Columbia's priorities were also given a new voice through two groundbreaking global initiatives: Columbia World Projects, which will connect our research capacities with organizations beyond the academy to transform our work into concrete consequences benefitting humanity; and the Columbia Commitment, a five-year capital campaign organized around university-wide initiatives known as Commitments, which will support the work of faculty and students across schools as they collaborate for transformative impact on major issues of our time.

Our network of Global Centers has emerged over this past year stronger and more energized than ever before. Much of our success is due to the support of our partners, colleagues, and friends, and for that I say thank you. Looking to the future, we will continue to deliver impactful work on the ground in our nine cities and to bring important perspectives from around the world back to our growing campus in New York City.



**PROFESSOR SAFWAN M. MASRI**





# DR. MURUGI NDIRANGU

## Director

### Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is located in a region of great vibrancy. The Center's focus is not limited to Kenya's capital but also serves as a hub for academic research in Eastern and Southern Africa. This region is characterized by fast growing economies and a youthful population. Such energy presents many challenges, but lots of opportunities. In acknowledging this fact, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi recently realigned its mission to Columbia University's mission, to not only offer research support for its faculty students and alumni but also to address some of the challenges faced by the population in the region where the Nairobi Center is based. Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi has grown from its involvement with the Millennium Development and Sustainable Development Goals. The Center now addresses themes in Knowledge Sharing, Business Empowerment, Creative & Liberal Arts and Health Initiatives. By focusing on these areas, the Center is better placed to increase student and faculty engagement, support research projects, reach out to alumni and build partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders in the region.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the political context that the Center operates in. Kenya's extended electioneering period in 2007 limited student and faculty engagement at the Center. Even then, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi held several events that engaged the public in various aspects. Of note is the Migration Convention launched in Nairobi last year. The Nairobi Center also received a grant from the EU in partnership with Teachers College Columbia to implement a project on education and resilience to support training of teachers based in refugee camps in Northern Uganda and South Sudan. The Beyond the Music event brought together leading music talents from Kenya to deliberate on youth activism.

One of our most important initiatives, the African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium (ANSRC), continues to receive



great reviews and lots of encouragement from various partners. The Consortium is working to set up PhD programs in Nutrition Sciences and Agriculture as well as related Lab-Based Sciences. The project has so far brought together over 17 academic research institutions in the Eastern African region while attracting support from the Inter-University Council of East Africa, and funding from the African Development Bank and Columbia University's President's Global Innovation Fund.

For all that we have achieved and all that we aspire to, special thanks go to our Faculty Steering Committee, the Nairobi Center advisory board, our growing list of partners, the network of global centers, all faculty, students and alumni who have worked with Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi, Professor Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Columbia Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University, and of course Lee C. Bollinger, President of Columbia University, whose vision we seek to realize with each passing day.

## COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK

The Columbia Global Centers network promotes and facilitates the collaborative and impactful engagement of the University's faculty, students, and alumni with the world, to enhance understanding, address global challenges, and advance knowledge and its exchange. The global centers, as envisioned by President Lee C. Bollinger, were founded with the objective of connecting the local with the global, to create opportunities for shared learning and to deepen the nature of global dialogue.

Under the leadership of Professor Safwan M. Masri, Executive Vice President for Global Centers and Global Development, there are nine Global Centers located in Amman, Beijing, Istanbul, Mumbai, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago and Tunis. This network forms the core of Columbia's global strategy, which is to expand the University's ability to contribute positively to the world by advancing research and producing new knowledge on the most important issues confronting our planet.

The Columbia Global Centers engage regional experts, scholars, universities, and civil society, while encouraging teaching and research across disciplinary boundaries. Some of the centers' programs and research initiatives are country-specific, some regional, and an increasing number are multi-regional and even global. Columbia Global Centers are now well immersed in their local regions, and in a position to further leverage their partnerships and expertise on behalf of the Columbia community.

## RECENT NETWORK DEVELOPMENTS

### Ninth Global Center Opens in Tunis

**Columbia Global Centers | Tunis** is Columbia University's latest global center led by Dr. Youssef Cherif. It began operations in 2018, focusing mainly on Tunisia and by extension North Africa, with a possible expansion towards West Africa. Several projects by Columbia faculty and affiliates are already taking place such as classes for business and political science students, entrepreneurship training for Tunisian start-ups, workshops on cinema and religious studies, lectures on various topics, and scholarship information sessions. Similarly, a number of lectures related to Tunisia have been organized in New York and Paris.

### Institute for Ideas and Imagination to Launch in Paris

The Columbia Institute for Ideas and Imagination will open its doors in fall 2018 at the Paris Center. The program will admit an annual cohort comprised of seven Columbia University faculty fellows, scholars, writers and creative artists, from outside the USA. Its purpose is to question the established ways in which knowledge is defined, produced and taught. The institute encourages applications in all disciplines and on any topic from candidates interested in participating in a creative community of scholars, artists and thinkers

“Columbia Global Centers expand the University's ability to contribute positively to the world by advancing research and producing new knowledge on the most important issues confronting our planet.”

## THE GLOBAL CENTERS NETWORK

**Columbia Global Centers | Amman** opened in March 2009 and is led by Professor Safwan M. Masri, EVP for Global Centers and Global Development at Columbia University. The center in Amman offers student programs in Arabic language studies, architecture, environmental sustainability and democracy and constitutional engineering. Programmatic themes include public health and migration, education, entrepreneurship and youth, gender and refugees.

**Columbia Global Centers | Beijing** debuted in 2009 and promotes opportunities for expansion of Columbia University research and scholarship in China, while functioning as a conduit for knowledge exchange and skill development with local experts, in the areas of Art, Culture and History; Engineering and Science; Urban Planning and Public Health; Environment and Sustainability; and Business, Innovation and Entrepreneurship. It serves as a hub for Columbia University students to study and gain new experiences in a global context with programs of orientation and internship, as well as the home away from campus for alumni to organize social gatherings and activities of academic exchange.

**Columbia Global Centers | Istanbul** was launched in November 2011 and is directed by Ipek Cem Taha ('93BU, '93IA). The center in Istanbul serves as a hub for Columbia University programs and initiatives relevant to Turkey and the region, and continues to focus on several ongoing themes, such as gender equality, refugees, art and architecture, in addition to exploring new ones, such as narrative medicine. The center is exploring new and exciting work with other global centers, Columbia campus counterparts and the newly-minted Sakip Sabanci Chair and Center for Turkish Studies.

**Columbia Global Centers | Mumbai** was established in 2010 and is led by Ravina Aggarwal. The center serves as a knowledge hub and develops research-based programs and activities related to critical issues in the South Asia region. It currently focuses on five key areas, namely Water Access and Management; Sustainable Urbanization; Education, Culture

and Knowledge; Health and Medicine, and; Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship.

**Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi** opened its doors in January 2012 and is directed by Dr. Murugi Ndirangu. The center worked in collaboration with Columbia's Earth Institute and hosted the Millennium Villages Project, which directly supported half a million people through operations in six African countries. The center's major programmatic themes include Knowledge Sharing, Business Empowerment, Creative and Liberal Arts, and Health Initiatives.

**Columbia Global Centers | Paris** was launched in 2010 and is led by Paul LeClerc and Brunhilde Bicbuyck. The center hosts a large undergraduate program, a Master of Arts in History and Literature, a joint undergraduate/graduate architecture programs, and an Executive Master in Technology Management. The public programming focuses on Creative and Liberal Arts, Science, Medicine and Social Issues.

**Columbia Global Centers | Rio de Janeiro** opened in March 2013 and is led by Thomas J. Trebat. It offers academic and professional development programs in Brazil that are relevant within the Brazilian context but that can also contribute to global debates. The center's public programming agenda focuses on issues of Public Policy Management, Health, Engineering, Environment, Arts and Entrepreneurship.

**Columbia Global Centers | Santiago** launched in March 2012 and is led by Karen Poniachik. It hosts joint research in earth sciences and environment, engineering, public policy, journalism and architecture. The Center's programming focuses on Corporate Governance, Global Economics, Waste Management, Solar Energy, Water Security, Arts and Culture.

**Columbia Global Centers | Tunis** is a hub for Columbia's faculty and students with an interest in North and West Africa. It is scheduled to open in 2018, and aims to run programs in the fields of Education, Entrepreneurship, Political Science, Heritage and Archaeology, and Climate Change.



## THE EVOLUTION OF COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is part of Columbia University's global network of centers, which together aim to create opportunities in research, scholarship, and teaching around the world, and to expand Columbia's mission as a global university. The center in Nairobi aims to support the achievement of some of Columbia University's global initiatives, including the Columbia World Project (CWP) whose mission is to increase the University's knowledge base, critical understanding, and analytical capacities for dealing with the phenomena associated with increasing global interdependence.

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi aims to fulfill its mission by serving as a regional hub for research and collaboration, as part of Columbia University's strategy to achieve a global presence and link the continent to Columbia's scientific rigor, technological innovation, and academic leadership. The Center provides Columbia's students and academics with a base from which to conduct research in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Formerly known as Columbia Global Center in Eastern and Southern Africa, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi, is a non-profit corporate body established in Kenya on 12th May 2011. It is as a company limited by guarantee, under the provisions of the Companies Act of the Laws of Kenya. Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi was officially launched in 2012 by the then President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki.

During its first five years of operation, the Center collaborated closely with Columbia's Earth Institute in fostering relationships with policymakers, governments, and regional institutions to provide them with objective, science-based evidence for their pursuit of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. In the field of development, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi aimed to contribute to the fight against poverty undertaken by African Governments under the umbrella of the Millennium Development Goals.

Major accomplishments during this period include the center's leadership in:

- The Millennium Villages Project
- The African Soil Information Service, and
- The UN's Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

To this end, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi facilitated research, dialogue and technical support for African countries. The Center also worked closely with policy makers, governments, and regional and African institutions including the African Union (AU) and the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), providing them with objective, science-based advice free of bias or self-interest.

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi also served as a base for collaborative research projects as well as several courses and student internships in the Eastern and Southern African regions. The Center hosted well-attended events, including lecture series, roundtable discussions, and symposia on diverse topics covering public health, business and international affairs. For these activities, the Nairobi Center collaborated with partners at Columbia University that included the School of

the Arts, the School of International and Public Affairs, Teachers College, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Columbia Business School, Barnard College, the Mailman School of Public Health, the School of Dental Sciences, and the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

The culmination of the Millennium Villages Project in 2015 provided an opportunity to review the programmatic direction of the Center, to expand its offering and reinvigorate it with new leadership. To achieve these objectives, the Center downsized its human resource, moved some of its staff and injected new expertise to its team. In mid-2016, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi inaugurated its new location at Westcom Point in the Westlands district of Nairobi. In addition, Dr Murugi Ndirangu was appointed as its new director in January 2017. The implications of this transition came with a new strategic plan covering 2017-2022.



## NAIROBI CENTER FACULTY STEERING COMMITTEE

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is well supported by a Faculty Steering Committee in matters academics, leadership, intellectual input and advice on Center activities. Faculty members are critical in identifying and broadening opportunities for scholarly exchange, helping create innovative and sustainable programming at the Center. Committee members are engaged in various disciplines and bear a broad range of research interests.

### MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE



**Wafaa El-Sadr**  
Co-Chair

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi  
Faculty Steering Committee

*University Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine; Matilde Krim-amfAR Professor of Global Health; Director, ICAP at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Research Interest - Health and Medicine.*



**Mahmood Mamdani**  
Co-Chair

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi  
Faculty Steering Committee

*Herbert Lehman Professor of Government and Professor of Anthropology, Department of Anthropology. Research Interest - Arts and Humanities.*



**Alondra Nelson**  
Dean of Social Sciences

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

*Professor of Sociology. Research Interest - Arts and Humanities.*



**Carol Becker**  
Dean

School of the Arts

*Professor of the Arts, Faculty of Arts & Sciences. Research Interest - Arts and Humanities.*



**Christopher L. Brown**  
Vice Provost

Faculty of Arts and Sciences

*Professor of Sociology. Research Interest - Arts and Humanities.*



**Dustin Rubenstein**  
Associate Professor of Ecology

Evolution and Environmental Biology, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

*Research Interest - Science, Engineering, and Environment.*



**Howard French**  
Research Scholar  
Faculty of Journalism

*Graduate School of Journalism.  
Research Interest - Arts and Humanities.*



**Marina Cords**  
Professor of Ecology

Evolution and Environmental  
Biology and Anthropology,  
Department of Anthropology

*Research Interest - Science,  
Engineering, and Environment*



**Kai Kresse**  
Director of Undergraduate  
Studies

Middle Eastern, South Asian, and  
African Studies; Associate Professor,  
African Studies, Swahili Studies

*Research Interest - Arts and Humanities*



**Peter deMenocal**  
Dean of Science  
Faculty of Arts & Sciences

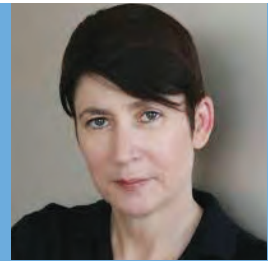
*Director, Center for Climate and Life,  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory;  
Thomas Alva Edison/Con Edison  
Professor of Earth and Environmental  
Sciences. Research Interest - Science,  
Engineering, and Environment.*



**Portia Williams**  
Executive Director

Office of International Affairs,  
Teachers College

*Research Interest - International and  
Public Affairs.*



**Rosalind Morris**  
Professor of Anthropology

Department of Anthropology

*Research Interest - Arts and Humanities.*



**Severine Autesserre**  
Adjunct Research Scholar

Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War  
and Peace Studies, Department of  
Political Science, Barnard College

*Research Interest - International and  
Public Affairs.*



**Vijay Modi**  
Professor of Mechanical  
Engineering

Department of Mechanical  
Engineering

*Research Interest - Science,  
Engineering, and Environment.*

“Committee members are engaged in various disciplines and bear a broad range of research interests.”

## THE CENTER TEAM IN NAIROBI

### ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi advisory board members are recognized entrepreneurs and prominent figures excelling in various areas of business in the region. The board offers leadership and counsel to enhance the Center's activities.



**Dhiren Chandaria** is a successful serial entrepreneur who has established businesses in Canada, the US, and Kenya. He has a profitable track record in the consumer goods manufacturing sector as well as sales and marketing. As a member of the Advisory Board at Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi, Dhiren is facilitating the work of the Nutrition Innovation Leaders Working Group that is spearheading innovations in nutrition and food security.



**James Leitner** serves as President of Falcon Management Corporation, a family office. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics from Yale, with an emphasis on Russia and Eastern Europe. He also holds a Master's Degree from Columbia University specializing in International Finance and Russian Studies and a JD from Fordham University Law School. Jim is on the Yale President's Council on International Activities and formerly served on the Yale Investment Committee and Yale Honorary Degree Committee. He sits on the Dean's Council of the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

### CENTER STAFF

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi personnel is composed of a small team led by a director assisted by a manager in charge of finance and administration, and a programs officer.



**Dr. Murugi Ndirangu** joined the Center as its new director in January 2017. She was previously an associate professor of Nutrition and Health Care Management at Appalachian State University, where she conducted research on the health of vulnerable populations and the efficacy of public health nutrition interventions in domestic and international settings. Before taking up the directorship role in Nairobi, Dr. Ndirangu was also the East African Coordinator for the African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium (ANSRC). She holds a PhD in Nutrition and Food Systems from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Educational Psychology and a Bachelor of Education, both from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Ndirangu's appointment was the culmination of a rigorous search process that commenced in May 2016. Several faculty members, including members of the Center's Faculty Steering Committee provided invaluable assistance in the process.

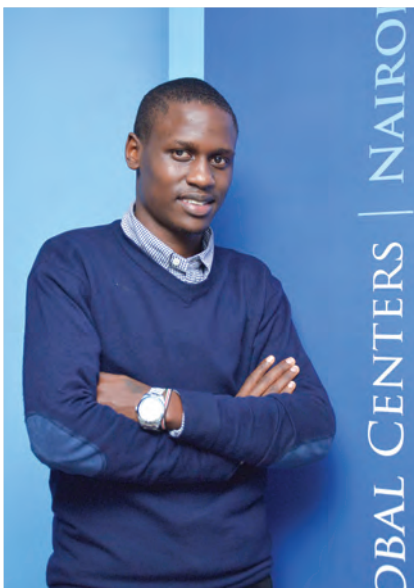




**Jane Wambugu** is the manager in charge of finance and administration. She oversees budget development activities, project administration and human resources at the Center. She initially joined the MDG center in February 2007 as its finance officer. Previously, she worked at the World Agroforestry Centre in various positions including regional finance officer for East and Central Africa, accountant budget and projects administration (South East Asia) and assistant treasury accountant. Jane has also served as the audit assistant at Dominion Consultants/Wachira Irungu & Associates Certified Public Accountants. Academically, Jane is a certified public accountant. She holds a MBA in Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship, and a BA in Accounting from the United States International University-Africa (USIU-A). She also holds a Diploma in Horticulture from Egerton University and has previously worked for the Kenya Ministry of Agriculture.



**Pauline Muthoni** joined Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi in May 2012 as the personal assistant to the Director. In her current role as a Programs Officer she oversees projects, logistics, and communication, and provides administrative support to staff within the center. Pauline holds a Master's degree in Business Administration and a BA in Human Resource Management. She has over 7 years of experience in office administration and management.



**Joel Mwangi** is an intern in the finance and programs offices at the Center. He is also a 4th year accounting student at KCA University in Nairobi. Once he graduates, Joel intends to pursue a career in financial accounting.

## COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI FINDS A NEW HOME

The appointment of a new director for Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi coincided with the Center's move to a new facility in the Westlands district of Nairobi. The new location at Westcom Point building expanded the center's capacity for events, partnerships, and the opportunity to showcase its work in Nairobi and around the world.

With this reinvigorated presence, and a dedicated team, Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is able to work with partners and local communities in Kenya and East Africa and to best deliver on the emerging interests of faculty and students,

as well as the pressing needs of local partners through our existing networks.

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is enhancing its communication strategies to better handle stakeholder programs and activities and enhance possibilities for partnerships. In tandem with the Middle States Report recommendation to expand and enhance the consistency of online information at Global Columbia and the Global Centers, the center in Nairobi regularly updates its activities on social media platforms and media outlets.



## CENTER HIGHLIGHTS & MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi aims to be a center of excellence on global issues in the region. The rich public programming offered at the center draws on the diverse and rich resources of Columbia University and the network of global centers, creating a productive space for intellectual encounter and inquiry.

### COLUMBIA GLOBAL CENTERS | NAIROBI

#### FOCUSES ON THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

# 1



KNOWLEDGE SHARING

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# 2



BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT

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# 3



CREATIVE & LIBERAL ARTS

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# 4



HEALTH INITIATIVES

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# 1 KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi continues to create opportunities for knowledge sharing with students and faculty. Plans are underway to work with Columbia University faculty and other academic partners to design courses that can be delivered at the Nairobi Center. Our existing education programs includes the Princeton and Columbia Universities project which brings together students from Columbia and Princeton Universities to study ecology and biodiversity of Northern Kenya in collaboration with Mpala ranch.

Additionally, the center participates in the China-Africa initiative which enables high school and university students conduct research on projects involving the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals that are of relevance to Africa, the US, and China. Other programs in the pipeline include entrepreneur training courses

to be organized in partnership with Venture for All, part of the Columbia Business School. The Center is also planning to offer certificate courses in public health, jointly with the Mailman School of Public Health.

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is positioning itself as the go-to place for regional students looking to attend Columbia University. The Center is set to host several recruitment events over the year. Some of the programs that could participate in recruitment events include Columbia Undergraduate admissions, Masters of Business Administration, and Masters of Public Health programs. Through these efforts, the center will create awareness about Columbia University in the region and hopefully increase the number of students attending Columbia University.

## 2017 – 2018 HIGHLIGHTS



*A group of Chinese students conducting research projects relevant to Africa, the US, and China, during a visit to the Nairobi Center in January 2017*

### CHINA-AFRICA-US HEALTH INITIATIVES

A group of Chinese students conducting research projects relevant to Africa, the US, and China, visited the global center in Nairobi in January 2017. The group comprising of 6 students, 4 mentors and teachers were in the country for a week long study on public health, specifically related to decreasing water borne diseases in Maasai women. Their findings showed that the lack of clean water led to women in the community contracting UTI's, eye infection and skin diseases. In their conclusions, the students

noted that a solution to this problem would lead to an overall improvement in health, education, gender equality and empowerment of Maasai women.

### GLOBAL THINK-IN EVENT - NAIROBI SERIES

Columbia University hosted a Global Think-In event on 24th April 2017 as a way of generating new ideas and perspectives on issues of global concern. This unique event sought to tackle global issues through a truly global exchange of ideas facilitated by Columbia University,

# 1 KNOWLEDGE-SHARING



*Students from Princeton and Columbia universities during a field trip to study the ecology and biodiversity of Northern Kenya in collaboration with Mpala Ranch*

## 2017 – 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### GLOBAL THINK-IN EVENT - NAIROBI SERIES (CONTINUED)

Committee on Global Thought and its nine global centers. The event was immensely important for the global centers, as it was the first – and certainly most ambitious and visible – attempt to leverage the global network in a tangible and highly public way. Global Think-In served as the launching pad for a two-year collaborative project with the Committee on Global Thought entitled “Thoughts on a Changing World”, which involves and requires the continued strong collaboration of all global centers.

In Nairobi, the dialogue was led by Dr. Alex Awiti, the Director of the East African Institute at Aga Khan University. Panellists included Mr. Patrick Gathara, an editorial cartoonist for the Daily Nation and the East African newspapers, Dr. Bitange Ndemo, an Associate Professor at the University of Nairobi’s Business School, and Dr. Jemimah Njuki, a Senior Program officer at IDRC. The panel covered issues on infrastructure, demographic transition, entrepreneurship, technology, food security, artificial Intelligence

and climate change. They identified the factors that continually impact the economy as climate change, urbanization and increased population. The panel also noted that Africa is highly dependent on agriculture and on a positive note, that the youth are increasingly involved in agriculture and are incorporating technology through innovative farming methods.

### COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL THOUGHT (CGT) PROJECT

Following the successful Global Think-In event in April 2017, the Committee on Global Thought is working on an extended project titled Youth in a Changing World. The project will engage youth from around the world to seek their perspectives on the most pressing challenges facing the world today. Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi has committed to participate in all the planning stages for this event and to host the event in Nairobi. The center also looks forward to hosting Masters students working with the office of Global Thought on their Global Opportunities (GO!) program as they carry out their projects.

# 2 BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is located in a region with a large population of youth and high unemployment rates. As a result, a significant number of individuals in this segment are self-employed. While many of these entrepreneurs set up small and medium sized enterprises, many lack the skills to run businesses successfully. The Center in collaboration with various partners is working to bridge the gap in entrepreneur skills training. Plans are underway to offer short courses in business, targeting youth, women, and small business enterprises. At the beginning, this will be in partnership with the Venture for All program of the Columbia University Business School in collaboration with our local partners.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### CITI EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL JOURNALISM SEMINAR

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi staff attended the Citi Journalistic Excellence Award (CJEA) luncheon held in October 2017. The event was a culmination of a 3-day seminar organized by Citi Bank. The CJEA is an international seminar sponsored by Citi and administered by Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. It seeks to build capacity and raise the quality of journalism for business correspondents from national media outlets in Kenya. Winners participate in a 10-day business and financial seminar in New York City at Columbia University's Journalism School. Participants

engage in rigorous workshops in the principles of accounting and finance, as well as exposure to institutions, policy makers and other thought leaders in the United States of America.

### TRANSFORMATIONAL BUSINESS NETWORKING

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi was well represented at the Transformational Business Network's graduation and networking cocktail held in November 2017. While at the event, the center's director, Dr. Murugi Ndirangu got an opportunity to meet innovative entrepreneurs and thought-leaders who are developing sound business solutions for East Africa.

*MBA students from the Chazen Institute for Global Business during their visit to Nairobi in March 2018 to conduct a study on the private enterprise in Kenya*



# 2 BUSINESS EMPOWERMENT



*Nairobi Center director Dr. Murugi Ndirangu (L) with industrialist Dr. Manu Chandaria of Comcraft Group, which produces steel, plastic, and aluminium products in 45 countries*

## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### GROUP VISIT BY THE CHAZEN INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL BUSINESS

A group of 30 MBA students from the Chazen Institute for Global Business visited Nairobi in March 2018 to conduct a study on the private enterprise in Kenya. They were led by Professor Jonas Hjort. The group met with key business figures to learn about their experiences and how they have achieved business success in Africa. The group also got to learn how brands can enter the African market and operate successfully in emerging markets. Among the key business leaders the group met were Dr. Manu Chandaria, CEO of Comcraft and Dr. James Mwangi, the CEO of Equity Bank, Kenya.

### ENGAGING MICROSOFT4AFRIKA

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi seeks to engage Microsoft4Afrika as part of the Center's plan to increase programming in the area of youth development. Microsoft4Afrika develops affordable access to business and innovation skills on the African continent. They do so by funding start-ups and SMEs, providing affordable

access to internet, as well as encouraging and supporting innovative projects by the youth. As a technology company, Microsoft4Afrika has suggested that the Center in Nairobi implement virtual classroom environments through the use of cloud computing, a promising innovation in virtual teaching.

### COURTESY CALL BY THE ORGANIZATION FOR AFRICAN YOUTH

The Organization for African Youth serves as a platform for young people to assert their power in numbers, energy and imagination to transform Africa into a beacon of hope for all people. The organization's coordinator, Mr. Michael Asudi paid the centre in Nairobi a courtesy call to explore collaborations in the areas of economic empowerment, entrepreneurship leadership training, governance and accountability. By meeting monthly, the group intends to eventually forward policies to the government for implementation. Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi also plans to put together joint proposals to seek funds that fulfil such youth projects.

# 3 CREATIVE & LIBERAL ARTS

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is in a culturally rich region with diverse languages, artistic expressions and traditional practices. We value the heritage around us and pride in sharing these diverse forms of expressions with the world while at the same time providing a forum for harnessing creative skills by advancing knowledge in the arts through training and facilitating cultural diversity programs.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### BEYOND THE MUSIC

Beyond the Music was a panel discussion that took place in December 2017. The panelists included popular, Kenyan music artists discussing their social activism as something beyond their professional music careers. The artists on the panel included Victoria Kimani, Kennedy Ombima, Antony Mwangi, Fena Gitu, Patricia Kihoro and Judith Nyambura. The discussion was moderated by activist and writer, Kevin Mwachiro. The artists engaged the audience in a lively discussion on their role as mentors to Kenyan youth. The conversations also focused on the values of hard work, skill-building and partnerships. Through the event, it was also determined that forums designed to address mental health were necessary as the issue has become a common challenge among performing artists in the country.

*Nairobi Center director Dr. Murugi Ndirangu (L) with Kenyan music artists during a panel discussion held at the Nairobi Center in 2017 named Beyond the Music*





# 3 CREATIVE & LIBERAL ARTS

## FOLKLORE X ANTO NEOSOUL SLOW DOWN PRIVATE VIEWING



### 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

#### “SLOW DOWN” A MOTION PICTURE BY FOLKLORE FILMS AND ANTO NEOSOUL

In May 2018, the Nairobi Center hosted a private screening of a Kenyan production by Folklore Films and Antony Mwangi (Anto Neosoul). *Slow Down* tells the story of a teenage boy from the ghetto who wants to do good but the circumstances surrounding him force him to indulge in crime. Though the boy has football dreams, the reality of his impoverished life creates lots of tension in his life. He pays the ultimate price for his criminal activity. The film is inspired by true events.

### 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

#### “SAGE PHILOSOPHY” WORKSHOP

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi hosted the Sage Philosophy Workshop in May 2018. Sage Philosophy was developed by Kenyan philosopher, Henry Odera Oruka. It is a fieldwork-based interview and documentation technique that captures Africa’s indigenous sage wisdom. Sage Philosophy was created in response to a dominant derogatory attitude in Western academia that is skeptical or outrightly dismissive of the possibility of philosophical thought in Africa. Prof Oruka and his research assistants traveled the country in search of sages recognized as “wise” within their own communities. They documented their discussions with them creating an accessible archive of individual Kenyan thinkers outside of academia. In this workshop held in May, participants came together to revisit and re-think the sage philosophy project in respect to their own research perspectives, based on Philosophy, African Studies and related disciplines.



# 4 HEALTH INITIATIVES

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi has historically partnered with African governments to actualize the Millennium Development Goals to fight poverty. It is from this background that the Center found it necessary to promote various health initiatives and research efforts. Leading the Center's health-based project is the African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium. The ANSRC brings together academic and research

institutions across the East African region with the goal of building a PhD training program in basic laboratory research in nutritional and agricultural sciences. On the other hand, the One Million Community Health Workers Program is working to strengthen the skills of community health workers in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Malawi.

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

### **PATHOLOGY CANCER STAKEHOLDERS MEETING**

Dr. Charles Marboe, Professor of Pathology at Columbia Medical College held a meeting at the Nairobi Center in January 2017 with the leadership of the Pathology Working Group. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the submission of an R13 grant application to the National Institutes of Health, to support a larger pathology stakeholders meeting to be held later in the year.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - UK (DFID)**

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi facilitated the submission of a proposal to the Department for International Development - UK (DFID), seeking

funding for a project on climate prediction, infectious diseases, nutrition and food security. The proposal was prepared in collaboration with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IR), with Dr. Madeline Thompson and Dr. Murugi Ndirangu as the principal investigators.

### **NUTRITIONAL INNOVATORS GROUP MEETING**

On 15th November 2017 stakeholders in the area of nutrition met Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi to discuss innovations in the food sector. The meeting comprised of senior staff from the World Food Program, World Vision and Insta Products. The group is in the process of planning an innovation hub fund where each partner provides seed funding of USD5000 to support innovation projects in food and nutrition.

*Nairobi Center director Dr. Murugi Ndirangu (R) takes part in a school feeding program in Maasai land courtesy of Insta Products (EPZ) who manufacture nutrient-rich foods for those at risk of malnutrition*



## 4

## HEALTH INITIATIVES

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

**MAKING PROGRESS ON THE AFRICAN NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (ANSRC)**

The ANSRC meeting was held in Nairobi in December 2016 and brought together consortium members from across the East African region with the goal of building PhD training programs in basic laboratory research in nutritional sciences. The 25-plus participants who attended the symposium, represented universities in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Facilitating the consortium were Prof. Richard Deckelbaum and Prof. Debra Wolgemuth of the Institute of Human Nutrition at Columbia University. They were joined by Dr. Bonnie Dunbar, an adjunct professor at the University of Nairobi. What followed was a series of key meetings and conferences in relation to the ANSRC.

- In January 2017, Prof. Richard Deckelbaum returned to Nairobi to follow up with stakeholders involved in the ANSRC activities and whose input and participation is vital for the successful establishment of the consortium. While in Kenya, he met with the Chairperson of the Department of Nutrition at Kenyatta University, the head of the Nutrition and Dietetics Unit at the Ministry of Health, the Director of the Center for African Population and Health Research, the Director General of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation and the Regional Advisor in Nutrition from the United Nations Children’s Fund.
- **Africa Development Bank Meeting:** In April 2017, Nairobi Center director, Dr. Murugi Ndirangu together with Dr. Richard Deckelbaum travelled to the Ivory Coast for a meeting with officials of the Africa Development Bank. While in Abidjan, they sought funding for the ANSRC. Following successful talks, the ANSRC was asked to submit a formal proposal through the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA).
- **UNICEF Regional Nutritional Roundtable:** May 2017 brought with it even more opportunities for the ANSRC. Dr Ndirangu and Dr. Deckelbaum participated in a roundtable discussion with UNICEF. During the talks Dr. Deckelbaum gave a presentation titled the Human Economic Cost of the Double Burden: The Need for New Paradigms. The meeting was held to share and discuss UNICEF’s global direction with regard to its new strategic plan 2018-2021 (nutrition components) and to broadly review accountabilities in the implementation of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan. Participants in the meeting comprised of senior UNICEF nutrition staff from 21 country offices in the UNICEF Eastern and Southern African regions.

“The African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium (ANSRC), continues to receive great reviews and lots of encouragement from various partners.”

*Dr. Murugi Ndirangu*  
*Director*  
 Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi

# 4 HEALTH INITIATIVES

## 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- The 6th National Science Week Conference:** Still in May, Dr. Ndirangu along with Dr. Richard Deckelbaum attended the sixth edition of the National Science Week Conference. The event was organized by the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), which is a division of the Ministry of Education. Dr. Deckelbaum gave a presentation titled the African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium: The Nexus for Training in Nutrition, Agriculture and Ecology'. The theme of the conference was 'Research, Science, Technology and Innovation to Address Climate Change.' The major emphasis was on the need to embrace science, technology and innovation (ST&I) as a critical ingredient for industrialization and sustainable development. Dr. Deckelbaum's presentation drew great interest from attendees especially those from local institutions who enquired on partnering with the Nairobi center on the nutrition project.
- The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA):** At the end of a busy month, Dr. Ndirangu and Dr. Richard Deckelbaum met with the officials at IUCEA. They received a positive response from the council who demonstrated their eagerness to support the ANSRC's objectives. They promised to submit the funding proposal on behalf of ANSRC to the African Development Bank.

*An oral health workshop held at the Center*



# 4 HEALTH INITIATIVES



## 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

### PRESSING FORWARD: THE AFRICAN NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM (ANSRC)

- **3rd Africa Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I):** Come February 2018, the Presidential Global Initiative Fund (PGIF) supported ANSRC participated in the third edition of the Science Technology & Innovation (ST&I) forum held in Cairo, Egypt. The theme of the meeting was “Science, Technology, and Innovation to Boost Private Sector and Socio-Economic Transformation in Africa”. The conference brought together governments, multilateral organizations (such as the African Union and UN agencies), academic institutions, scientists, researchers, innovators, and private firms. It was organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Egyptian government. ANSRC was represented at the meeting by Nairobi center director Dr. Murugi

Ndirangu, and the East African Coordinator, James Wariero. The team attended key sessions of the meeting and made contact with new members of the consortium as well as potential stakeholders that the ANSRC still needs to achieve its objectives. ANSRC also had an exhibition booth where the Consortium, the Institute of Human Nutrition (IHN) at Columbia University, and the Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi were showcased. The AfDB has committed to fund the ANSRC general meeting to be held in 2018.

- **IUCEA & AfDB Funding Meeting:** The ANSRC later met with the Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) East Africa Regional Office in March 2018. Prof. Debra Wogelmuth, and Dr. Richard Deckelbaum of IHN together with Dr. Murugi Ndirangu met with IUCEA officials and AfDB officials to discuss ANSRC activities.

## PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

### AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS NEW POSSIBILITIES

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi director Dr. Murugi Ndirangu in March 2017 visited Aga Khan University, Nairobi. She met with the institution's Vice Provost Prof. Kweku Bentil, the Dean of Medical School - Dr. Robert Armstrong, and the director of the Institute of Human Development - Dr. Kofi Marfo. The Vice Provost listed various post graduate programs offered at the university including Nursing, Oncology, Bachelor of Science in Midwifery and Bachelor of Science in Human Development. Dr. Ndirangu also got to learn about the School of Media and Communication which is headed by Prof. Michael Meyer - a Columbia University alumni, who was involved in setting up the media program.

In April 2017, Dr. Murugi Ndirangu met with Dr. Meyer who gave her a tour of the School of Media and Communication. The facility is equipped with state of the art media rooms, a studio and conference areas. It has been in operation for the last two years. Like Dr. Meyer, three of its staff are alumni of Columbia University. The institution currently has an executive Master's program and is set to establish a Leadership and Innovation program.

The Aga Khan University has been working in collaboration with Harvard University on some of its programs. The institution is open to working with Columbia University faculty on various teaching programs. Dr. Ndirangu welcomed the idea and agreed to explore mutually beneficial working terms. Across East Africa, Aga Khan University has an Institute for Education Development in Tanzania and the School of Nursing and Midwifery in Uganda. The institution also plans to establish a School of Medicine in Kampala, as well as a regional campus and a hospital in Arusha.



### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi held fruitful discussions with two major banks in the country to explore opportunities for collaboration. In April of 2017, Dr. Ndirangu met with Dr. Beth Waweru of Equity Bank and Equity Foundation. They discussed the bank's possibility of sponsoring a Youth Speakers' Series, offering entrepreneurship training with Venture For All - a program in the Columbia Business School, and developing an orientation program for students admitted to US colleges, working jointly with the International Scholars and Students Office at Columbia University.

The following month, Dr. Ndirangu held discussions with MaryAnne Mwaura, the Public Affairs Officer at Citibank, East Africa. They explored ways of launching a Kenyan CEO Speakers' event in conjunction with Columbia Business School. Columbia University supports the bank in the Citi Journalistic Excellence Awards

*Dr. Bitange Ndemo, an Associate Professor at the University of Nairobi's Business School, Dr. Alex Awiti, the Director of the East African Institute at Aga Khan University, Dr. Jemimah Njuki, a Senior Program officer at the International Development Research Centre and Mr. Patrick Gathara, an editorial cartoonist for the Daily Nation and the East African newspapers during a recent panel discussion at Columbia Global Center | Nairobi in March 2018*





*Nairobi Center staff and MBA students from the Chazen Institute for Global Business at the Equity Bank headquarters where they met the bank's CEO Dr James Mwangi (front row, 4th from left) during the students' visit to Nairobi in March 2018*

(CJEA), which is a partnership between Citi Bank and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

### FIRMING UP EXISTING LINKS WITH KENYATTA UNIVERSITY

In February 2017, Nairobi Center director, Dr. Murugi Ndirangu met with senior research officials of Kenyatta University to explore possibilities for further collaboration in various disciplines. Among those she held talks with include Prof. Frederick Gravenir, Deputy Vice Chancellor – Research, Innovation and Outreach, Dr. Maina Mwangi, the Director of Research and Prof. Vincent Onywera. As a stakeholder in the African Nutritional Sciences Research Consortium (ANSRC), Kenyatta University presents endless possibilities for collaboration with Columbia University. Dr. Murugi also met with the university's Director General of National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation.

### KENYAN RESEARCH PERMITS FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Edwardina Ndine of the National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) met with Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi director, Dr. Murugi Ndirangu early in 2017. Their talks touched on the role science, technology and innovation can be applied to achieve and implement SGDs. A highlight of the discussions was the research permit application processes – a key requirement of the Kenyan government for all persons intending to do research in Kenya. Both parties agreed to make the application process more efficient for faculty and students from Columbia University who apply to carry out research in Kenya

## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

### PAST EVENTS

#### SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION FOR EUROPEAN UNION GRANT

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is pleased to announce that their proposal seeking funding from the European Union was successful. The Center will now receive USD50,000 each year for four years towards projects that will support safe learning environments, teaching and learning, conflict sensitivity and research data management and evidence building. The proposal was titled Building Resilience: Education Opportunities in Fragile and Crisis Affected Communities. The Nairobi Center will also serve as an intermediary between the Teachers College and Oxfam IBIS who will facilitate the program.

#### VISIT TO MAASAI SCHOOL WITH DHIREN CHANDARIA

In late May of 2017, Dr. Murugi Ndirangu and Dr. Richard Deckelbaum visited a school in the heart of Maasai land to observe a school feeding program sponsored by Mr. Dhiren Chandaria. Mr. Chandaria is the CEO of Insta Products (EPZ) Ltd and a member of the Nairobi Center Advisory Board. Dr. Ndirangu and Dr. Deckelbaum also toured Insta Products (EPZ) to see how the factory manufactures ready-to-eat therapeutic foods that support a number of nutrition programs in the region.

#### TEACHERS IN CRISIS CONTEXT WORKSHOP

In June 2017, the Nairobi Center hosted a Teachers in Crisis Contexts workshop whose aim was to empower tutors who teach in refugee camps in the region. The Teachers in Crisis Contexts training pack was launched in April 2016 through an inter-agency effort. It consists of four modules: Teacher's Role and Wellbeing, Child Protection, Wellbeing and Inclusion, Pedagogy, and Curriculum and Planning. Facilitators from Finn Church Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and Teachers College-Columbia University took participants through the four-day introductory version of the pack with the 5th day open for discussions.



#### VISIT BY MBA STUDENTS FROM THE CHAZEN INSTITUTE

In March 2018, a group of 30 MBA students led by Prof. Jonas Hjort, Assistant Professor of Economics at Columbia Business School visited Kenya and Rwanda. During their tour, the group was hosted by large and medium-sized businesses in Nairobi and Kigali. While in Kenya, the group visited Safaricom, Equity Bank, Mabati Rolling Mills, TecnoServe, IBM Kenya, and BRCK.

In Rwanda they toured the Rwanda Development Board Special Economic Zone with a particular interest in C&H garments, Sahashra (LED lights), and Africa Improved Foods (agro-processor/fortified foods). While in the region, they also visited the Sorwathe Tea Farm. The theme of the trip was "Understanding Business Dynamics in Emerging Markets". The group met business executives to discuss their successful ventures and gain an understanding of the challenges that the businesses face and how they thrive in sometimes volatile economies.



## PAST EVENTS

## MODEL INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY CONVENTION (MIMC) LAUNCH

On March 22, 2018 the Nairobi Center hosted the launch of the Model International Mobility Convention. The meeting brought together experts in the areas of refugee law, human trafficking, labor rights, public policy, international law, labor migration and forced migration. The event was moderated by Prof. Sarah Deardorff, an adjunct professor at SIPA.

The panel of speakers were drawn from government, academic and NGO sectors. They included Mr. Jo Rispoli, Senior Regional Specialist on Labour Mobility and Human Development at IOM Regional Office, Ruth Njuguna of Counter-Trafficking Secretariat, Ministry of Labour (GOK), Dr. Josephine Gitome, Director - Kenyatta University Center for Refugee Studies and Empowerment, Edwin Righa - Immigration Officer, Directorate of Immigration, Ministry of Labour (GOK). Tim Howe - Senior Regional

Migrant Thematic Specialist for Migrant Assistance for the East and Horn of Africa at IOM Regional Office. The panel of speakers brought their wealth of expertise in matters pertaining to migration and discussed at length the recently launched Model International Mobility Convention.

The Model International Mobility Convention proposes a framework for mobility with the goals of reaffirming the existing rights afforded to mobile people as well as expanding those basic rights where warranted. The preamble of the mobility convention establishes the complementarity of the convention with existing international legal instruments. These include the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other core international human rights treaties.

*Teachers from refugee camps in the region at the Nairobi Center during The teachers in Crisis Contexts seminar in June 2017.*



## PUBLIC PROGRAMMING

### UP COMING EVENTS

#### NO-BOUNDARIES INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is participating in the No-Boundaries International Art Exhibition alongside the Rio, Beijing and the Paris Global Centers. No-Boundaries aims to enhance global awareness and social responsibility through visual art education programs for children and young adults. It provides a non-profit educational platform beyond existing differences in nationality, language and culture. In 2018, the No-Boundaries exhibition in Beijing, Paris, New York, Nairobi and Paris will display artworks from children and youth across the globe. All artwork will align with the 2018 theme "One Tree, One City". The Nairobi Center has confirmed participation from three schools with students ranging from pre-school to high school.

#### YOUTH FOR CLIMATE LEADERS

The Columbia Global Centers in Nairobi, Paris, Tunis and Rio are jointly supporting the Youth for Climate Leaders initiative by Prof. Cassia Moraes. The call for participants was issued on March 5th with the deadline set for April 30th 2018.

Participating youth will have the opportunity to visit different regions of the world where they will learn more about climate change in theory and in practice. Participants are scheduled to be in Nairobi from July 30th to August 28th, 2018. At each destination, participants will meet with key local organizations, universities and community leaders. They will also have an opportunity to immerse and engage with the community.

#### SUSTAINABLE AFRICAN FOOD

The Nairobi Center in conjunction with Columbia Global Centers | New York is planning an on-campus event with celebrated organic chef, urban farmer and food activist Njathi Kabui. The event will include a lecture on food, sustainability, global studies and nutrition, and an interaction with campus dining service on including African recipes in its menu. Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is in the preliminary planning stages as we work with the New York faculty and dining services on-campus. Under our theme, Creative and Liberal Arts, we also hope to have an art exhibition on-campus featuring Kenyan celebrated art. We will be engaging Columbia Art School in this proposal.



2018 The 3<sup>rd</sup>

## No-Boundaries International Art Exhibition

Location: Beijing, New York, Paris

Exhibition Period: July - September 2018

Theme: One Tree, One City

Application Period:

**February 1 - June 1, 2018**

Age Groups: Pre-school, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School

Online Application: [www.noboundariesartshow.org](http://www.noboundariesartshow.org)

For more details, please contact us at [info@noboundariesartshow.org](mailto:info@noboundariesartshow.org)

## THE PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND (PGIF)

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi is honored to have been, in the last two years, the focus of several successful applications for the President's Global Innovation Fund (PGIF). The fund was launched in March 2013 by President Lee C. Bollinger. It offers support to faculty to enable them develop projects and research collaborations within and across the University's nine Global Centers, while increasing global opportunities for research, teaching, and service. The Center in Nairobi recognizes all successful awardees in the 2017 and 2018 round of applications. We look forward to supporting these and many other research projects.

### 2018 AWARDEES: TITLE OF PROJECT AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

#### ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: A PUBLIC HEALTH AND LAW SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP IN KISUMU, KENYA

##### Terry McGovern

Harriet and Robert Heilbrunn Professor of Population and Family Health Chair, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health

##### Wafaa El-Sadr

University Professor; Dr. Mathilde Krim-amfAR Professor of Global Health (in Epidemiology) Department of Epidemiology, Mailman School of Public Health Department of Medicine, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons Director, ICAP

#### CO-CREATING AN URBAN DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS ALLIANCE

##### Neil Boothby

Professor of Population and Family Health, Mailman School of Public Health

##### Mary Mendenhall

Associate Professor of Practice Department of International and Transcultural Studies Teachers College

##### Nora Akawi

Adjunct Assistant Professor Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation

#### IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE AND GLOBAL HEALTH: TAKING KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION

##### Andrea Howard

Associate Professor of Epidemiology (in ICAP), Mailman School of Public Health

##### Julie Kornfeld

Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Vice Dean for Education, Mailman School of Public Health

#### PROPOSAL TO CONVENE A MEETING OF KEY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEDIATRICS HEALTH CARE LEADERS AND RELATED GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS AT THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GLOBAL CENTER IN NAIROBI, KENYA IN AUGUST OF 2018

##### Philip LaRussa

Professor of Pediatrics, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

##### Lawrence Stanberry

Reuben S. Carpentier Professor of Pediatrics Chair, Department of Pediatrics, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

##### Wilmot James

Visiting Professor of Pediatrics, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

#### STUDENT GEOLOGY RESEARCH IN THE TURKANA BASIN

##### Sidney Hemming

Professor and Chair, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences Faculty of Arts and Sciences Deputy Director for Education, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

##### Stephen Cox

Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

## THE PRESIDENT'S GLOBAL INNOVATION FUND (PGIF)

### 2017 AWARDEES: TITLE OF PROJECT AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

**GLOBAL LEARNING LABORATORY FOR ORAL HEALTH STEP 1: A PLANNING GRANT TO CREATE A KENYA-BRAZIL CROSS-NATIONAL COLLABORATION IN SUPPORT OF RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND POLICY**

**Kavita P Ahluwalia**

College of Dental Medicine – IFAP Global Health Program

**AFRICAN ETHNOGRAPHIES, AFRICAN PHILOSOPHIES: THEORIZING FROM THE CONTINENT**

**Mamadou Diouf**

School of Arts and Sciences - Institute of African Studies

**MEN MATTER: MALE ENGAGEMENT IN HIV SERVICES – KENYA AND BRAZIL**

**Tanya Ellman**

Mailman School of Public Health - College of Physicians and Surgeons

**GENERATIVITY IN DEPRIVED URBAN CONTEXTS? OLDER ADULTS' EXPERIENCES IN SLUMS IN MUMBAI, NAIROBI, AND AMONG HAITIAN IMMIGRANTS IN NEW YORK**

**Ruth Finkelstein**

Mailman School of Public Health, Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center

**AFRICAN NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES RESEARCH CONSORTIUM: LABORATORY-BASED PHD TRAINING IN NUTRITIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES IN EAST AFRICA**

**Debra Wolgemuth**

College of Physicians and Surgeons - Institute of Human Nutrition

**CHINA'S AID TO AFRICA: ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Wafaa El-Sadr**

Mailman School of Public Health, College of Physicians and Surgeons

“The President’s Global Innovation Fund offers support for faculty to develop projects and research collaborations within and across the University’s nine Columbia Global Centers, to increase global opportunities for research, teaching, and service.”

## SPECIAL FEATURE ON KENYAN STUDENTS

Columbia Global Centers | Nairobi has been working with its local partners to support Kenyan students who apply to study at Columbia University. The Nairobi Center supports Columbia alumni and students to ensure that they thrive both socially, and academically. This year, we feature two students who recently joined Columbia University.

**MADELEINE MATELI NZASU** had always wanted to study abroad. When she finally completed high school in Kenya, she began her search for the university of her dreams. "I googled 'Ivy League Schools' and Columbia came up on the screen," she recalls. "I was immediately sold because its main campus is located in New York City, and also because the institution's culture perfectly matched my creative, adventurous and extroverted personality."

Madeline then delved into an application process that would take nine months to complete. She began by studying for her SATs while writing application essays. She also went about asking her former teachers to write recommendation letters that would be included in her application. "I had not expected the process to be so strenuous. However, all the hard work I put into it eventually paid off."

As soon as she arrived in New York, Madeline took an independent approach to settling in. "Wrong move. That very first day, I got lost within the campus grounds." In a panic, Madeline called a Columbia student back in Kenya, who asked one of the Kenyan students on campus to help Madeline out. In spite of the challenges she faced at the time, Madeline could not help but take in the sights and sounds of the University. "There was music playing, people vending snacks on the campus lawns, and newly admitted freshmen (including myself) gobbling down our first taste of Columbia food. The mishaps aside, my life as a freshman has been quite thrilling!"

Madeline's experiences, from application to admission, is what saw her join the Equity Foundation. She serves the trust as a mentor to Kenyan students who need guidance as they apply to study abroad. Madeline thanks everyone who was involved in getting her to Columbia University, beginning with God, her family, her former teachers and the many friends she has made so far.



## SPECIAL FEATURE ON KENYAN STUDENTS

**CYNTHIA JUMA WELINGA** was the talk of Kakamega County in Kenya, after emerging as the best performing girl in the 2014 secondary school national examinations. The Equity Foundation wasted no time in taking her up and even offering her employment in one of the bank's branches in the area. She would later serve as a mentor to other incoming top performers. In spite of the fame and fortune she was enjoying at home, Cynthia was still determined to pursue her dream of studying abroad. "My eyes were set on taking Columbia's programmes in Medicine so I could do something in the health industry, specifically with Médecin Sans Frontière or the UN."

Cynthia soon began the application process, an undertaking she describes as having been fairly smooth. Rather than go about it independently, she applied to Columbia through the Kenya Scholar Athlete Project (KenSAP) and Equity Foundation. Both organizations met the cost of her SATs and provided vital study material.

"When I arrived, I received a very warm reception at Columbia and also at Barnard," she recalls. "The first few months were incredible and I got comfortable enough to learn, explore, get uncomfortable, and grow. I was amazed by the academic ambition in almost every student at the University. I immediately knew that I was in the right place." Cynthia acknowledges that she couldn't have come this far on her own. She appreciates the effort made by the Equity Foundation, and the opportunities they accord to high achievers like herself to make their dreams come true. She also thanks the Barnard and Columbia community for helping her settle in very comfortably.

"Special thanks goes to my mother, who has been the greatest influence in my life. Talking to her often keeps me grounded and reminds me to keep focused on what it is I came to achieve here."





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