Welcome to the first issue of Alumni News: a digital newsletter curated especially for you, our U.S.-Angola exchange alumni community. We look forward to sharing updates, upcoming programs, opportunities and highlighting achievements and notable initiatives from the community.

Why and why now? Because U.S. Exchange Alumni are our most valuable asset and we want to build a strong and integrated alumni community across Angola. Investing in the next generation of leaders and changemakers was just the first step in your exchange program experiences. Maintaining that connection by promoting opportunities for growth, innovation and networking are how we build a long-term relationship. We are proud of your achievements and want to ensure there is a platform to highlight dynamic, engaged and active Angolans who are being the change they want to see.

From my fingers to yours, Happy Reading!
The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the U.S. Department of State’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) to “spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Sub-Saharan Africa.” The session provided an opportunity to interact with a senior leader on ideas about service, leadership, continuous learning and the value of networking. This inaugural session launched a monthly series to prepare the cohort for travel in summer 2021.

"In order to become a good leader you need to have good mentorship. In turn, you need to then lead the next generation. You are young leaders, but you have much to share."

Ambassador Nina Maria Fite

"Thanks for keeping us motivated, for believing in our initiatives and making sure that we keep doing better by learning more and more."

Oscar Duarte
YALI MWF 2020
**Alumni Opportunities**

**Welcome to the 2021 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund**

U.S. Embassy Luanda is opening the 2021 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund. Proposals for innovative (existing or new) community service initiatives can be submitted by NGOs, educational institutions, alumni associations or any other non-for-profit organization that has at least two USG alumni involved. The notice of funding opportunity and detailed instructions will be on our Embassy website ao.USEmbassy.gov

*The deadline to apply is March 22, 2021 at 12:00pm*

Stay tuned for a proposal webinar coming soon!

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**Exciting Grant Opportunity!**

Attention Mandela Washington Fellowship Alumni:
The U.S. Department of State and IREX are excited to announce the launch of the 2021 Leveraging Innovations in New Communities (LINC) Grants, an exclusive opportunity for Alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship. LINC Grants help to facilitate deeper engagement between Fellowship Alumni across countries and cohorts and provide Alumni with funds to pursue collaborative projects within the Fellowship’s Alumni Network. Learn more and apply on the Fellowship Portal.

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**YALI Campaign: Africa4Her**

The YALI Network is searching for female alumni to be featured on the YALI Network blog as part of the upcoming Africa4Her campaign. The initiative will focus on women in society who advocate for women’s entrepreneurship, eliminating gender bias in the workplace, female political participation and women in peace or security. If you know any young leaders who either represent for or advocate for these topics, please send their names and email addresses to Sarah Cornett at cornettse@state.gov / Africa4Her
Calling all Angolan Fulbrighters!
The Fulbright Program is pleased to celebrate its 75th Anniversary this year. Since 1946, this flagship exchange program has had a profound impact on individual lives and communities across the globe. The upcoming events calendar is available at Fulbright75.org.
The open call for Fulbright applicants will open on February 18 with a press conference at Mediateca Luanda. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for promotion through the application deadline on April 16, 2021.

#ExchangeAlumni, we have a special offer for you! The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State invites you to apply for a new, *free* storytelling training course. Alumni of U.S. government funded and sponsored exchange programs, who are interested in being trained in storytelling and creating short (1-2 minute) video stories, are eligible. Interested in applying? Send us your details at exchangealumni@state.gov.

Take the YALI4Youth Pledge and tag us on social media with the hashtags #YALI4Youth #USAOAlumni
Take the free course on youth leadership development and download the workbook available in English and Portuguese here: http://ow.ly/t16B50DjifL
Fátima Camara, Alumna of the Humphrey Program was recently named President of the Audit Committee of the Angolan Literature Youth Brigade. The ALYB is an Association that defends the national culture since 1980 through the promotion of literature in the country. Fátima Camara will be responsible for the fiscal management of the Association, ensuring transparency in the Organization’s accounts. Well Done Fatima!

www.facebook.com/LuejiDharma

Standbright Foundation is a non-profit philanthropic organization founded by 3 alumni of the YALI Program: João Esmael, MWF 2019, Justino Jamba, YALI RLC 2019 and Arlindo Caiombe, YALI RLC 2019. This group seeks to change the lives of their participants in Huambo. During 2020, they hosted two online training programs on Facebook on civic engagement, human rights and economic diversification reaching over 200 people.

"Our victories are guaranteed when ordinary citizens understand the impact that everyone can have on their communities. For us there is victory in civic engagement that goes beyond borders and pride."

Justino Jamba
YALI RLC, 2019
**Alumni Highlights**

**PRO BONO ON TRANSPARENCY**

On January 28, the Pro Bono Angola Association led by YALI MWF Alumnus, Bartolomeu Dias, gave an interview to Rádio LAC on the International Transparency Report where Angola is up two steps but still with some challenges in terms of transparency in the funds management from Covid19. Bartolomeu Dias founded the Pro Bono Angola Association in 2016 after completing the Program. Listen to the full interview [here](#).

*Pro Bono Association Facebook*

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

Nicolau Miguel, alumnus of the Yali Mandela Washington Fellowship Program was the lead concept designer of the first Youth Leadership Summit that took place on January 29 at the Mediateca. The event was created to assess the impact of youth leadership on civic engagement in communities and to encourage Angolan youth to contribute to solving the challenges of the Country. The event was attended by Ana Paula Sacramento Neto, Minister of Youth and Sports.

*REMA Facebook*

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**Can’t Miss**

**Alumni February Events**

On February 4 the Bright TALKS live-streamed an English Program in Huambo to promote a unique and lively exchange. Bright Talks is one of the StandBright Foundation projects led by YALI MWF Alumni, Justino Jamba, João Esmael and Arlindo Caiombe. Check them out!

*Bright Talks Youtube*  
*Standbright Foundation Facebook*

YALI RLC Alumna, Imisi Almeida will host the first Municipal Conference of Cazenga Verde on **February 20** to bring together public and private entities on environmental issues. Learn more about this fascinating association.

*Cazenga Verde Association*  
*Documentary*
Amanda Gorman's Breathtaking Inauguration Poem

"The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we’re brave enough to see it
if only we’re brave enough to be it."

22 year old, Amanda Gorman made history as the youngest poet laureate in her delivery of the powerful poem, "The Hill We Climb" at the inauguration of the 46th U.S. President, Joseph Biden. She also is the first poet to present at the NFL Super Bowl LV. We can't to see what other historical firsts she accomplishes!

#ICYMI Watch and read the full poem here:
What does 2021 have in store for you?

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR SUCCESS STORIES...

Whether it’s starting your own business, furthering your academic career or travelling overseas to develop your skills, our alumni are our greatest ambassadors.

Share with us how your community is responding to today’s challenges. Have you created or collaborated with a team to launch an initiative in the COVID-19 context? Tell us about it!

Let’s share best practices, lessons learned and inspire the next generation of Angolan leaders. Send your success snippet to PASInboxLuanda@state.gov

Alumni Resources Online

International Exchange Alumni Website
Alumni Thematic International Exchange Seminars
Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund
International Alumni Newsletters

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