

# AGI Newsletter

ISSUE 3—SPRING 2022

## ONE YEAR OF THE AFRICA GLOBAL INITIATIVE

By Dr. Richard Wamai  
Associate Professor of Cultures, Societies and Global Studies

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Staff,

I am delighted to share my reflections as we mark the one-year milestone since the conceptualization to create the Africa Global Initiative (AGI) at Northeastern. **Our first annual report just came out, you can download and [read it here](#).**

We envisioned a thriving, dynamic, and strong engagement for Northeastern with the continent of Africa—a continent of over one billion people which is simultaneously the youngest and oldest of our global regions. Twenty years after The Economist judged the continent as “hopeless,” the Financial Times on January 30, 2020, declared that the 21st Century would be “Africa’s Century.” Because Africa has the youngest population with a medium age of 18 years and will have the fastest growing population throughout the century, coupled with the continent’s rich resources, there is plenty of ‘Africa optimism...’ [Read more](#).

## AFRICA BUSINESS CONFERENCE

February 16, 2022

The conference, hosted by [Northeastern's Africa Global Initiative](#) and the [Center for Emerging Markets](#), attracted attendees from Hong Kong, Greece, Argentina, Nigeria, Rwanda, and more.

In his opening address, President Joseph E. Aoun stated, “Our goal today is to chart a pathway of engagement with Africa. Africa is a continent of growth and innovation, and it’s home to many of Northeastern’s students, faculty, and leaders.”

Read News@Northeastern's [article on the Africa Business Conference](#), and check out [video snippets](#) of the conference on the AGI website.



## GLOBAL CO-OP AT KENYA'S BETTER-ME PROJECT

Delany Marvel-Burns shares her amazing journey during a global co-op in Kisumu, Kenya, where she worked for [BetterMeKenya](#).

Our Husky worked on content creation, case management, and mental health counseling for the Youth Unleashed Mentorship Program (YUMP). Read more about this on our [instagram handle](#)!



## AGI RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS FROM AFRICA

The Africa Global Initiative's staff have put together vital information for students from Africa to help them transition to the Boston campus.

This website, titled [Welcome to Northeastern University](#), contains links to relevant student groups, off-campus housing resources, career development help, and information on cooperative education. It also includes handy information about where to purchase African groceries, and other vital details.



# AFRICA NIGHT

February 19, 2022

**Edemedede Africa Night** was hosted by Northeastern's African Student Organization (NASO) at Blackman Auditorium. The event showcased a mix of poetry, cultural dance and art, fashion, and presentations to celebrate culture and community across Boston.

NASO hosted performances from African student organizations across Boston's colleges and campuses. This vibrant event embodied the global spirit of Northeastern, elaborating on the unique diversity of Boston's African students!

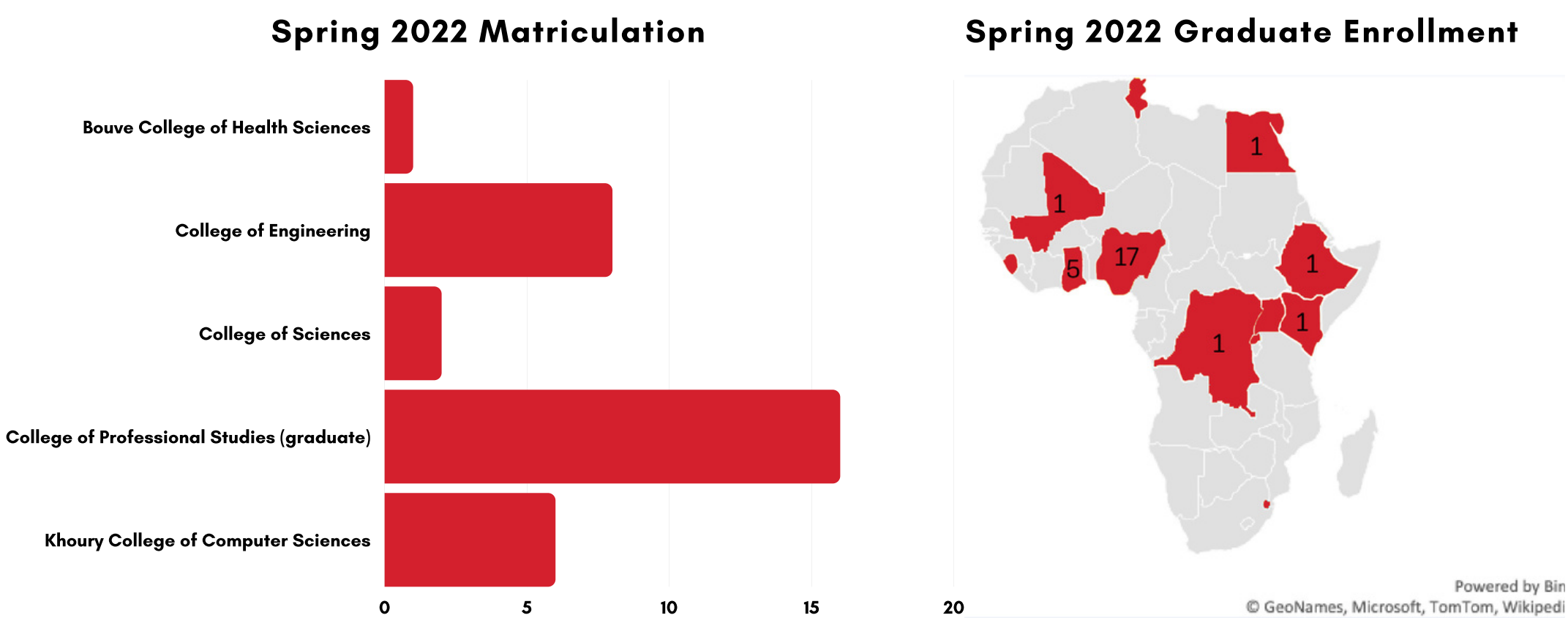


# GRADUATE ENROLLMENT NEWS

Spring 2022

Enrollment Management is scheduled to participate in six virtual events in Africa in spring 2022, in addition to Northeastern webinars and information sessions. The team continues to connect with students through the weekly virtual counseling sessions and one-on-one meetings.

The first recipient of the **African Students Access Scholarship** started her master's degree studies in energy systems at the College of Engineering. This semester, 33 new graduate students from Africa joined the Boston campus. Here are the enrollments by college and country of origin:



# A NEW AGI WEBSITE

The **Africa Global Initiative's website** has a new, improved look! Explore it to see what's changed, and to read our 2021 Annual Report, event recaps, and more.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO DEAN HAZEL SIVE, AGI CHAIR

January 27, 2022

**Hazel Sive**, chair of the AGI and dean of the College of Science, was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for her prolific scientific contributions.

Sive received this recognition for advancing our understanding of early embryonic development, particularly the development of the nervous system in vertebrates, and for her leadership in teaching, mentoring, and diversity in higher education.

[Read more.](#)



## Recent Events

### MODERNA IN AFRICA

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Northeastern University hosted a conversation between College of Science Dean Hazel Sive and Patrick Bergstedt, senior vice president of commercial vaccines at Moderna.

Bergstedt discussed Moderna's plans to invest \$500 million to set up a manufacturing facility in Kenya, which would supply as many as 500 million doses of mRNA vaccines to Africa each year. [Read more.](#)



### CAREER EVENT FOR AFRICAN STUDENTS

Thursday, April 21, 2022

In partnership with the Northeastern African Student Organization and the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute, the AGI hosted an event for African students that focused on navigating careers, co-op, the job search process, and next steps after graduation. Students engaged with representatives from Employer Engagement and Career Design, the Office of Global Services, and a panel of African students who spoke about their job search experiences.



## THE AFRICA GLOBAL INITIATIVE TEAM

- [AGI 2021 Annual Report](#)

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Conversations with Collaborators across Continents

Series Presented by  
**The Global Studies and International Relations Program**  
College of Professional Studies  
and  
**The African Global Initiative**  
Northeastern University

Wednesday March 23, 12-1pm ET

Cross-Border Research on Climate Change Resilience Strategies:  
Nigeria and Niger

Featuring

**Binta Abdulkarim**  
Director, Institute for Development Research and Training (IDR&T)  
Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, Nigeria  
and **William Miles**  
Professor of Political Science, Northeastern University

Climate change does not respect political borders. But political institutions react to climate change in different ways, even where their populations share the same ecosystem. Such is the case where the African Savannah meets the Sahel, and drought and desertification have long challenged human survival. There is no physical barrier separating the northern border of Nigeria from the southern border of Niger. Yet local strategies of adaptation to climate change are starkly different images. Professors Binta Abdulkarim and William Miles will discuss their collaborative investigation of different strategies to climate change resilience on both sides of this postcolonial artificial boundary.

## GLOBAL STUDIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SPEAKER SERIES

Spring 2022

The AGI, along with Northeastern's Department of Global Studies and International Relations, hosted three conversations between Northeastern faculty and their counterparts in Africa.

Each session was a discussion about faculty research, the logistics of joint research interests across continents, and much more. We look forward to hosting more sessions in the future.

## SAVE THE DATE: AFRICA DAY

Wednesday, May 25, 2022,  
at 10:00 a.m. EDT (virtual)

Join the AGI and the Northeastern community as we celebrate Africa Day. Further details will be forthcoming