

NEWS RELEASE

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FILMMAKERS EXPLORE THE VALUE of EDUCATIONAL CONNECTION ACROSS TIME AND CONTINENTS

What is the value of a college education to nine African youth, to their country, to the world?

A group of documentary filmmakers from Tacoma, Washington USA are in Windhoek, Namibia during the month of June to uncover what higher education meant to a group of Namibians who studied in the U.S nearly 20 years ago. The filmmakers, made up of alumni, faculty, staff and students from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, will unearth the stories of nine Namibians who left their homes to obtain degrees in higher education in the U.S. and the profound impact this experience has had on their lives, careers, and nation.

“Namibia Nine” will be narrated by Edwin Tjiramba, Director for Communications and Marketing for the University of Namibia, who as part of a select group of 100 youth was awarded the opportunity of a lifetime in the late 1980’s--to study at various universities in the U.S and Norway. They left Namibia as part of a post-apartheid strategy to give promising young leaders the opportunity to obtain college degrees that were not previously available to them in their home country. Tjiramba began his journey in higher education, along with eight colleagues, at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

“I was born in Namibia,” Tjiramba said. “But my future began at PLU.”

Over the years, a total of nine have graduated from PLU and returned to their homeland. Now, almost 20 years later, Tjiramba graduated from the University of Namibia this year with a degree in law. His PLU alumni colleagues have been equally successful in their careers, from forensics to foreign relations, education to environmental policy making. The US filmmakers are exploring the deep relationship these Namibians have with each other and the university they call their “home away from home.”

“Namibia Nine” is sponsored by the Wang Center for Global Education at Pacific Lutheran University. The project is being supervised by Professor Joanne M. Lisosky, Ph.d. and Melannie Denise Cunningham, M.B.A. and Director of Multicultural Recruitment at PLU.

The project has a broad focus with a presence on Facebook ([Namibia Nine](#)), Wordpress (www.namibianine.wordpress.com) and Instagram. Most unique for PLU, the project has developed a crowdfunding site (www.indiegogo.com/projects/namibia-nine).

The filmmakers:

Andre Capere: PLU graduate (2014)

Princess Reese: PLU graduate (2014)

Shunying Wang: PLU student

Maurice Byrd: PLU student

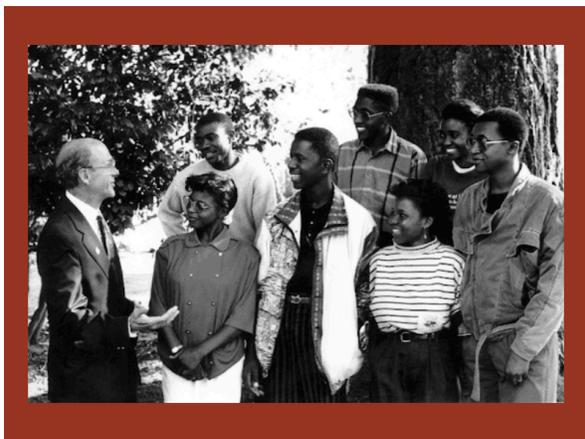


Figure 1 - Namibians in early days.



Figure 2 - PLU Documentary Crew