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**INDIANAPOLIS GROUP WILL VISIT CAMEROON RAIN FOREST  
IN DECEMBER**

**TO PLAN A NEW AFRICAN UNIVERSITY**  
*Pre-holiday shopping includes snake bite kits*

INDIANAPOLIS, DECEMBER 2, 2010 -- Seven people from Indianapolis will depart December 4 for an 11-day journey to Cameroon in Africa to master plan a new university. William Agbor-Baiyee, Ph.D., Director of the Master of Science in Medical Science Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine is the leader of the African University planning group. A native of Cameroon, he has been building support for this new private, non-profit university through the African University Foundation for several years. The university will be located outside of the village of Tali, in a rural area in Cameroon's South West Province.

Joining Agbor-Baiyee on this trip are Wayne Schmidt, Hon.D., FAIA, Sarah Hempstead, AIA, LEED AP, Corrie Meyer, AICP, RLA, LEED AP, and Martin Sams, Associate AIA, LEED AP, from Schmidt Associates, the Indianapolis-based planning, design, and engineering firm that will develop the campus master plan. Two members of the African University Foundation board are also part of the group, David Williams Russell, an attorney and partner in Harrison and Moberly, LLP and Cathy Davis, a staff accountant at the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

The campus site, donated by the local government, is currently 6.5 square miles of rain forest.

The campus will need to be totally self sustaining. In a location where power lines are few and the main transportation routes are a footpath and a river, the campus will need to grow its own food, generate its own power and handle its own waste.

“Our primary goals are to design a campus that serves the educational needs of all the people of the region and to minimize any impact on the rain forest,” said Hempstead. “The plan should encourage growth around the new university without adversely altering existing ecosystems. In this particular area, women have not traditionally had equal access to higher education. We will be focused on creating living and learning spaces where students of both sexes can be comfortable as equals.” The campus will also include housing for faculty.

Agbor-Baiyee envisions a distinctive international institution that will cultivate leaders and change lives. African University will have rigorous admissions standards, a challenging curriculum and offer integrated experiential education for the next generation of Africa’s leaders. Cameroon has a relatively high literacy rate, and Agbor-Baiyee anticipates a demand for higher education to help graduates deal with the basic problems of daily life.

While the group is in Cameroon, they are scheduled to meet with the U.S. ambassador to Cameroon, His Excellency Robert P. Jackson.

Agbor-Baiyee returns to Cameroon periodically and Moberly participated in a symposium there in 2008. For the other five individuals on this trip, this will be the first time they’ve visited the site, the people and the culture.

The travelers are busy preparing, wrapping up other projects at work and purchasing high-end insect repellent, mosquito netting and snake bite kits. Both Hempstead and Meyer have traveled to Africa in the past, but never to Cameroon. Since the trip occurs in early December, the travelers are also making advance preparations for the Christmas holidays because they will not return until December 15.

The group has set up a blog ([www.buildingafricanuniversity.blogspot.com](http://www.buildingafricanuniversity.blogspot.com)) and will send insights and photos back during the trip.

The first phase of African University will be designed to serve 540 students by the year 2020. However, the master plan will anticipate the possibility the university could grow to 25,000 students in 50 years.

“This is very much like the land grant colleges that started in the mid 1800s in the U.S.,” said Schmidt. “When they started, they were small institutions – with a gift of land

from the government – created to teach agriculture, science and engineering in response to the industrial revolution and a changing social class.”

Agbor-Baiyee and the African University Foundation are in the process of raising \$25 million to begin construction and operations. The gift of the land is a valuable asset.

The December trip is funded with contributions from the African University Foundation, the Efroymsen Family Fund and the Rotary Club of Indianapolis.

For more information about African University, visit [www.africanu.org](http://www.africanu.org); additional information about the African University Foundation is available at [www.aufoundation.org](http://www.aufoundation.org). For more information about Schmidt Associates, visit [www.schmidt-arch.com](http://www.schmidt-arch.com).