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## Munalula Ngenda Family Tradition

**B**EING FAR FROM HOME is nothing new to me. As a student, I spent a lot of time away from my native Zambia and alternated between the United Kingdom and the Côte d'Ivoire in West Africa. At 9 years old, I left our family with my older brother, Lubinda, to attend boarding school in North Devon, England. After a few years there, we returned to Zambia to complete high school.

We did not doubt that we would attend a university abroad. Instead, we wondered how the familiarity of England's educational system might compare to adding another country to our growing list of temporary addresses. Enter: Temple.

My father, Benjamin Ngenda, LAW '92, graduated from the Beasley School of Law with a master of laws degree. He told us many stories about off-campus housing and the numerous part-time jobs he had to cover his living expenses.

Now, he believes that his knowledgeable lecturers, the wealth of information they put at his disposal and the wide range of experiences that are still available to Temple students contributed to his professional competence. His admiration for his alma mater was what finally swayed us to come to Philadelphia.

I decided to attend Temple to pursue a degree in international business administration with a major in economics. In the future, I hope to enroll in the Fox School's International MBA Program. Lubinda also attends Temple and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in information science and technology.

The first time I walked around campus, it seemed a lot larger than it is in reality. The mix of old and new buildings, high-tech classrooms and quiet garden spaces gave it a curiously modern, yet eccentric, feel. I sensed its openness, promise and potential. The campus seemed full of possibilities waiting to be explored.

My first day of classes was simultaneously stimulating and daunting. Thousands of students of every hue, sporting every hairstyle imaginable, crowded the university's walkways and corridors. Assorted fashion statements, accents and languages overwhelmed my eyes and ears.

My adventures at Temple have been varied and interesting. I have experienced the tranquility of Temple University Ambler, the hectic rush of getting to classrooms in Center City and the pulse of Main Campus.

I have interacted with students from around the world and have been taught by an international team of professors. Somehow, this has not lessened the authenticity of my immersion in the American way of life: I have watched lectures on my laptop, taken online tests and e-mailed homework assignments to my professors. I have made formal business presentations, written bizarre fairy tales in French and developed a sincere appreciation for the Philadelphia cheesesteak. Most importantly, I have seen a little more of the world in which I live and have learned a lot more about it.

As my brother and I once listened to our father, my children will hear many stories about Temple.