



Supporting Higher Education in the Developing World

Report

Steven Davis

Executive Director

September 1, 2014

1. Board

[Andre Saumier](#), a member of AWB's Board of Directors, a distinguished Canadian and a close friend, passed away on August 28. It is a great loss for AWB and for me personally.

The Board of Directors will be meeting in Montreal on Sept 27 and 28.



2. US Charity Status and Trademarking

We have applied for 501 (c) (3) charity status in the US and for trademarking the English and French versions of our name and our acronym "AWB-USF" in Canada. Trademarking in Canada does not protect us in other countries. Currently, we would have to apply to each country in which we wish to obtain a trademark, since Canada does not belong to the [World Intellectual Property Organization](#). When it joins – legislation is before the house – we can apply through it for trademarking in the countries that belong to WIPO, which are most of the important countries. It can take a year or more to obtain charity status in the US and the trademarks in the Canada.

We are holding a fund/friend raising event in Montreal on September 26. I shall give a talk on our recent work and Lionel P. Mendoza, one of our volunteers for our 2013 project at the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone, will talk about his experience there

3. Interns

We have advertised for an intern to assist with social media for the fall.

4. Name Change

Our name has been changed with our suppliers, and on our website, and business cards. Our consultants have been given new email addresses in Gmail, xxx@awb-usf.org, and the url for our website has been changed to www.awb-usf.org

5. Corporations Canada

The annual report and updated AWB's list of Directors has been filed with Corporations Canada

Call for Proposals

A *Call for Proposals* has been sent out in French and English to our Representatives for distribution at their institutions. The *Call* is a competition for the best project proposal submitted by a Canadian and offers a \$10,000 prize to cover volunteer expenses connected to the project. Corrie Young, AWB's Associate Executive Director, will head the adjudication committee with Astrid Richardson, an AWB consultant, and Jeffrey Fine, a member of AWB's Advisory Council, assisting. The deadline for submission is October 30th. The committee will draw up a short list of three entries that it will present to AWB's Board of Directors, which will make the final selection of the winner by December 23.

6. Agency Inventory

The Agency Inventory has been updated and uploaded to Google Docs. The Agency Inventory is a compendium of the important information involved in AWB's operations, including the names of suppliers, information about bank accounts and credit cards, etc.

7. Projects

New Projects

- In Ethiopia at Mekelle University's Medical School to assist in establishing a specialty in cardiology.

MU's Medical School does not offer training in a range of medical specialties, including gastroenterology, cardiology, neonatology and neuroradiology. The most urgent need is in cardiology and AWB will be working with the Medical School to upgrade its ability to offer it as a specialty. If this is successful, AWB will then assist with the other specialties.

The project involves sending out AWB volunteers to train some of the School's faculty members so that they can teach cardiology. The first step is to send a volunteer to draft a curriculum for the training, for which we are now recruiting. It will involve one week at MU and then two months through email and Skype exchanges.

MU is providing housing, meals and in country transportation and AWB will cover the other expenses. We will be working with Dr. Yazezew Kebede the Head of the MU Medical School.

On-going Projects

- In East Africa at the Aga Khan University to establish criteria for the admission of students to the health professions: Volunteer, Saleem Razack, McGill University, Faculty of Medicine

Recently Completed Projects

- In East Africa at the Aga Khan University to establish criteria for assessing teaching: Volunteer, Vivian Neal, Simon Fraser University, Teaching and Learning Centre.
- In Ghana, at the University of Cape Coast to assist the University's Department of Computer Science (DCSIT) establish a doctoral program in computer science and information technology: Volunteers, Eric Tanter, Computer Science Department, University of Chile and Artur Lugmayer

Department of Business Information Management & Logistics, Tampere Univ. of Technology,
Tampere (Finland).

Postponed

- Our work in Liberia and Sierra Leone has been postponed until the outbreak of Ebola has been brought under control.

We have 2 additional projects scheduled for 2014

PAHS, 1 (1 volunteer) and the State Islamic University - Jogjakarta, 1 (1 volunteer)