



*Supporting Higher Education in the Developing World*

**Report**  
**Steven Davis**  
**Executive Director**  
**October 1, 2014**

**1. Fund Raising**

On Sept 26, we had a fund raising event at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts with about 30 people attending. Lionel P. Mendoza gave a presentation about our project, for which he was a volunteer, at the University of Makeni in Sierra Leone. The project was to assist the University in upgrading its education faculty members' ability to teach mathematics and science to primary school teachers. I gave a general presentation about AWB, which you can see [here](#). The event raised over \$2000.

**2. Finances and Budget**

We will have a substantial surplus at the end of 2014. There are several reasons for this. First, the Ebola epidemic has meant that we had to put on hold our work in Liberia at the University of Liberia (UL) and in Sierra Leone at the University of Makeni (UNIMAK). Second, our project at the State Islamic University Yogyakarta (SIU) had to be postponed since we could not work out a timeline to accommodate the University and the prospective volunteers. Thirdly, we could not proceed with our projects at the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), since we could not find suitable volunteers for it. Lastly, our work at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences (PAHS) was delayed, because before we could send volunteers, AWB and PAHS had to work out long range plans for its Medical School and School of Public Health. For all these projects funds had been set aside and thus were not spent. Projects are now planned for SIU, RUB and PAHS for 2015 and we shall continue our work at UL and UNIMAK when the Ebola epidemic is over.

**3. Website**

We have decided to update of our website in-house. Bruce Valle, our webmaster, and Andrea Simpson, our fund raising manager, will be respectively responsible for the technical aspects and the content of the new website. I shall coordinate and Eve Renaud, David Dunne, Corrie Young, Irwin Block and Roger Seamon will assist.

**4. Publicity for AWB**

I had an [article](#) on the Ebola epidemic and the importance of universities in the developing world published in the on-line edition of the Globe and Mail, Canada's foremost national English language daily, on September 17.

**5. Interns**

We have taken on Flora Cabili as in intern for the fall of 2014. We have advertised for two interns for the summer of 2015 to assist with social media and fund raising.

## 6. Projects

### On-Going

In East Africa at the Aga Khan University to establish criteria for the admission of students to the health professions that take account of the variations in the quality of education in the three countries in which AKU operates, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, and will enable AKU to admit students from more diverse backgrounds.

Volunteer: Saleem Razack, MD, FRCP(C), is an Assistant Dean of Admissions, Equity, and Diversity, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Core Faculty at the Centre for Medical Education at McGill University.

### Planned Projects

a) In Ethiopia at Mekelle University's Medical School to assist it in establishing a specialty in cardiology. The project involves sending 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. It will involve one week at MU and then two months through email and Skype exchanges.

Volunteer: Bibiana Cujec, MD, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, School of Medicine, University of Alberta

b) In Butan at Jigme Namgyel Polytechnic, Royal University of Bhutan to do gap teaching in civil engineering and surveying and to upgrade some of JNP's faculty members abilities in these areas so that they can teach these subjects

At present, Bhutan has a massive infrastructure development plan which has created a huge gap in the availability of technical manpower. Because of this gap, JNP has not been able to recruit adequate teaching faculty, especially for its Civil Engineering and Surveying programmes. JNP therefore seeks support in filling the acute shortage of teaching faculty and also in providing technical support in developing and introducing new programmes that would have an impact on the viability of Bhutan's and the region's economy.

Volunteers: TBD

c) In Indonesia at the State Islamic University Yogyakarta to assist its Center for the Study of Disabilities to move from a voluntary buddy system towards a fully implemented accommodation and support services disability office.

Volunteer: TBD

d) In Nepal at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences Medical School to do gap and upgrade teaching in human genetics. The project is to co-teach the course with a PAHS faculty member who will take over teaching it, after two more iterations of the course.

Volunteer: Jane Gair, Ph.D., Senior Instructor, Division of Medical Sciences, University of Victoria, Faculty Development Coordinator, Island Medical Program, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia and BC Provincial Representative to the International Association of Professors of Human and Medical Genetics

e) In Nepal at the Patan Academy of Health Sciences School of Public Health to assist in its development. PAHS is launching a new School of Public Health (SPH), which will grant a Master's of Public Health degree (MPH). In 2015,

AWB is sending four volunteers to assist in developing the new curriculum as well as co-teaching (gap and upgrade) courses in disease prevention, epidemiology, health promotion and other areas which have been identified as necessary for the development of SPH. AWB volunteers will also help in introducing Problem Based Learning to the SPH faculty members.

Volunteers:

Faith Boucher, Ph.D. (Medical Anthropology) is a health education and health promotion consultant.

Sarah Bowen, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Alberta

Larry Hulbert, Ph.D. is an Educational Consultant at the University of New South Wales and Sydney University.

David Dunne, PhD, is an Adjunct Professor of Marketing, Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

Prospective Projects

University of Cape Coast, Ghana (2), Aga Khan University, East Africa (5), Patan Academy of Health Sciences Nepal (2)

Postponed Projects

In Sierra Leone, at the University of Makeni to assist it in setting up science and mathematics programs to teach school teachers how to teach these subject.

(The Ebola Epidemic)

In Liberia, at the University of Liberia to assist it in introducing eLearning

(The Ebola Epidemic)

In Rwanda at the University of Rwanda to assist in its development

(Change of the Minister of Education)