



UniWater Education Limited
2015 Annual Report

A Message from Our Executive Director

Laura Olmsted



While 2015 was a year of tremendous growth for UniWater, it certainly was not without its challenges. While we did achieve many of the goals we set forth at the beginning of the year, our lack of funding continued to be a major obstacle to meeting those goals.

Throughout the year, we focused our efforts on establishing organizational practices to meet Canada Revenue Agency charitable status requirements, developing our website presentation, holding Board meetings, and completing the edits to the curriculum based on feedback provided by our external reviewer. We also proceeded with selection discussions regarding the next host universities.

Looking forward, our challenges remain two-fold. First, the operational restrictions posed by insufficient funding has to be addressed in the next year if we are to develop the capacity to successfully operate and develop relationships with host universities and other stakeholders. While email and phone calls have been important mediums of communication thus far, they cannot replace the face-to-face meetings that will be necessary to establish trust and to truly evaluate sincerity in a climate of differing cultures. Without sufficient funding, our ability to achieve our long-term mission and goals will be severely limited.

Our second challenge relates to the speed at which it has taken the African universities to gain Senate approval to offer the program. Africa is in the midst of great change with many countries moving toward standardization of university programs to allow students to easily transfer between universities both nationally and internationally. Unfortunately for us, this adds another level of bureaucracy that slows down the approval process.

Despite our challenges, we approach 2016 with renewed energy and optimism. We have always recognized the tasks we face are huge, but the need is great and each step we take is in the right direction. In the words of my life coach Grant Molyneux, “progress is what happens when you take successive steps in the direction of your goal.” In looking back at the last 4 years, we’ve come a long way!

Sincerely,

Laura Olmsted,
Executive Director

Review 2015

The following actions were suggested for 2015:

Recommendation Action for 2015	Status
Invite Dr. Craig Nichols to join the Board of Directors.	Complete*
Add lectures and practicals to the existing curriculum, particularly with regards to the reviewer's comments.	Complete
Once notification of the initiation of any programs is received, follow through with application for Grand Challenges Canada Phase 2 funding.	Incomplete
Pursue collaborative relationships with organizations, particularly those who can assist with the field school practical training.	Ongoing
Hire professionals (book keeper/accountant) to do the financial duties required.	Complete

* Dr. Craig Nichols declined to join the Board of Directors at this time

For numerous reasons, some actions planned for 2015 could not be achieved.

First, none of the Pilot Programs that were anticipated to start in September 2015, began, largely due to Senate approval not being granted. In the case of Sokoine University of Agriculture, although Senate approval was granted, the Tanzania Commission of Universities was not prepared to allow the program to begin as all their requirements had not been met.

As a result, we are unable to apply for Grand Challenges Canada Phase 2 funding until we can show Proof of Concept. The good news is that there is no longer a time limit between Phase 1 and Phase 2 funding application submittal.

Second, additional funding for 2015 was not secured, thereby restricting a number of planned activities including attending conferences, marketing and promotion of the program, and paying a salary to the Executive Director,

Achievements 2015

In detail, during the year 2015, the following achievements were realized in 4 key areas: Developing and Providing Curriculum, Developing Relationships, Providing Resources, and Organizational Development. Each is addressed below.

Developing and Providing Curriculum

Based on recommendations made by Dr. Willy Burgess during his review of the MSc Hydrogeology and Water Resource Management curriculum, components on *Recharge* were added, as were examples of the *African experience*.

Developing Relationships

This involved establishing and developing relationships and connections with host universities, related organizations, governing bodies and interested individuals. Over the course of 2015 we achieved the following:

- Worked towards Senate approval at 3 Universities. The University of Toronto Scarborough is the mentoring university for these three programs.
 - *University of Nairobi, Kenya*
 - *Sokoine University of Agriculture, Morogoro, Tanzania*
 - *University of Calabar, Cross River State, Nigeria*
- Began the evaluation process with 4 Round 1 host universities
 - *University of Zimbabwe*
 - *University of Namibia*
 - *Hawassa University (Ethiopia)*
 - *University of Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)*
- Made new connections and continued collaborative connections with various stakeholders and related organizations.

Providing Resources

We have accumulated approximately 265 new and used reference books, which are currently in storage. We expect approximately 120 books to be shipped in 2016 to pilot program universities (already assigned). Michael Frind stepped forward in December 2015 as a volunteer to manage the Camel Caravan Program of redistributing texts around the world.

Organizational Development

Much time and effort was spent on strategic planning, fundraising, marketing and developing processes to meet Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) compliance regulations, including the following:

- Initiation of a financial accounting system
- Submission of financial info to CRA
- Acquisition of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance
- Planning for *transition to scale stage of growth* for the period of October 2014 to December 2017. During this time it is anticipated that conditions for full scale-up will be attained. Full scale-up is defined where:
 - UniWater initiates 3 to 5 new programs per year
 - Base operations are financially sustainable, without having to apply for funding every year.
 - A succession plan is in place allowing for continued operations of UniWater after the current Executive Director leaves.
- Made a “pitch” to Social Innovators. While this was the wrong audience for our work, we still won \$300 for making it to the final round of the competition. This presentation led to an article in *New Scoop*, an online news cooperative.
- Prepared a PowerPoint presentation that was uploaded as a video to the UniWater website and is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/SFOAWo216gg>.

Financial Matters

Below are approximate values subject to an official audit of the financial records.

	Incoming	Expenses	Balance
Bank Balance (Jan 1, 2015)			\$25,088
Donations Fidelity Investments	\$1,000		
2014 Expenses*		\$6,758	
Bank Balance (Nov 30, 2015)			\$19,330
Outstanding Invoices to Pay		\$5,942	
Total Funds Available for 2015			\$13,388

*Does not include any remuneration for Executive Director - \$25,000 value

ASSETS

Cash	\$13,388
Donated New Equipment/Books	\$26,103
Donated Cases Used Books	No Value Assigned

Total Assets: \$39,492

Looking Forward - 2016

The following actions are suggested for 2016:

1. Establish metrics for the UniWater program.
2. Once we have notification of the initiation of any of the programs, follow through with application for Grand Challenges Canada Phase 2 funding.
3. Improve funding by using a combination of applications, awareness raising and working with John Armstrong and Peter Dimmell.
4. Establish Memorandums of Understanding with the Pilot Program universities.
5. Work with Michael Frind on the Camel Caravan and get texts to Pilot universities.
6. Pursue collaborative relationships with organizations, particularly those who can assist with the field school practical training.
7. Ensure adequate insurance is in place prior to travel in Africa.
8. Dependent upon sufficient funding, promote the program at 2 conferences.
9. Travel to Africa to expand and develop relationships with key personnel at the Pilot and Round 1 universities.

UniWater Education Limited

UNI WATER EDUCATION LIMITED assists communities in Sub-Saharan Africa to solve their own water challenges and reduce dependency on western aid and expertise, by working with interested universities to establish MSc level curriculum in Hydrogeology and Water Resource Management. This is achieved through 4 key areas:

- Developing Relationships
- Developing and Providing Curriculum
- Providing Resources
- Providing Program Development and Set-Up Support

UNI WATER EDUCATION LIMITED is a registered charity based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and has been operating since 2012. The organization is managed by an Executive Director with oversight from a Board of Directors.

MANAGEMENT & BOARD PERSONNEL INCLUDE:

- Laurra Olmsted, MSc, P.Geol. - Executive Director (lolmsted@uniwatered.org)
- Peter Olmsted, MSc. P.Eng. -Senior Engineer, Matrix Solutions Inc.
- Robert McCullagh, CFP, CLU, RHU, CH.FC. - Independent Broker, Benefit Planners Inc.
- Bridget Scanlon PhD. - Senior Researcher, University of Texas (Austin)
- Kwesi Haizel - Independent Organic Farmer
- Jessica Dillabough, PhD. - Regulatory Affairs Advisor, Imperial Oil

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UNI WATER EDUCATION LIMITED CONTACT US AT:

www.UniWaterEd.org
info@uniwatered.org

UniWater Education Limited
Suite 130 - 6001 1a Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2H 0G5
Charitable Registration #82512 7483 RR0001