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The purpose of the North American Liaison Bureau (NALB) is to promote and support the development of education in Congo through the Université Protestante au Congo and selected institutions. The NALB is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) Public Charity.

Any changes to your contact information should be sent to: execdir@educationcongo.org.

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Checks should be made out to CMD5 – with the designation “to UPC” on the memo line – and sent to: CMD5 Canada, 9A-1000 Windmill Road, Dartmouth, NS, Canada B3B 1L7.

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“NALB” becomes
“Education Congo”

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF OUR ORGANIZATION IN 1998, WE HAVE been known as the North American Liaison Bureau (NALB). Our founding purpose was to raise funds from North American donors for student scholarships at the Université Protestante au Congo (UPC). Our name served to distinguish us from the European Liaison Bureau that was organized for the same purpose.

As our organization has grown, so has the scope of our work, including financing medical school laboratory equipment, constructing dormitories at rural hospital sites for our medical school interns, and supporting a capacity-building and communications consultant.

Through the years, as our donor group has expanded and the scope of our mission has increased, we have concluded that we need a different name that better expresses the scope of our work. The name that our Board has adopted at our September annual meeting is “Education Congo.” Over the next few months, we will be working to complete all the details involved in making such a change. You will be seeing more of our new logo, which is based on a pattern frequently hand-woven into traditional Congolese raffia cloth. We hope you like it as much as we do.

While our name may be changing, our support for UPC and its students will continue. However, as the name implies, we are open to considering support for other higher education-related initiatives in the Congo if donors are supportive of such programs. Any support that we provide will be directed towards achieving our vision of “A Strong Congo Through Education.”

We believe that our new name better describes our mission. We are excited about making this change and look forward to the opportunities that we believe it will help us discover and address in the years ahead.

Your donations can be made at: www.educationcongo.org or



www.upcongo.org. In addition, checks can be mailed to: Education Congo or NALB, 2216 Elgin Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103, U.S.A. or CMD5 Canada, 9A-1000 Windmill Road, Dartmouth, NS B3B 1L7 Canada. ■

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Linda James –
Three years in Congo



WHAT WAS LINDA EXPECTING WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT UPC IN KINSHASA ALMOST THREE YEARS AGO? Would she have dared to believe that she would be meeting with the Prime Minister? Would she have even considered having to undergo the rabies vaccination series? Oh, she has done that and MORE!

We all know that UPC is a self-sustaining university that has 8,000 students, four Schools, and a student population of over 50% women. It is a solid institution for higher education. Linda has rolled up her sleeves and joined forces with students, professors, deans, community leaders, and international partners to make things happen.

Over the past year, Linda has been working with a group of young professors from each of the four Schools and the Administration to revise UPC’s strategic plan. UPC’s vision is to strive to become a university of excellence in Sub-Saharan Francophone Africa by providing exemplary instruction, conducting innovative research and providing service to the community that has a true impact on Congo’s growth as well as Africa’s growth. What makes this plan different? An operational plan has been drafted and will be implemented in order to keep the strategic plan active and moving forward.

Having Linda on the ground to coordinate logistics for everything from the new Emergency Medicine Education project, to arranging for speakers and developing a campus IT project has been invaluable. Let’s keep these projects going! Let’s keep her on UPC’s campus! Just visit our website at: educationcongo.org or mail a check. Be sure to designate the Communications project. ■

Williamson named Professor Emeritus of Theology

by Jimmy Shafe



Lamar Williamson

WHEN THE NORTH AMERICAN LIAISON BUREAU (NALB) gathered in North Carolina in September, we were honored to be able to welcome and recognize Dr. Lamar Williamson, Jr. Dr. Daniel Ngoy, president of UPC, announced that the university has named Lamar as a Professor Emeritus of Theology in recognition of his many contributions and on behalf of all the theology students he has taught – including Dr. Ngoy.

Dr. Ngoy praised Lamar’s work as one of the university’s early professors when it was located in Stanleyville (now Kisangani), Democratic Republic of Congo. Dr. Ngoy said that the educator’s dedication not only contributed to the university, but also to the growth of Christianity in Congo. He also noted that Lamar had personally inspired him as one of his very first theology professors. Indeed, the university Lamar helped establish now has an enrollment of more than 8,000 students, a remarkable feat in a nation plagued by war and strife for over 50 years.

From 1956 the Presbyterian educator taught many of the pastors who helped lead the phenomenal growth of Presbyterianism in Congo, a country whose Presbyterian population now exceeds 2.5 million. The Presbyterian Church USA is one of the university’s founding churches, another significant link.

Lamar, a New Testament scholar, says he truly learned about the breadth and depth of the Bible’s



appeal when teaching in Congo. “It helped me understand that the Bible speaks to the hearts of all

▲ *Lamar with students in Congo on his last assignment there in 1992.*



kinds of people,” he says. “It is the word of God for millions and millions of people.” Lamar and his late wife, Ruthmary, served in Congo for a decade. After leaving Congo, he taught for 23 years at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, bringing to his students the scholarly writings and insights he gained in Africa. He returned to Congo to teach in 1972–1973, 1986–1987 and 1992–1994. Congo, he says, is “like malaria – once it gets in your blood it doesn’t leave.”

▲ *Lamar preaching his first sermon in Congo, 1956.*

Specifically drawn from Congo, his book, “Ishaku: An African Christian Between Two Worlds,” tells the remarkable story of a Congolese believer and the dynamic struggle he faces as he becomes a believer and leader. The book’s proceeds support the development of pastoral leadership in the Church of Christ of Congo, through UPC’s Theology School. ■

Business School update

- Prof Frédéric Kalala Tshimpaka, an alumnus of the University of Liège, has been named Dean of UPC’s Business Administration and Economic Sciences.

- The School’s Executive MBA program now has 43 students. The conferring of the first academic degrees took place on July 30, 2016. In collaboration with GIZ, a service provider that assists the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation, UPC welcomed Italian national Michel Akerib as a consultant to help guide the School’s new program development.

- An Excellence Award was established this year by the LAREQ Group (Laboratory for Analysis Research in Economics), created by some former Business School students. The first prize recipient is Miss Adelphine Kabedi, studying Mathematical Economics, who was presented with \$500. ■



Profile: Law School Dean



José Baruani Saleh

PROF. JOSÉ BARUANI SALEH, 41, has two big goals for the Law School: to employ fulltime law lecturers rather than rely on visiting professors, and to continue building the school's dynamic reputation. The new dean, who has taught at UPC for five years, believes this can be done by having teachers and students actively participate in international conferences and by publishing more articles. He

also proactively seeks engagement with Congolese companies, assisting them to meet specific business needs. As an example, Prof. Baruani aims to develop more specialty degrees, following the popularity of the School's Master's degree in OHADA (the acronym for a system of business laws and implementing institutions adopted by 17 West and Central African nations in 1993 in Mauritius).

"The Law School's goal is to give the world Congolese jurists that are competent, hard working, have integrity and who have faith in God," Prof. Baruani says, explaining that the school is opening to the world and "does not hesitate to work with other African university law schools and elsewhere, as well as Congolese enterprises and international institutions." This type of approach paid off last December, when UPC law students placed first at a regional human rights Moot Court competition in Kigali, Rwanda.

Prof. Baruani, who studied international law and international relations at UPC before joining the faculty, now specializes in human rights and international humanitarian law. The Kisangani native, who also teaches in Bandundu Province, oversees the academic curriculum of more than 3,000 law students. ■



Profiles: Healthcare teamwork at Vanga Evangelical Hospital

UPC MEDICAL STUDENTS SPEND ONE YEAR DOING A MANDATORY INTERNSHIP AT ONE OF THREE rural teaching hospitals in Congo. Meet a duo working together at Vanga Evangelical Hospital in Bandundu Province: Céleste Musasa Mujinga and Dr. Tim Rice.

How do you choose a medical school? "I wanted a school that had a great reputation and was small enough that I would gain great knowledge," explains 25-year-old Céleste of her UPC choice. The Lomami native (formerly Kasai

Oriental) is based at Vanga Hospital for work experience. "My biggest achievement here has been to find the correct diagnosis and the appropriate treatment for a child. Seeing that little girl waking from a coma and smiling almost made me cry," she admits.



▲ *UPC medical students spend one year doing work experience at one of five rural teaching hospitals in Congo. Meet a duo working together at Vanga Evangelical Hospital in Bandundu Province: Céleste Musasa Mujinga and Dr. Tim Rice.*

Céleste, who says, "I have been made to be in medicine," is thrilled to be working at Vanga Hospital. "This is a place where I really realized that the little you may give can save a life. Being here is the biggest experience of my life so far." Her dream, she adds, "is to improve the sanitary level of my beautiful and strong country. I plan to specialize in both parasitology and public health. The major health problems in the DRC are infectious diseases. The stage is set to be able to eradicate those diseases."

A typical day for the energetic single woman is to wake up at 4 a.m., take a bath and study until 6:45 a.m. Then she works from 7 a.m. till noon, takes a two-hour break, then it's back to work 'til 5 p.m. Céleste goes back home, rests for an hour, and joins other UPC students for prayer. From 7 to 9 p.m. she relaxes, then returns to studying for a few more hours. Her limited free time is spent singing and reading novels. ■



TIM RICE IS AN AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONARY PHYSICIAN WHO ARRIVED IN VANGA, BANDUNDU

Province last August, after serving many short term rotations there since 2012. He has been named interim Medical Director of the 479 bed reference hospital for a population of 250,000. He is also Chief of the Medical Staff and Director of Training. The role involves working closely with UPC's 37 medical students, as well as the 210 hospital staff, six senior staff doctors, four residents and 13 other medical students.

"Vanga Evangelical Hospital is an ideal location to train medical students," says Tim, "since it is more than 9 hours from the capital Kinshasa and the nearest medium size city of Kikwit is about 4 hours away over a dirt road."

Tim's role is to help the team train the medical students. He explains, "I have been meeting with the medical students to go over their written patient evaluations. The medical students here are passionate about learning. We are working on helping them move from just reporting what has happened to their patients to accurately interpreting the signs and symptoms of their patients. The step from interpreting to proposing an excellent management plan is still quite large for many of the students here, but they are progressing well."

Tim's day is just as busy as Céleste's. He attends morning case conference from 7 to 8:30 a.m. After that he does administrative work, then goes on hospital rounds from 9:30 to noon. He spends the next two hours catching up on emails and other administrative work like communicating

- continued on page 4

Tim Rice – continued from page 3

with supporters in America. Attending committee meetings and reviewing the hospital's activities take up his afternoon. He then joins his wife, Nancy (Director of the Nursing School), for a swim in the Kwilu River followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. Sometimes their daughter Nancy is with them. The Rice family enjoys reading, playing games and watching movies.

How can UPC donors best support the medical school and Vanga Hospital? Tim says, "We would love to have practicing American doctors, especially those in the surgical and OB/GYN fields, come for 2-4 weeks to teach and provide medical care. We are also recruiting for doctors willing to live here for longer periods of time or to move here permanently." ■



Profile: Prof. José Mella



José Mella

AFTER SUPERVISING SIX UPC POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS AT SPAIN'S I'UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MADRID (UAM) and I'Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, José Mella has joined UPC's ranks of guest professors to visit the Kinshasa campus and teach an applied economics course this year. Prof. Mella, who speaks five languages, has also taught at

universities in Belgium, Tunisia, France, Morocco, Bolivia, Nicaragua and the United Kingdom.

"My professional goals are to train in the fields of education and research, and seek out new university professors, very particularly in the most vulnerable countries," Prof. Mella states, adding, "I teach Development Economics, that is to say, subjects related to the problems of poverty, unemployment, job creation, the positive transformation of the country in the fields of agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, international trade, the fiscal policy and governance."

The professor, who likes small classes so that he can tailor learning experiences, is on sabbatical this year at Ghana's Spiritan University College, an affiliate of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. He also manages to find time to remotely mentor students in Bolivia, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and China.

Spain is never far from Prof. Mella's thoughts however. "What I like most about living in Spain is my family, who are my strength and my inspiration." His wife, Maria Asunción, is also a professor at the UAM, son Victor is a lawyer in the British firm Clifford Chance and son José is a professional soccer player. ■



Student stats

As of July 2016, UPC had 8,093 students including 25 from such countries as Angola, Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Togo and Central African Republic. Fifty-five percent (or 4,444) are women. Of these, 430 students have not been able to pay any fees and 620 have only been able to pay a deposit of 7.7 percent. Sympathetic donors are invited to contact the North American Liaison Bureau regarding tax

deductible support (please see Page 1).

The distribution of students by religious denomination is: 2,504 Protestants, 2,298 Catholics, 3,191 independent churches, 31 Jehovah's Witnesses, 30 Kimbanguists, 29 Muslims, 3 Anglicans, 4 Orthodox and 3 Salvationists.

Enrollment by school is as follows: 271 students in Theology, 3,553 students in Business Administration and Economics, 2,937 in Law and 1,311 in Medicine. Two students are earning advanced teaching degrees. ■



Emergency medicine

EMERGENCY MEDICINE IS NON-EXISTENT IN THE DRC. UPC AND A TEAM FROM AUSTRALIA, IN collaboration with WHO and the African Federation of Emergency Medicine, are proposing to change that statistic. In fact, they have already started! In the Spring of 2016, the UPC Family Medicine program team joined Dr. Vera Sistenich and Lucy Hobgood-Brown, UPC's Australian representative, in South Africa for the annual conference of the International Conference on Emergency Medicine. Read all about this exciting initiative and donate to this fledgling program aimed at building a healthy Congo by visiting our website: www.educationcongo.org. ■



Scholarships help many

This academic year, UPC has received scholarships from various invested funds and other private donations. The university's North American Liaison Bureau sent \$ 81,433.56, benefiting 144 students. Gallia Foundation in the Netherlands granted \$ 21,000 to 20 students, paying their school fees and a small stipend. Germany's EED (Bread for the World) awarded \$92,740, benefiting 482 students. ■



▲ Meet some of Education Congo's scholarship recipients this year: **BOMENGA Nkanga** (Promotion G2 Theology), **YEMA Kapone** (Promotion L1 Business), **MATSHUMBA Minga** (Promotion L1 Theology) and **MOYANGI Eliane** (Promotion G3).

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