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Liberia: Two Harvard trained Science experts arrived in Liberia

Jun 8, 2009

by Michael Kpayili / Staff Writer



Dr. Adam Cohen lectures science class at BWI

After long months of preparation over the visitation of two American Science Experts to Liberia, Dr. Adam E. Cohen and Benjamin I. Rapoport have finally arrived in Liberia. The two American Science Experts are special guest to several institutions and organizations in

Liberia and are expected to conduct Science workshops for University lecturers, Science teachers in private and public schools and other science related organizations around the country.

The two Harvard trained experts are implementing guests of the I-Help Liberia Project and the Liberian Mandingo Association in New York (LIMANY) Science program established in Liberia years back. Both Ben and Adam have been inspired to try to give back to Liberia as much as Liberia has given to them through Mr. Randolph's teaching.

At a brief ceremony at the campuses of the Booker Washington Institute on Sunday, June 7, 2009, the Principal of BWI Mr. Mulbah Jackollie welcomed the two guests for taking upon their busy schedule to help assist develop University Science lecturers and other organizations in Liberia. He said the initiative of the I-help Liberia Program will afford Science teachers in Liberia to gain their full potentials.

For their parts, the visiting Science delegation to Liberia thanked BWI and other institutions for the huge welcome accorded them. Dr. Adam Cohen and Ben Rapoport both of the Harvard University said they are in the country through the inspiration of their former science Instructor at the Hunter College High School, Mr. Asumana Jabateh Randolph. The purpose of their trip according to the visiting delegation is to share with their Liberian counterparts the importance of engaging in thorough research as Science teachers.

Dr. Adam Cohen is Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology and of Physics. He obtained PhD in 2003 Cambridge University and PhD in 2006 from Stanford University. Adam Cohen's research focuses on developing and applying new tools to

probe the physical properties of complex molecules. He invented an Anti-Brownian Electro kinetic trap (ABEL trap) capable of trapping and manipulating individual fluorescent molecules in solution at room temperature. The ABEL trap uses high-speed fluorescence microscopy to track the Brownian motion of a single fluorescent molecule. A feedback circuit applies carefully timed electric fields to the solution to induce an electrokinetic drift cancels the Brownian motion.

Current research in the Cohen Lab focuses on application of the ABEL trap to bimolecular systems, as well as the development of new tools and method for probing weak protein-protein interactions and ultrafast dynamics of molecules inside of cells.

Mr. Benjamin Rapoport is MD-PhD student pursuing his MD in the Health Sciences and Technology Program at Harvard Medical School, as well as his PhD in Electrical Engineering at MIT. He received his AB in Physics and Mathematics and AM in Physics from Harvard in 2003, and MSc in Mathematical Biology from Oxford in 2004. Ben is interested in designing and neurosurgical implanting electronic interfaces with the brain and nervous system, such as neural prosthetic devices for the paralyzed and disabled, which can repair and augment neurologic function. His current work is on algorithms and ultra-low-power electronic architectures for decoding neural signals in the context of fully implantable brain-machine interfaces.

During their stay in Liberia, the below activities will fine part of their visit.

1. Monday, June 8: Lecture session at BWI
2. Tuesday, June 9: Lecture session at BWI
3. Wed, June 10 : Team meeting @Congo Town Residence
4. Thurs, June 11 : All University Science Teachers @MOE
5. Friday, June 12 : Liberian Women in Science and technology
6. Sat, June 13 : University of Liberia Science Teachers @Fendell Campus
7. Sunday, June 14: Team Meeting with I-Help local team
8. Mon. June 15: LU Science Students@Fendell Campus
9. Tues, June 16 : All High School Science Teachers (Tubman High)
10. Wed, June 17 : Medical/Pharmacy School @Medical School
11. Thurs, June 18 : Travel to Ganta
12. Fri, June 19 : All Ganta Science Teachers
13. Sat, June 20 : Travel Back to Monrovia
14. Sun, June 21 : Departure date



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Dr. Adam Cohen lectures science class at BWI



Mr. Ben Rapoport lectures biology students at BWI



BWI Principal welcome



guest upon arrival



About the Author:

Michael Kpayili is a staff writer for TheLiberianTimes.com. Kpayili has written articles which have appeared on TheLiberianTimes.com since late 2005, and his hard hitting investigative journalism has earned the respect of the Liberian press community.

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