

Haitian Biomed Trainees Experience American News Media

Two Haitian men are participating in a biomedical equipment training program through MediSend International in Texas that will prepare them to return to their earthquake-ravaged homeland to service medical equipment that may save lives. In this continuing series, AAMI provides updates on the trainees' experiences.

Imagine you've just completed an intensive, three-month biomedical technology immersion course in a new language, when a major newspaper and a major television network arrive to interview you—in this new language.

That's exactly what happened to Luxon Philogene and Phanel Guerrier, the two Haitian trainees who are in the midst of learning about biomedical equipment support in Dallas, TX. This summer, they'll return to Haiti equipped with newfound skills to help provide critical equipment support to two hospitals.

Their efforts are so inspiring that a reporter from *The Dallas Morning News* and a television news crew each interviewed the men to learn more about their journey. *The Dallas Morning News* interview resulted in an April 8 story by columnist James Ragland.

Ragland interviewed—in English—these two native French speakers for more than 30 minutes each.

In the newspaper column, Guerrier, 32, tells Ragland that, "In Haiti, we don't have the equipment or the means to repair it. This program will teach me how to repair the equipment, and when I get back home, the situation will be different."

Meanwhile, Ragland quotes Philogene, 28, as saying, "This training is very, very challenging. I've learned so many things." Philogene can't wait to return home to begin putting his new skills to work, and to assist health-care workers in Haiti with the proper use, maintenance, and repair of biomedical equipment.

By all accounts, the Philogene and Guerrier were very relaxed during the interviews, and each had a great conversation with the writer. Amazingly, the men were not even conversant in English just a few months earlier.

The television interviews were a dif-

ferent story altogether, through no fault of the trainees.

They were fully prepared to face the camera, when the cameraman announced that there was some trouble with the camera equipment, and that the shoot would have to be postponed until later in the day.

Nick Hallack, president and CEO of MediSend International, joked to the cameraman that the next time he should have MediSend check the equipment to make sure it's working properly.

Later that afternoon, Philogene and Guerrier stood before the cameras, overcame their nerves, and gave a great delivery. Everything appeared to be on track until MediSend heard from the reporter that the equipment once again had had a glitch, and that the segment would need to be reshot. But once again, they gave the interviews, and did another great job.

Back in the Classroom

The trainees are learning about a variety of instrumentation, such as spectrophotometry, clinical chemistry analyzers, urine analyzers, microscopes, hematology analyzers, ancillary equipment for clinical laboratories, and sterilizing instruments. They're also learning about the anatomy and physiology of



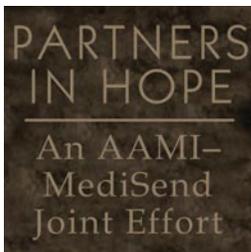
Luxon Philogene (left) and Phanel Guerrier work on Philips VS1 Vital Signs Monitors in the MediSend Biomedical Repair Training Laboratory.

the human body, noninvasive blood pressure and vital signs monitoring systems, electrocardiographs, patient monitoring systems, the physics of ultrasound, and ultrasound equipment.

Before returning to Haiti, the trainees will participate in a professional internship in Baylor Health Care System hospitals where they will learn the basics of managing a biomedical department. And instructors from Philips' Global Academy will provide the trainees' courses and certificates before they are redeployed to Haiti.

In just a couple of months, Guerrier and Philogene will be back in Haiti, making an incalculable difference in the lives of many of their countrymen. ■

In the next issue of AAMI News, we'll follow the trainees as they take their final steps toward returning home to Haiti.



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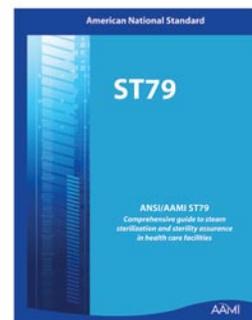
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