

Supercourse Newsletter
March 24, 2013
www.pitt.edu/~super1/

Dear Friends,

We had to postpone the launch of the Help desk for a few weeks, as we are still tinkering with it. The Library of Alexandria has a wonderful mock up, but we need to coordinate the pieces. It should only be a few weeks before we get started. We thought it would be better to iron out as many potential problems as we could

Please forward to those who love words and poetry

A Word, A Bard and An Ode

“We live and breathe words.” (Clare)

A Word

Jan, my wife, said that she was not impressed that we created a word (stataphobia), or that this word was picked up by the BMJ and shared with ~200,000 people worldwide. She said it was a really cool word that everyone knows what it means, and it also sends a chill of fear associated with memories of bad reviews on statistics and hoping for a B in tough statistics classes. Fear helps to make things memorable. She said what she would be impressed with is if we could work to bring this into the OED (Oxford English Dictionary) and other dictionaries across the world. I think this is a major goal for the Supercourse,, to be the only global health project to create its own word and have it appear in the OED. The word of the year for 2012, was Hashtag, which I had no idea as to what it was as I do not use tweet. A second top word was “Gate Lice”, this is the crowd of people hanging around a gate before coming on board the plane. Kind of weird, but definitely memorable. The word I really like is Turkducken, which is a new dish where one stuffs a chicken in a duck and then into a turkey and then bake it. It is not only a great word, it is great food. Our word, Stataphobia (or Statophobia) can be the supercourse word for the ages. Our team found that it translates well into Arabic, Russian, Farsi, Urdu, English, and Spanish. Also we have over 2500 references to the word as identified in a Google search. We believe that the Supercourse should have our word in the 2014 edition of the OED. Abu Zar in Pakistan has started this effort by writing a news release to be put into their major papers. Just try to include the word in everything you write for the next year, and we will be in the OED, which is much more spectacular than being in Nature, or Lancet!

“Oh! Blame not the bard” (More)

A Bard: We have been so fortunate that Francis Ohanyido from Nigeria is a part of our family. He is a fascinating person, a leader in ICT in Africa, an expert in Public health, a physician and our poet laureate of the Supercourse. Besides having a Word, we have a Bard.

http://nigerianwiki.com/wiki/Francis_Ohanyido

The Bard of the supercourse, has written a wonderful Ode to the supercourse

“Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance” (Sandburg)

An Ode:

An Ode to BA SuperDesk

Awakening

The Empiricist's Song gone West
The Sphinx, a silent shadow of the East
The Pyramid, a patient witness

Awakening

From the Obelisk of Knowledge
The Great Ankh, we took
And Euclid's secrets, laid bare
Piercing Apathy's Heart
Banishing Fear's torment
In the brightness of Ra
Looking into the Nile
A memory of research
Now desert of publications

Awakening

We looked forlornly
From Lagos to Karachi
...And beyond
A story of dearth
And death of the researcher
An elegy to another age

Awakening

Does one not ask?
Why have we faltered?
Why have we declined?
And Ron answered "statophobia"
Holding a scroll of hope
For statophobia is a deadly curse
Anathema to better research

Awakening

We invoked the Muse
Herald of ancient calls
From the hallowed Halls
Echoing off the walls
In labyrinthine chants
From the City of Alexander
And knowledge rose
From its trove

Rising
In the Epidemiological Grail
In the Cauldron of Supercourse
Served in the New Age Chalice
By many a thousand Wiseman
In 'empirician cascade'
Of Sage and Acolyte
Returning statistics
From the verge
Wikified...
Simplified...
A Synergy
Of minds and methods

Rising
BA SuperDesk
A bane to statophobia is born
In the dawn of a New Spring
Do you have a question for these Wisemen?

By Francis Ohanyido 2013

Isn't this beautiful?

"Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks" (Plutarch)

"Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (WHO) Best Regards, Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Ohanyido, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Olga