

Supercourse Newsletter  
10 April, 2006

[www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm](http://www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm)  
[www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm](http://www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm)  
[www.pitt.edu/~super1.edu](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1.edu)

Dear Friends:

*There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase "to live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy". Covey*

What will your legacy be? We think it might be your lectures.

It has been most interesting. In the past few days we have been talking with Vint Cerf, the father of the Internet and Ismail Serageldin, the director of the Library of Alexandria.

A primary means to share scientific knowledge has been the lecture. For the 200 years faculty have taught using chalk boards. At the end the chalk board is erased, and the lecture becomes dust, lost for the ages. Our lectures are one of the most important scientific knowledge carriers. It is only now that lectures have a standardized format, and permanence where we are able to share and archive these. The reason for this is "PowerPoint". PowerPoint has become the standard of research communication with over 95% market share.

Legacy of Lecture Series:

In the past week we started to contact the members of the National Academy of Science, and the response has been very encouraging. Over 300 scientists have written, with over 150 lectures promised or delivered to us. The project has been called "noble" in that it can help educators to provide training to millions, as seen in the enclosed quote from a legacy scientist:

*Ron,*

*The program you describe can potentially educate millions, especially in the Third World where science education is often decades behind.*

What we started to recognize in the past few days is the potential historical significance of this effort. Looking back, Einstein's letters were of enormous historical import as we could see how science was shaped. Wouldn't it have been wonderful to have Einstein's lectures to see what he thought was important and how this changed over time? Wouldn't it be wonderful for a historian to have your lectures in the next century. Then it was not possible, but it is now.

We are collecting from National Academy of Science members their best lectures. We ask for the lecture that they love the best, their golden lecture which is honed over 20

years of teaching. We ask them to give this legacy of knowledge to future generations. The participation rate is incredible, as scientists want to leave a legacy behind.

Wouldn't it be fantastic in 25 years to have 5000 of the best PowerPoint lectures from the best scientists around the world? Here would be the Legacy Scientific Lectures, from a golden era of global science... We would very much like to collaborate with you, and the Library of Alexandria among others to make this historical legacy an achievable reality.

*"the historical value of this archive is incalculable - an attempt should be made to assure that it is replicated in its entirety and placed in several archival repositories." Vint Cerf*

*There is a strange charm in the hope of a good legacy that wonderfully reduces the sorrow people otherwise may feel for the death of their relatives and friends. Cervantes Saavedra*

Lecture of the week

Although the traditional emphasis of the Supercourse has been public health, other disciplines are picking up the pace. One of those disciplines is psychology. Recently, Elizabeth F. Loftus contributed a wonderful lecture called "Illusions of Memory and Loss of Justice" that can be accessed at

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec23041/index.htm> Dr. Loftus is studying human memory. Her experiments reveal how memories can be changed by things that we are told. Her Supercourse lecture demonstrates the importance of this area. This lecture became the very first lecture donated to the Legacy Lecture Supercourse. Please, read Supercourse newsletters for more updates about this interesting development.

Ron, Faina, Mita, Soni, Eugene, Francois, Raina, Arlene, Rashid, Saida, Ezzelden, Julia

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