

Supercourse Newsletter
6 February 2006

www.pitt.edu/~super1.edu
www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm
www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm

Dear Friends:

Schools of Global Health: There continues to be considerable interest in the Global Health Schools. Many top quality universities from across the world have expressed an interest, most are willing to support much, if not all of the program in the countries. The cost is small, as we would be recruiting the best students, the teachers are already there as is the building and facilities. The only external components would be the curricula and the global help desk. Quite a few of you volunteered to help select lectures from the Supercourse for the curricula, and to serve on the help desk. The major problem is to build a business plan so that is sustainable, without excluding any country because of cost. At this point if we started we potentially could have more faculty and more students than all the schools of public health in the world. Pretty cool stuff!!!

Socrates: Gil Omenn, the President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Ismail Serageldin Director of the Library of Alexandria, Vint Cerf, father of the Internet, joined Faina and I on the article that we sent to Science titled Globalization of Science: A Scientific Supercourse. It was one of the best articles I have been a part of, and a privilege for Faina and I to work with them. If you would like the final draft of the paper, please let me know. We received outstanding comments and ideas about the paper from you all.

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings, so that you shall gain easily what others have labored hard for. Socrates

Teaching the Teacher: Hakan Yaman from Turkey wrote an idea that was so brilliant, yet so simple. It is one of those ideas where you hit your head and said...Gee, why didn't I think of that. But Hakan did. His logic was straight forward. We are giving our faculty the lectures which is great. What about the 23 year old teacher going into the class for the first time. S/he needs something else. He reasoned that we needed a supercourse on teaching methods, or a "how to teach" Supercourse. Few of us were taught how to teach. We were pushed into the classroom, for the first time, scared out of our minds, sweating profusely, with trembling voices and hands. Having a good lecture would certainly help from the supercourse, but also having lectures on how to teach from some of the best experts in the world would most definitely help. What if we could have a global chat room for people teaching for the first time, or a global teaching help desk. Hakan, I really wanted to thank you, it is a brilliant idea.

Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions. ~Author Unknown

Avian Flu: We have been talking with William Ambusher at the State Department concerning building training programs on Avian Flu. It is most interest, and scary on how this flu can spread. I had just finished reading the book: The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History by John Barry. It is a very interesting book. He is writer who really knows his epidemiology, the people in the book think like us. In general I think epidemiologists are not the most exciting writers (including myself). But Barry captures the tension of the times. We are discussion as to how to build an Avian Flu supercourse starting with China and then to Vietnam, and Turkey in the beginning. China is a first target as Yang Ze is my Chinese brother and one of my top friends. His classmate heads the Avian flu initiative. We have already fantastic lectures from China already, and the beginning of the Chinese Supercourse.

Lecture of the week

In the past several months, we have been fortunate to work with Dr. Saida Karimova from Azerbaijan, who is completing her Heinz fellowship in Pittsburgh. Dr. Karimova is helping the Supercourse team to develop and expand women's health network. With the help of Dr. Karimova, we recently received an outstanding lecture from Michelle Holmes from Harvard University. "Energy Balance and Cancer Survival" lecture, Donated to the Supercourse by Dr. Holmes can be accessed at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec22441/001.htm>

It gives many interesting perspectives on breast cancer and prevention of mortality associated with breast cancer. We are looking forward to receiving new lectures on women's health! Thank you!

Who are we? You might want to look to see a description of who we are. As you will see we represent the United Nations of Supercourse: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/assist/dev.htm>

I would love to hear how you are doing, please write to me, Ron, at: ronlaporte@aol.com

Best Regards

Ron, Faina, Soni Eugene, Mita, Nicholas, Jiaying, Saida, Gil, Ismail, Vint, Julia, Rania, Francois, Ali, Socrates, Shai, Hakan

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