

Supercourse Newsletter  
March 2, 2007

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Please distribute this to your friends, especially those interested in the Oscars, Global Warming, and Playing Post Office.

### **An Oscar for the Supercourse??**

An Inconvenient Truth

At the end of January Vint Cerf, the father of the Internet, contacted me. He suggested that we should develop a Supercourse of Global Warming. He said he knew Al Gore, and would contact his team to obtain his lecture. Vint is our Internet Leader.

We knew little about Global Warming. But on Feb. 2, we had a very rapid learning curve, as the UN issued a report on Climate Change. It was very interesting and important. We decided to develop a Global Warming Supercourse that would be the best scientific lectures in the area. I wrote to 75 members of the UN report, and they were wonderful. Susan Solomon, gave us her lecture which beautifully summarizes the report. I wrote to National Academy of Science members with the concetu that Global Warming Scientists are likely 1 degree of separation away from these scientific leaders, and they in fact are. There were 45 NAS members who wrote back to us, very much in favor of us building a scientific Supercourse, of which there were 2 Nobel prize winners. They contributed the names of 33 additional experts in Global Warming. It was rather exciting.

We have the link to the UN report as well as 10 outstanding scientific lectures. I also have been talking with Salvano Briceno from the UN to see if we can link together with them. In addition Eric Marler identified some of the top scientific web sites on Global Warming. We want to provide the best scientific lectures in the area of Global Warming for all of us to use, as we in prevention globally should teach our students about global warming. As with the Supercourse as a whole, we avoid politics and present only the best science.

Sadly, Al Gore and his team is yet to send us his lecture. There was a slight detour with him receiving an Oscar. Now we have to wait. Eugene did wonderful work in rapidly putting lectures into the Supercourse and Nicholas already translated the UN Report lecture into Spanish.

You can go to the front page of the Supercourse at [www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/), on the bottom of the lecture is a link to the Global Warming Supercourse. You can go directly to it at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/warming/globalwarming.htm>.

What was amazing is that in just 2 weeks the impact of our Global Warming Supercourse sky rocketed. We evaluated the Yahoo page rankings for Global Warming lectures, and there were 845,000 listings. Our Global Warming Supercourse, ranked 11, higher than 99.99% of global warming lectures. We were shocked to see this. Clearly the Supercourse should come down the Red Carpet, and receive an Oscar.

### **Snail Mail to Email**

Playing Post office:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reference\\_desk\\_archive/Language/July\\_2006#Playing\\_post\\_office](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reference_desk_archive/Language/July_2006#Playing_post_office))

Mita is about to have her comprehensive meeting, and we were reviewing her presentation. She built an incredible network in India of over 6500 faculty and has collected over 120 lectures. She presented a concept that could be revolutionary. In India the post offices have Internet access and computers, printers and scanners. About 4% of India has direct access to the Internet however, indirect access via the Post Office is amazingly high. One can send an email to Patna, to reach your father in the border of Nepal. The Postman will receive the email, print it and take it to your father. If your father cannot read, the Postman will read it to him. If he wants to send you a note back, he can write it, or the Postman will write it. The Postman takes it back to the Post office, scans it in, and emails it back to you in Washington, D.C.. Isn't that fantastic? We in the Supercourse need to think about how we can collaborate. We would love your ideas, please write to [ronlaporte@aol.com](mailto:ronlaporte@aol.com).

Please Mister Postman, look and see  
(Oh yeah)  
If there's a letter in your bag for me  
(Please, Please Mister Postman)  
Why's it takin' such a long time  
(Oh yeah)  
For me to hear from that boy of mine  
The Marvelettes, 1961

'Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds'—Supercourse and the Postoffice

### **Lecture of the week**

Adolescent Vaccines

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec28891/index.htm>

By Dr. Swati Y. Bhave, M.D., President, Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) 2000

Since the last couple of decades, vaccines have been very successful in controlling vaccine-preventable-diseases (VPD) among infants and children. In recent years, there has been an interest in developing vaccines for adolescents, against diseases such as meningococcal meningitis, diphtheria, human papilloma virus, and influenza. As with all vaccines, the harmful and beneficial effects of the vaccine need to be weighed before recommendations can be made. Vaccines for chronic diseases and even HIV are on the horizon. Please read Dr. Bhave's lecture to find out more.

We would very much like your opinions about global warming and Postal Global Health.

Ron, Al, Eugene, Mita, Postman Pat, Faina, Jesse, Ayesha, Nicholas, Vint, Francois, Ali, Rania, Soni, Andrei, Abed, Cliff Claven

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