

Supercourse Newsletter
May 10, 2005

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

Rings of Friendship

“Friendship...is essential to intellectuals. You can date the evolving life of a mind, like the age of a tree, by the rings of friendship formed by the expanding central trunk.” McCarthy, 1987

The Supercourse is rings of friendship

Dear Friends,

Rings of Friendship and IGate:

Soni and I went to visit with Sunil Wadhvani. Sunil is the CEO of IGate one of the largest firms in Pittsburgh. He is a most brilliant man and gave us considerable insight as to where we are going. We are basically creating a network of networks here at Pitt, in the US and world wide. Thus one network might be architects who are interested in global health. This would be connected to networks of architects in China and Finland, and this would be connected to a global network. At the same time a similar network for anthropologists could be established locally, in the US, in India and Russia, and the world. Many different networks would be created with an overarching IT network, sort of a “command and control” center that identify global needs in health and bring the scientific and academic power together to achieve this. The idea is that most of the time at each level the networks are “Latent”, just sitting there, still connected but doing nothing. However, if help is needed globally for say experts in nutrition, the network would be activated. This concept of this is a “smart mob” where we activate a part of the network (e.g. Structural engineers) and have them provide support services primarily through the net. It is impossible to know before hand say at a disaster as to what type of expertise would be needed. We would be basically “on call” depending upon our expertise. We would provide input over the internet. This would be, of course, completely voluntary Sunil knows the IT industry, and we see that if we bring the IT industry networks who are interested in global health, it will be very powerful. The power of what we are doing is with the building of “Rings of Friendship” from local to global.

Global Pittsburgh changes to Global pITT.

We are arousing considerable interest at the University these days with the concept of “Global pIT”. You may notice that we have had a name change from Global Pittsburgh, to global pIT. I got a very nice call from Sky Foerster of the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Towards the end he said “Oh, by

the way, we have copyrighted the term Global Pittsburgh. So we quickly changed it, and Eugene Shubnikov in Siberia changed the web page to Global pIT.

Actually this is rather nice, as it has “global”, “Pittsburgh” and “IT” (information technology).

It is exciting as we likely have one of the largest networks that has been established at Pitt.

Pearls from the Past:

Layla Abdelhady kindly collected all of the Supercourse Newsletters, and put them on the Library of Alexandria Server at:

<http://www.bibalex.org/English/initiatives/supercourse.htm>

It is fascinating to read back in time to see how the Supercourse has matured.

Friendship makes prosperity more shining and lessens adversity by dividing and sharing it. Cicero 44 CB

Ron, Soni, Sunil, Faina, Eugene, Mita, Layla, Tom

Please “snowball” this forward to your students and Friends. We would love to have your comments as building “rings of friendship” at Pitt is new stuff

If you would like to stop receiving Supercourse messages, please send a note to Mital@pitt.edu.