

Supercourse Newsletter

May 26, 08

www.pitt.edu/~super1/

www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/Index.htm

www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm

China JIT Supercourse Lecture:

The earthquake in China was horrific. I sent a note to the over 300 Chinese Supercourse members seeing what we could do to help. They are interested in having us build with them a Chinese Earthquake Supercourse. Yanwen Chen and his colleagues felt that it is important to work together to develop a Chinese Just in Time Lecture. Our resident Just-in-Time disaster expert, Ali Ardalan from Tehren Iran, has taken up the call. Ali has already developed 4-5 JIT lectures for disasters. For earthquakes he has developed lectures from the Bam, the Pakistan and the Indonesian Earthquakes, and sadly now, he as to do this for the Chinese earthquake.

No task in this world is impossible so long as there are willing hearts (Chinese Proverb)

The concept of what we do with these lectures is not specifically to save lives, as usually by day 5 people either are alive or dead. Rather the lectures are designed to target what we call the “epidemiology of fear”, which is a cloud of fear and threat that hovers over a country after a disaster. The cloud threatens the economy, the families and governments for months if not years. Our approach has been to construct the best possible lecture on the science of disasters, and then to provide this to the schools through out countries so that the population can understand that an earthquake is not an act of God, it is a Natural event. We want to attack the epidemiology of fear. We plan to spread this lecture far and wide.

The concept was nicely expressed as “Fears are educated into us, and can if we wish be educated out” Menninger

Guanqiyi, a very good friend from China wrote a wonderful letter. There was one sentence that captured the Chinese Supercourse, but also captured the Supercourse in general.

“I think your suggestions is very nice, we need your friends’ experience to help common and young people to fend of the fears of earthquakes.”

The lecture will be translated into Chinese, and distributed throughout China. The goal of the Supercourse is for friends to share their experiences. Clearly should there be an earth quake in Costa Rica, California, Congo, or Cyprus, the experience of our friends in China will teach us, and reduce our fears as well.

OIC

The OIC Supercourse is also moving quickly. We already have had over 20 people from OIC countries who would like to develop the Supercourse. We would love to have you join. We are preparing an article for publication on the OIC Supercourse and if you are from the OIC, we would love to have your join. (please contact ronlaporte@aol.com)

We have representatives from:

Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Jordan, Gambia, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkey

The participants include Professors, Students, CEOs, Heads of laboratories, medical directors, etc. The participants on the US side include OIC students in the US, and the President of the Association of Egyptian Scholars. Now all we need is the resources to move forward. It is exciting.

Matching Pledge:

Steve Blair is one of my best friends, and is the premier exercise epidemiologist in the world today. Sadly, as with many people of the "exercise persuasion" he also is competitive. He feels that exercise science is the ultimate of all of epidemiology. He has issued a matching challenge, as we are only \$2000 away from \$10,000. His challenge is simple, he challenges everyone in the Supercourse who thinks that exercise is good for health (prevention), he will match their contributions until we crack the \$10,000 barrier contribute by May 29, my birthday. What an impressive pledge drive this will be. I was so strongly moved by his donation that I began to exercise for the first time in 7 years.

Please go to www.pitt.edu/~super1/ to contribute to Globalization of Prevention Education.

(Steve, thanks so much)

Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Nicolas, Rania, francois, Ali, Soni, Arlene, Jesse, Julia

You have received this newsletter in the genuine belief that its contents would be of interest to you. If you would like to unsubscribe from future mailing of the Supercourse Newsletter, please reply to this message and resend it to us with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thanks.