

Supercourse Newsletter
October 24, 2002

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

Dear Friends,

A Beacon for Science and Knowledge

Last week Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak and others inaugurated the Library of Alexandria, and identified this as a Beacon for Science and Knowledge. In many ways this same concept is what we have established with the Supercourse.

We Did It!!

Thanksgiving is one of the nicest holidays in the US. At the end of November we get together with our friends and family to give thanks. We eat turkey, cranberry jelly, mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. It is a warm and wonderful holiday. We have just had an early Thanksgiving as we now have reached a most remarkable milestone, that of 1000 lectures. We feel warm and wonderful as with 9000 of our family in prevention, we celebrate. It is time to give thanks to all of you, as your gifts will be a beacon of light for global prevention for now, and future generations. We in Pittsburgh are with you, our global family in spirit, and in hope.

We hurdled the 1000 barrier as in just one week. We have received an astonishing 75 lectures, at over 10/day. Within 10 minutes after the last newsletter was sent out, a lecture came in and they just continued to flow into our center. All we can say, and the other faculty of the world can say, is thank you. The lectures will help the world, and you did it. It is a very good feeling. This is not to say we should stop sending lectures, as the more knowledge collected, the better it is for global prevention.

We plan to have the CDs burned in mid November, and then we will send over 1000 lectures to you so you can receive them by the various holidays at the end of the year so that you can copy them to give to your children, mother, and friends!! It is a wonderful, glowing feeling of "warm pumpkin pie". Shai Linn, suggested that this is also a symbol of peace with scientists working together across boundaries with common goals. There is a lot wrong in the world; our group is a ray of hope, for health, but also for peace and friendship.

We would love to hear your thoughts about crossing the 1000 lectures barrier, please send this to ronlaporte@pitt.edu. We will put these together and send these out in a newsletter.

If you did not receive a CD last year, or if you moved your postal address, please let us know. Send a message to super2@pitt.edu so we make sure we get this to you. If you do not want to receive a CD, please contact us as we have limited funds.

Library of Alexandria:

Eugene and I just got back from the opening of the Library of Alexandria. It was a wonderful to see the opening. There were 30 heads of state, and of course the Supercourse.

It was very exciting, as the Supercourse was discussed in at least 4 different talks throughout the meetings. First Lady Mubarak's talk included a paragraph about the Supercourse. Our talk

with a Russian (Eugene) and American (Ron) was well received. Ismail Serageldin, the new Director of the library is very much in favor of the Supercourse. He spoke a beautiful quote at the opening which reminded Eugene and me about all our friends of the Supercourse:

“Some look at the world as it is and ask “Why”...while we look at the world as it could be, and ask “Why not”

This seems to typify the spirit of the Supercourse, doesn't it? Many asked “why” capture lectures 3 years ago, but our faculty asked “why not”, and it was done.

The Library of Alexandria Supercourse is designed to capture all the lectures of science, a modest goal!!! But the Supercourse has shown that the impossible is indeed possible. “Why Not”

The initial idea is to sweep the net for all lectures coming from universities on scientific topics. We estimate that there are about 2 million lectures already on the web that could be suitable. The second aspect will be to build the global network of science. The third step will be establishing a Napster type model of lecture exchange, and the fourth to build access to those who are disabled. The final component will be to establish a peer review quality control system with high through put where quality control will be scientifically based and will evolve and improve over time.

We would very much like your input, as this is an exciting but daunting task. If successful our group can change science. “Why Not” What a buzz.

“He said that there was one only good, namely, knowledge; and one only evil, namely ignorance”
Socrates

Nice....

It is a beautiful feeling seeing us reach 1000 lectures. It was impossible, but we did it. We do have the best 1000 lectures in prevention. We also have the best possible 10,000 family members that anyone could want. We would like to send you a warm pumpkin pie, but perhaps a CD is better.

Ron, Faina, Eugene, the Pilgrims, Akira, Mita, Julia, Rania, Abed, Fred, Soni, Tom, Deb, your mother and Goblins and Ghosts

If you would like to come off this list, please send a message to super2@pitt.edu