

Supercourse Newsletter
October 30, 2002

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

Boo, it is Goblins and Ghosts night:

Well, our friends it is Halloween, the day we have all been waiting for. Many have asked—What is Halloween? Is it Halloween 13—the movie? No it is Halloween 1020...the lecture!! We are going to prepare the CD with 1020 prevention lectures on it and send them out next month.

For those not familiar with Halloween please look at <http://wilstar.com/holidays/hallowm.htm>, it was once a religious holiday, but now is one of the non-holiday, holidays. The customs are that you take your children to your neighbors dressed in frightening outfits. This year the BIG outfit is Spiderman. Then at the door of your neighbors house you yell “trick or treat”. When people come to Jan’s and my house, we typically give the children a Snicker or Milky Way candy bar. This year we decided to be a little different and give the 5 and 6 year old children a Supercourse Prevention CD, and highlight the lectures on dental cavities.

It is indeed a time to celebrate.

Survey:

Friends, EunRyoung Sa has been working with us for about 4 years. She is from Korea, and just in the process of finishing up her Ph.D. She will be doing an Internet survey to evaluate the Supercourse, and will be randomly sending to some of you a survey. We would very much appreciate if you could complete the survey. It only takes 15 minutes to complete but it will be important to determine reasons for utilization of the Supercourse.

Lancet and BMJ:

The Lancet last week described a little bit of the work we were doing at the Library of Alexandria (Lancet 360:1188,02). We have also just had a paper accepted in the BMJ titled from Papyrus to PowerPoint, the metamorphosis of biomedical journals. This will appear in the Christmas edition, we argue that PowerPoint will take over biomedical research communications. It will be most fun as we are going to put up our journal article also as a PowerPoint file, and we will query people, as to what is the best form of research communication.

Disability and Access to science: We have been looking at various approaches to “sound” PowerPoint slides. People with impaired vision or who cannot read have very little access to the world’s scientific literature. We see several means by which we can machine sound the lectures so that your lectures can be read to people, and sight would not be needed.

WHO EMRO:

We have a unique opportunity to demonstrate to WHO EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean Region) about the Supercourse. Dr. Najeeb Alshorbaji, M.D. from WHO held a very important meeting in Cairo. He invited me to present by satellite (Ron) at 8:30-9:00 AM. The only problem is I thought it was 8:30 Pittsburgh but it was in fact 8:30 Cairo time, which is 1:30 in the morning in Pittsburgh. It was not possible to get a connection. Najeeb is fantastic, as we sent him a PowerPoint lecture of my talk, and he gave it with about 2 minutes of practice. It was a hit!! It showed the power of

lecture sharing to everyone there. It was wonderful. It will be most fun to develop an EMRO Supercourse!

Please come to our house tonight, and Jan and I will not only give you a CD for Halloween, but also some Super-man-Supercourse cookies!!

Please write to Ronlaporte@aol.com any comments. If you would like to come off this list, please write to super2@pitt.edu

The leaves are really, really beautiful this year, yellows and reds and greens. This is the nicest season in Pittsburgh.

Best regards,

Ron, Akira, Ghosts, Faina, EunRyoung, Mita, Eugene, Julia, Rania, Abed, Tom, Spiderman, Deb, Beatriz