

Supercourse Newsletter  
Sept. 8, 2005

[www.pitt.edu/~super1.edu](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1.edu)  
[www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/](http://www.bibalex.org/SuperCourse/)  
[www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm](http://www.bibalex.org/english/initiatives/SupercourseArchive.htm)

The Bundle of Sticks

An old man on the point of death summoned his sons around him to give them some parting advice. He ordered his servants to bring in a bundle of sticks, and said to his eldest son: "Break it." The son strained and strained, but with all his efforts was unable to break the Bundle. The other sons also tried, but none of them was successful. "Untie the sticks," said the father, "and each of you take a stick." When they had done so, he called out to them: "Now, break," and each stick was easily broken. "You see my meaning," said their father.

Moral: Union gives strength.  
Aesops Fables

The Supercourse team is strong, not because we have large amount of money, but we are friends who work together.

Disaster Lectures:

We have moved very quickly with the disaster lectures and presentations. We do hope that you will join. We currently have over 300 networks available for Eric Noji's lecture on Sept. 29, at 4:00-Eastern Time. You can find the PowerPoint slides of his lecture through the homepage of the Supercourse at [www.pitt.edu/~super1/](http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/). If you would like to see his talk, we would love to have you come to Pittsburgh, or to listen to his web cast at <http://www.publichealth.pitt.edu/specialevents/cutler2005/>. There was a recent newspaper article indicating that this would be the most viewed academic lecture, ever. Isn't that too cool. The hurricane lecture already took off, with over 1000 hits in the first 24 hours. The 40 meteorologists and Ali Ardan did a fantastic job. The lecture has been beautifully translated into Arabic by Layla Abdelhady from the Library of Alexandria with Rani Azmi helping. Saida, Eugene and Faina from our group translated into Russian, and Nicholas Padilla from Mexico translated it into Spanish. We hope that you can present these lectures about disasters and hurricanes.

Oh where, oh where have the Deans Gone?

We had an idea as we in the Supercourse are like the bundle of sticks mentioned above. If we work together we can accomplish miracles. We had a great idea that we could target the week of Sept. 25 and everyone could present about disasters to the classes. We would all give up an hour of class time as we need to work together against disasters in all of our countries. We would be happy to give all Eric's lecture for free, at the institutions who could use it. Alternatively if universities had lectures on disasters we would offer to collect and put these onto the Supercourse for all to use.

Five days ago I sent a message to 35 of the Deans of the Schools of Public Health. I discovered that Deans are very, very busy people as only 2 responded. One indicated that his university was going to have presentations, when I asked about sharing these--no response. A second will use Eric's lecture. For the other 33...no response... If you have an opportunity to talk with your dean

(no matter in what school world wide) ask them if your students can learn about disasters the week of Sept. 25 (but don't mention my name!!!).

Moral: Public Health Schools would rather compete than collaborate  
Supercourse Fable

Please try and teach your students during the week of Sept. 25 about disasters, as we and our students receive very little training. The Supercourse team will give you permission even if your dean does not!

Local Supercourse JIT Team:

In all of our countries there are local to national disasters. Perhaps we should start to think about building national JIT lecture teams, to provide the best possible scholarly lectures. This could be locally for example 4 houses burning down in South Madras, or national such as a major flood in China. We as scholars could produce much better materials than newspapers, and with this we could combat the epidemiology of fear in small towns or major countries. This likely could be supported from numerous sources. Please let me know your thoughts at [ronlaporte@aol.com](mailto:ronlaporte@aol.com). It is really time that we in academia do something during disasters.

Position:

There is a senior lectureship position at New Castle on Tyne available. Please contact Nigel Unwin at [n.c.unwin@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:n.c.unwin@ncl.ac.uk). He is a nice guy and will be a good boss!!

"Hold a true friend with both of your hands." --Friedrich Nietzsche"

Global Disasters need global friends.

Best regards from Pittsburgh

Ron, Ali, Eugene, Faina, Mita, Soni, Natalie, Erica, Saida, Aesop, Nietzsche

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