

Supercourse Newsletter
3 May 2006

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

Dust to Dust:

In 1801 the chalk board was invented. It proved to be a remarkable technological tool that advanced training world wide. Prior to the chalkboard, training had to be one to one, the chalkboard allowed one to many training, markedly improving efficiency. The chalk board was such a powerful tool that it held sway world wide until the year, 2000. White boards came in, but they were mere clones of chalk boards. At the end of the last century a true revolution took place, PowerPoint. PowerPoint was light years better as a presentation tool, with colors, movements, music and ease of lesson development. But this was not the paradigm shift, early in 2000 there was a migration of PowerPoint lectures to the web. This is creating the revolution. Instead of wiping the slate clean at the end of a lecture for 30 students, PowerPoint on the web brought longevity to lectures. Instead of a 20 meter and 30 student maximum training from the chalk board, the reach of PowerPoint on the web was 1000s of km, and the maximum numbers of students in the millions. What a revolution in the making and we are a part of it.

Definition: Lecturecide: Killing of lectures by human beings

One of the greatest tragedies has occurred in the past 50 years, and we were responsible for this. There has been a vast, unnoticed Lecturecide taking place. We as teachers, erase, and kill our lectures. Then there is not even a proper burial as we clap the erasures together, with the dust falling onto the floor and walk on it. How would you like this happening to your remains?

The magnitude of this unrecognized Lecturecide is unparalleled in human history. We have estimated that between 1950-2000 there were 51,000,000,000 lectures born, then killed 50 minutes later, and we trample the dust of our victims. What a waste. If we could have rescued these, our knowledge would be so much more advanced now and we would not have to create from new Biology 101 lectures over and over and over.

Sadly when we retire or die, even now, our PowerPoint lectures are buried on our hard drives. This too is a waste. Shouldn't your inheritance to future generations be your lectures? Why let them die on the drive of your Think Pad, or even worse, could you imagine your lectures going through eternity on your Mac...What a horrible fate for your lectures, most certainly if your lectures are on your Mac...they are not going "up there".

We now have an antidote against Lecturecide, the Supercourse. We must go forth and prevent any more nuggets of knowledge from being erased and the lecture dust flying away.

Only kidding of course, but Supercourse PowerPoint on the web is truly a revolution!!

May 29

Most certainly most of you are thinking about what lecture to send me for my birthday on May 29. I would prefer a lecture over a Mercedes, as Supercourse lectures are for eternity while Mercedes are reliable these days for at least 3 months.

Best regards from Pittsburgh

Ron, Faina, Ismail, Mita, Soni, Eugene, Ali, Rania, Julia, Francois

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