

## Supercourse Newsletter

24 February 2008

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## Launching the Scientific Supercourse

Dear friends,

Please distribute this to others in your University as well as others who might be interested. Thank you

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new (Einstein)

Last week Mita, Faina, Eugene, Nicholas and I attended the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences meeting in Boston. We are trying something new (most certainly not a mistake) It was great fun, as it also was the first time that we meet Nicholas Padilla, the head of the Latin America Supercourse. Our session included Gil Omenn, M.D., Ph.D., former president of AAAS. *Ismail Serageldin*, the Director of the Library of Alexander made a special trip from Egypt, and presented about the potential of a AAAS/Library of Alexandria Scientific Supercourse, Faina talked about approaches to quality control in the Supercourse. I had the easy job, as I talked about our the Supercourse of prevention, you and all our friends worldwide. We decided the night before that Eugene should talk about the Supercourse in FSU, and Nicholas about the Latin America Supercourse. They did remarkably well with little preparation We had 4 wonderful AAAS officers who commented upon the Supercourse, Drs. Marcus, Kelly, Elfner and Newlon. In addition, Gil Omenn was fantastic as he had us meet 6 of the business meetings, including Engineering, General Interest in Science, Chemistry, Information Science, Psychology and Medicine.

The talks were very interesting, and you can find pictures of us plus our presentations at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/AAAS/aaas.htm>. Eugene Shubnikov did wonderful work in developing the web page. Eugene is from Novosibirsk Siberia, Russia and has been living with us for a few weeks, and Nicolas Padilla from Mexico stayed with us also. It was a most interesting Salsa-Russian flavor in our house. What grand people to stay with us. Eugene and Nicolas, are major “dog feeders”, Benson’s BMI increased dramatically. If you come to visit, you also could stay in the Shubnikov suite.

We obtained Nina Federoff’s AAAS presentation - <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec31911/001.htm>, which was the keynote address titled Flattening the world the role of science, technology and diplomacy in the 21st century. It was truly an outstanding presentation, to add to her other 2. Dr. Federoff’s Supercourse lectures have had extremely high google page rankings. This lecture is destined to be one of lectures with highest rankings on the web.

We learned much from the officers of AAAS. One concern was that for some people it is not clear that we are not a course, or a curriculum. All we are is a library like the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, but instead of books we make available free slides and lectures to teachers. The term “Supercourse” was coined by Tom Songer 10 years ago when we planned to do Distance Learning. We evolved, however, into a global content provider to teachers, not a distance learning course or university, but the name stuck as it has pizzazz. If you are not sure about the features of the Supercourse. You can find a complete description of the Supercourse at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/assist/sum.htm>

Any fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes the touch of genius – and courage to move – to move in the opposite direction (Einstein)

Because of the creativity of our global team of 44,000, we have created a concept extremely simple, build a network, collect PowerPoint slides of science, and share these slides with educators worldwide. We have moved into the opposite direction, and it has worked first for prevention, and now for all of science..

We received many valuable comments. Perhaps the most important was from Gail Cassell, M.D.. She suggested that we approach the scientific societies, and Journals. For every scientific society we ask them to contribute \$1,000 to contribute a keynote address from their meetings to the Supercourse. For the journals such as JAMA, Nature of BMJ, we ask them to contribute a lecture from each journal, with a contribution of \$1,000. We would give the

societies considerable web impact, and exposure, and they would keep us afloat. Could you ask your professional societies if they would be interested in joining?

We are entering with you on a brand new trek, the Scientific Supercourse. We would very much value your thoughts and ideas. Please send your comments to [ronlaporte@aol.com](mailto:ronlaporte@aol.com)

It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge (Einstein)

Lecture of the week

We are very fortunate to present you four new lectures, the lectures our core group presented at the AAAS symposium in Boston last week. Our symposium was very successful, drawing interest of many scientists from at least 7 scientific areas. We presented on expanding the concept of the Supercourse to all areas of science. Ronald LaPorte, Gilbert Omenn, Ismail Serageldin, and Faina Linkov presented on various aspects involved in the development of the Supercourse of science. Please access all key lectures of the symposium at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/AAAS/lectures.htm>

Thank you very much.

Ron, Eugene, Faina, Mita, Nicholas, Francois, Ismail, Gil, Arlene, Albert, Rania, Ali, Soni, Julia

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