

Supercourse Newsletter

www.pitt.edu/~super1/

Dec. 10, 2011

Dear Friends,

Holiday Present: We are pleased that you liked the Supercourse business cards. We hope when we see you across the world that we can exchange the cards. Sadly, they are not credit cards as we have limited resources. If you did not receive the cards, please let us know. We found that the business cards are a neat way to show appreciation to a large number of people. Last year we sent you a 2011 calendar. If you would like to send business cards or a calendar to your friends, please let us know and we will tell you. Eugene, Meredith, and I spent about 2-3 weeks figuring out how to do this. It is rather neat to give presents to over 50,000 of our friends. If you did not receive your customized card, please write to us at super1@pitt.edu.

Why Supercourse needs your support: Personal plea from Faina

I have been with the Supercourse team for more than 11 years. In that time, the Supercourse library has grown from 167 lectures to over 5000 lectures and the network has increased from 5,000 to over 50,000 members. Most of the work in the Supercourse is being done by volunteers like you from all over the world, especially our 1,530 authors, translators, Just in Time team, and many others. With your help we have taught more people about global health than we ever imagined, but we need your support in order to continue. In addition to volunteer time, Supercourse desperately needs financial support to update websites, support salaries of the core team, and control quality of the lectures.

I am a cancer epidemiologist with a passion for global health and prevention education. Out of all the projects that I have ever been involved in, Supercourse has the greatest reach and the highest impact all over the world. Just like any volunteer in the Supercourse, I do most of my Supercourse related work during strange hours, trying to combine my Supercourse work with full time job, family, etc. Right now it is 8pm. My kids and I are having a movie night, however a computer on my lap reminds me that there is a bigger family out there, the Supercourse family that we have been building for over a decade. Please help us to keep the Supercourse going by donating any amount you can afford. No contribution is too big or too small. Please visit the Supercourse donation site to find out how you can contribute <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/Donation/donate.htm>. We are honored to work with you and we hope that you can help us support this effort. Please contact me at faina.linkov@gmail.com with any questions about our global effort. Thanks, Faina

Faina formerly from the Ukraine, and now from Pittsburgh, and Eugene from Russia have been the core to the Supercourse. Most of their work is as volunteers, as with all of us. If you believe that all students should learn about global health, please consider Faina's request. I would very much appreciate your kind contributions to keep us going, as we want to enlighten all students about global health. Thanks, Ron

Central Asia: We are moving quickly in Central Asia to help build research capacity. We are working closely with Nazarbayev University to build a network for the region, establish a Central Asia Supercourse, build a journal, and establish a workshop to build strength in research. We currently have 60 members from Central Asia. If you know of others from Central Asia, please send to us their name and email, as we want to at least double the number of faculty members from Central Asia. We need your help.

History Supercourse: Eric Marler is busy creating a History Supercourse. We are collecting all the PowerPoint lectures about history as well as the videos. Soon you will be able to go see the Royalty England in 1852 on YouTube, be a part of Napoleonic wars, learn about the building of the Great Wall of China, and help to stamp out Yellow Fever. You can then teach a course on SARS in China, and use PowerPoint slides to illustrate its flow on the Silk Road. This likely will be the largest collection of historical materials on the web. I am pleased to say we have about 80 “history buffs” who will be great to talk with when some of us retire! It will be fantastic to build linkages between health and history, or just study history for histories sake.

Did Santa cause the global Obesity Epidemic?

Faina’s pick of the week:

We have been very fortunate to receive a new lecture from Professor Cairns titled "PRIMARY SOURCES OF HUMAN WEALTH: THE BIOSPHERE AND KNOWLEDGE". Professor Cairns highlights the fact that knowledge is our most precious wealth and that all of us need to take care of our environment. Environment is also one of the key themes that we are developing in the Supercourse of Science in the Library of Alexandria. Professor Cairns' lecture can be accessed at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec45201/index.htm>.

This and other lectures from members of National Academy of Sciences Members in the Supercourse can also be accessed at <http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/NAS/nas.htm>. We are looking forward to your submissions.