

Supercourse Newsletter

Oct. 17, 2011

www.pitt.edu/~super1/

Please forward this to those who have health web pages.

Happy, Happy Birthday Eugene: We wish to thank so many of you for sending in your lectures so that we can have 5000 lectures by Nov. 29, Eugene Shubnikov's birthday. When we first sent this out 2 weeks ago we indicated that we have 4910 lectures. We miscounted, and only had about 4810 lectures. Things did not look good. However because of your remarkable generosity we have collected 120 lectures and we have a grand total of 4930. We are really getting close, and need a little more help from you all to push us over the top. There are 40 days until Eugene's birthday, and we need to collect 70 lectures or about 2 lectures a day. We would very much appreciate if you could pledge one of your courses or multiple lectures. We are like public radio, please pledge your lectures to keep us "on air". We are not looking for your money (although we would not refuse gifts), rather we are looking for you to share your teaching lectures. If you pledge a lecture you will receive a letter from Eugene Shubnikov in Novosibirsk, Siberia. You can brag to your family about your Russian Friend. It is quite a thrill. We would love for your lectures to be seen by the world. Come push us over 5000, and we will celebrate. Remember, because of your lectures we have produced a 100 fold increase in training in global health for about .06 cents each.

"Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance" Confucius

Pretty New Supercourse

"It is difficult to say what is impossible, for the dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow." Robert Goddard, father of rocket science.

As many of you know, Supercourse project has been receiving very little financial support in the past 6 years. We thought that updating our old website would not be possible, but miracles do happen. Frequent users of the Supercourse library were probably shocked recently with the new and updated look of the Supercourse site. After at least 12 years of use, the main Supercourse website www.pitt.edu/~super1 received a dramatic and wonderfully successful face lift on October 5, 2011. October 5 is the birthday of Robert Goddard, one of the founding fathers of rocket science. While Supercourse is not rocket science it began with the help of NASA. Updating the website posed a great challenge, as we wanted to preserve all the features, yet maintain light size and user friendliness. At the same time, we did not want to lose the very high page rankings of our site. This update became possible with support of Dr. Donald Burke, dean of the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh. Meredith, Eugene, Faina, and Ron from the Supercourse team, as well as Deb, Nathan, Shawn, Shandra, Rob, Ed, Bill, and others from Pittsburgh Supercomputer Center did quite a bit of heavy lifting in the past two years to make this transition happen. It was a wonderful team effort. As you browse through the new Supercourse, please consider donation to

the Phase II of the site update, which will allow users to get access to lecture reviews. We are looking forward to your feedback about our new look!

Prevention: Canyon Ranch, Richard Carmona: Canyon Ranch Institute is a non-profit public charity that helps educate, inspire, and empower every person to prevent disease and embrace wellness. We partner with communities to implement evidence-based programs and policies that improve prevention, advance health literacy, and eliminate health disparities. To learn more about Canyon Ranch Institute, please visit us online at www.canyonranchinstitute.org. Sign up to receive our e-newsletter at <http://www.canyonranchinstitute.org/get-involved/sign-up>

Public Health Training: Peoples-uni, Richard Heller Peoples-uni (<http://peoples-uni.org>) is helping to build Public Health capacity in low- to middle-income countries via e-learning. We use open source educational materials - including a number of Supercourse lectures, and a volunteer group of tutors, to keep costs low. The program has been accredited by a major UK university, from whom the students can gain an MPH based on their studies with Peoples-uni. We are always on the look out for new tutors - so please contact us either through the web site or Dick Heller at rfheller@peoples-uni.org.

Faina's pick of the week:

Eugene's birthday is approaching on November 29th and his presents (new lectures) are pouring in so that we could cross the 5000 lecture barrier! We recently received a very nice lecture on principles of vaccinology from Iran. Dr. Elham Ahmadnezhad and Dr. Farshit Fayyaz Jahani from Tehran University provided a very nice overview of principles of vaccines, as well as historical background on the use of vaccines. Did you know that people started to use vaccines as early as 7th century? Do you remember the principles of efficacy, effectiveness, impact and herd immunity? Please visit our lecture of the week to find out more from this wonderful summary!

<http://www.pitt.edu/~super1/lecture/lec43241/index.htm>

Best Regards,

Ron, Faina, Eugene, Francois, Nicholas, Gil, Mita, Ismail, Eric, Jesse, Kawkab, Vint, Ali, Meredith

Don't forget to tell your students the WHO Definition of Health!! ***“Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”***

WHO Definition of Health: <https://apps.who.int/aboutwho/en/definition.html>