

Supercourse Newsletter
March 28, 2004

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

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom...

We had thought that the pace of lecture acquisition might slow down as there are just so many lectures on prevention. However, we are still accelerating like a 2004 Lamborghini. On Jan. 1 we had 1611 lectures, on March 28 we have 1754, an enormous gain of 143. If this pace continues then this year we will have acquired 575 lectures, for a total of 2186. Incredible... It can only get bigger as the BMJ has agreed to provide to us all of their lectures as well.

BMJ:

In April the BMJ will do a short piece on the Supercourse. If they liked us, then tell people about it. If they did not like us...then unsubscribe (only kidding)

Epidemiology of Grants and Disasters:

I am teaching a class on Grants and Disasters (this is appropriate as often writing grants is a disaster!!). Eric Noji was scheduled to speak last week, but I got the day screwed up. I had the opportunity to present using his lecture on earthquakes. It turned out to be considerable fun to teaching about something one knows nothing about. They even laughed at my jokes. If you have a chance, try using a Supercourse lecture in an area distant from you. We are also trying something new this year. Ali Ardlam is a student at the school of Public Health in Tehren. He will be sending a PowerPoint lecture to us on the Bam Earthquake, and then we will call him, and he will give the lecture from Tehren using the slides transferred to us in Pittsburgh. It is kind of a neat way to get a guest speaker for a small amount of money.

What a Man...Gil Omenn

Gil Omenn visited Pittsburgh last week. We all in prevention must be proud of him. He is now the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is an expert in genetics/prevention. He competed for the position with a Physicist who received a Nobel prize, and he won. Thank you all for voting for him. He presented a wonderful lecture on the future of public health and prevention. Eugene just put the lecture up on the web. We were discussing with him how the Supercourse could collaborate with AAAS. Gill suggested that we apply to present at the next meeting, which we will. It would be great if as many of you as can come to the meeting. We very much want to work with AAAS to establish a Supercourse of Science.

Tornados and Disasters

Eugene just told us that we have 93 lectures on disasters. The Supercourse is thus the disaster capital of the world. We are preparing for a tornado next. I have borrowed a wonderful lecture by Randell Schindler and modified it so that it is small and can be distributed to many different schools. We also have a stockpile of tornado lectures with 8 collected in total. We have leaders in meteorology who have helped us. We are ready...We are talking with various educational agencies to see how we can push this lecture down into the schools of the US so that should a major tornado takes place they can present a very scientifically sound lecture to the students. Once we get the mechanics of this worked out, then we will make the approach available world wide. Thus should an earthquake occur in China, the lecture can be translated in a day, and continuously updated. Earthquake, flood, hurricane, typhoon, tornado education can reduce fear and save lives. We want to move slowly and figure how to evaluate the approach, but we have the pieces in place. If you would like to join and contribute your thoughts to our disaster effort, we would be very honored.

The squirrels are out running our yard, and the deer are having most fun as spring is just about here.

Best Regards from Pittsburgh

Ron, Faina, Mita, Eugene, Soni, Akira, Tomoko, Ali, EunRyoung, Rania, Eric, Abed, Francois, Gil

