

Supercourse Newsletter
Cutler Memorial Lecture
October 3, 2005

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

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

The lecture heard around the world

Last week Eric Noji, M.D. gave the Cutler lecture here in our Graduate School of Public Health. The lecture room was packed to hear him speak about disasters.

It was a very exciting as we had taken his lecture and created 6 different channels of knowledge sharing, .ppt, Supercourse and .pdf. These three were available for teachers to use the full lecture or individual slides. In addition another information channel was within the auditorium itself where over 270 people heard him. We also used web casting and web archiving. In these three modes Eric did the teaching.

The systems worked extremely well. The overall cost to reach all over the world was less than \$200. It was viewed in Tehran by Ali Aldraden and his friends, in Egypt by Raina Aziz and China to name a few places. We made a mistake in that we did not realize there would be such a huge demand. We planned for 300 people linking in, instead 2000 wanted to see his hour talk. This crashed the server, and many of you got a message saying you could not get on. We thus were too successful...Now, however, if you want to look at the web archive of Eric's lecture, there is no problem, and you can reach it through the front page of the Supercourse (www.pitt.edu/~super1/). What was interesting is that the web cast drove the down loading of the PowerPoint lectures with almost a 10 fold increase in usage. For those of you who could not access the lecture, we apologize, and we offer to buy you some iced tea, or a brewski should you visit Pittsburgh.

We would very much like your comments as to what could be improved. Please write to us at rlaporte@pitt.edu. We have received several comments such as from Guam:

My husband and I saw Eric's lecture on our computer at home last night and were spellbound! There were a few technical problems and when you come off your cloud, I'll write!

You done good!
Arlene

This was the first time that something like this was tried in Global Health and Disasters. We are now convinced more than ever that we will be able to develop a system where the best scientists create the best lectures, and 1000s if not millions of people can learn from them.

Hurricane Prodromal

It was a great feeling being able to distribute a lecture to all the epidemiologists and schools in Texas, and most of the states in the US immediately before the Hurricane struck land. We need to see if we can establish a global network for sharing our results with schools.

United Nations

As part of our meetings Elina Palm and Salvano Briceno from the UN suggested that we build a UN disaster Supercourse and global network. If you are interested in joining, please send me a note to rlaporte@pitt.edu. Salvano termed the work we are doing as “raising awareness”, which is a wonderful way to frame the concept.

It was a most exciting week. We look forward to hearing your comments on how we can improve the lecture distribution system.

‘In the present circumstances, no one can afford to assume that someone else will solve their problems. Every individual has a responsibility to help guide our global family in the right direction. Good wishes are not sufficient, we must become actively engaged.’
Dali Lama

Supercourse with you..are actively engaged

Best Regards from Global Pittsburgh

Ron, Eric, Faina, Mita, Soni, Eugene, Rania, Ali, Ian, Sunil, Mike, Francois, Lucy, Saida, Anna, Steve plus the 100s of others who made the global lecture possible

If you would like to unsubscribe from future mailing of the Supercourse Newsletter, please reply to this message and resend it to us with the word "Unsubscribe" in the subject line. Thanks