



THE EXPLORER

The Newsletter of the Society for Scientific Exploration

Autumn 2010, Vol. 23, No. 2

WELCOME TO THE EXPLORER

Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower. Albert Camus

This Autumn issue is filled with exciting news starting with our new President, Bill Bengston who writes his initial thoughts below. Some of our members are actively promoting their local SSE chapters and inspiring others to create one in their area. Dave Leiter has even produced an SSE business card that he is willing to share with us. You may remember Eunice Brock who lives in China. She sends an update on her news and informs us she received a trophy for being a spiritual model in China.

Henry Bauer attended what he labeled the “HIV/AIDS dissenters meeting” in Vienna and relates some interesting findings. We also have some reviews from members who are publishing their book, with topics ranging from Believing in Einstein, Darwin, and God, by Bernie Haisch; Mind-Matter Interaction, by Pamela Heath; and Closed Mind – Corrupted Science, by Henry Bauer. From Italy, Maris Luisa Felici, comments about Luigi Fantappiè and syntropy.

Mike Wilson who manages the Yahoo Group List gives us a taste of the unusual topics that are discussed and invites us to join in. Speaking of joining in, Dick Blasband invites members to share their views about the impact that the research findings presented at our Annual Meetings might have, or might not have, in shifting our perception of science and research.

The Program Committee is busy finalizing the schedule for next year’s Meeting and will soon communicate the information. We are planning to make this coming 30th meeting a resounding success, with more details about it in the Winter issue of The Explorer. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy reading and looking at the photos in this issue. Remember, The Explorer is Your newsletter, so send me any comments, articles, announcements, photos, that you deem fit to print!

With my very best wishes,

Dominique Surel, Editor

Email: lumierebl@aol.com

LETTER FROM OUR SSE PRESIDENT

SSE 4.0

Greetings fellow SSE members:

I’d like to thank the SSE for the confidence it has placed in me in the last election (even as I question your collective wisdom!). Congratulations are also due to returning council member York Dobyns, re-elected member Chantal Toporow, and first time council member Glen Rein.

The first thing I’d like to do is thank outgoing president Garret Moddel for his three years of service as president. Garret isn’t going away, and remains a vital presence in the SSE in his capacity as advisor to me and as a member of the

CONTENTS

Letter from SSE President p. 1

HIV/AIDS Dissenters’ Meeting . . p. 4

Thoughts About the SSE. p. 4

Local SSE Chapters p. 5

Boulder Meeting Volunteers p. 6

SSE Business Card ? p. 7

New SSE Membership Category . . p. 8

Mind Matter Interaction p. 8

Einstein, Darwin, & God p. 8

Eunice Brock in China. p. 9

Closed Minds-Corrupted Science. p. 10

Invitation to Discuss. p. 12

Syntropy in Viterbo, Italy. p. 12

Photos of the 2010 Boulder Meeting

Below: Garret Moddel & John Reed



Below: Garret Moddel and Bill Bengston



personal experience).

For practical, efficient, distribution reasons I must focus first on those SSE members who have firm commitments to make formal presentations to audiences of significant size (say 25 people or more), and as part of their presentation, also plan to mention/promote SSE. As such, they will have the opportunity to leave audience members with a tangible reminder of who we are, and what we are all about. I will typically require at least two weeks notice to get a sufficient quantity of cards to you, and will require the following information: The title of your presentation, the date, the venue, and the number of cards you will likely need. In my own experience, only a very small segment of the population is really serious about the topics in SSE's purview, so please save the Society's money and keep your estimated number of cards to a reasonable minimum. Any left-overs can become your personal supply.

For other SSE members, I will respond to your e-mail/phone requests as soon as reasonably possible. My contact information is in the 2009-2010 SSE Member Directory (e-mail requests preferred!). Please check to see if your mailing address in that directory is correct, and advise me of any corrections in your request. For our European members, I have previously supplied Prof. Erling Strand, European Members Rep., with a stock of cards. Please contact him for a personal supply of cards, due to the cost to SSE of international mailings.

Cheers, Dave Leiter

Believing in Einstein, Darwin, and God

Astrophysicist, and former Editor in Chief of the JSE, Bernie Haisch discusses his latest book.

Astrophysicist George Ellis, who co-authored *The Large Scale Structure of Spacetime* with Stephen Hawking, has written: "What is clear is that life, as we know it, would not be possible if there were very small changes to either physics or the expanding universe that we see around us. There are many aspects of physics, which, if they were different, would prevent any life at all existing. We are now realizing that the universe is a very extraordinary place, in the sense that it is fine tuned so that life will exist."

There are two interpretations possible: (1) Our Universe is part of a multiverse containing vast numbers of universes which have an enormous range of properties; or (2) the laws of our Universe reflect some great intelligence. As astrophysicist Sir James Jeans wrote: "The Universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine." In the latter view consciousness becomes the primary stuff of reality, not matter. Add to the mix that recent quantum physics experiments such as the measurement of the Bell inequality, the Leggett inequality, Wheeler delayed choice experiments and others point to the central role of consciousness in creating reality at the quantum level. In their book *The Quantum Enigma*, UC Santa Cruz physicists Bruce Rosenblum and Fred Kuttner write: "Accordingly, before a look collapses a widely spread-out wavefunction to the particular place where the atom is found, the atom did not exist there prior to the look. The look brought about the atom's existence at that particular place." If we factor in the transcendent experiences of men and women throughout history as tentative evidence, it begins to look more likely that the creation of the Universe in the Big Bang happened for a purpose, rather than by chance. I speculate on what that purpose might be, including the necessary central role of Darwinian evolution.

involvement. The Club is still in semi-shock from the information he imparted to us, and our next meeting will be devoted to further discussion of how to interpret and act on this information. *Ron Westrum*

New SSE Membership Category

The SSE is mindful of keeping costs and membership dues to a minimum. We are a unique international scientific association and we strive to make an impact by continuous efforts such as revamping our website, publishing our magazine *EdgeScience*, holding our annual meetings that grow in attendance, and the efforts made by many of our members to publicize our Society. However in sustaining a leading edge the Society today is faced with some financial considerations. Instead of raising the membership dues, the SSE is asking those who can, to **renew their membership with \$100** or more and become a Sustaining Member. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by all, and a list of the **Sustaining Members** will be published in the next issue of *The Explorer*.

Mind-Matter Interaction

By Pamela Heath, MD, PsyD

Mind-Matter Interaction: Historical Reports, Research & Firsthand Accounts is an updated, expanded and revised version of the award winning, *The PK Zone*. A number of things have changed since I wrote its predecessor, not the least of which is the fact that parapsychologists now refer to psychokinesis (PK) as mind-matter interaction. I've added new sections and expanded others to update the research to 2009 (when McFarland received the complete manuscript) The book is divided into three sections. The first part explores stories of miraculous events from a variety of cultures around the globe, since ancient Greece and China. It tells accounts of levitation, stigmata, inedia, teleportation, bilocation, the materialization or transformation of matter (new), fire-immunity, luminosity, hemography, deliberately caused bodily damage phenomenon, weather interaction, healing, physical mediumship, and poltergeists.

The middle section of the book shifts from the anecdotal to what science has taught us about these



Here is an invitation to visit <http://thegodtheory.com> where my new book "The Purpose-Guided Universe: Believing in Einstein, Darwin and God," the sequel to "The God Theory," is on sale via Amazon.

Bernard Haisch is also author of *The God Theory* and more than 130 scientific publications. He was a scientific editor of the *Astrophysical Journal* for 10

years. His professional positions include deputy director of the Center for Extreme Ultraviolet Astrophysics at U.C.-Berkeley; and visiting scientist at the Max-Planck-Institute für Extraterrestrische Physik in Garching, Germany.

News from our Friend Eunice in China

A few issues back, I had asked Eunice Brock to write about her life in Shandong, China where as a child, she witnessed war, the plague, and extreme poverty during the Kuomintang Republic. Mu Lin'ai (her Chinese name) is in her 90s and has dedicated over a decade of her life to helping the poverty-stricken Chinese community of Liaocheng, and to writing her book. Here is her latest news that she asked me to share with SSE members:



Last year I was honored by receiving from the government of China a Green Card that enables me to live in China without renewing my visa. The Security Department of Liaocheng recommended me by sending the government a letter about what I had done for the people. The Security Dept. Had a big celebration when they handed me the Green Card which was shown on

T.V. The Women's Society of Liaocheng celebrated Woman's Day with a program in a large auditorium holding about 2,000 people. During the program a group of men went on the stage one person at a time while an announcer told the audience what he had done to serve the community. On the stage they were given certificates by prominent members in our community. Later twenty women were honored the same way but on the stage were given trophies and flowers. As soon as these twenty women left the stage four more women ascended the stage.

I was one of them. What was told about each individual was in Chinese so being very deficient in the language I did not understand what was said about me so after descending from the stage I asked my interpreter. She said I was given a trophy for being a spiritual model for the people. What a surprising reason for a trophy!

In the summer of 2009 Eunice flew to Houston where she had an ultrasound. I was

phenomena. It covers more than 125 years-worth of spontaneous case collections, archival data, field investigations, and formal controlled studies. Beginning with early research on physical mediumship and poltergeists, it then moves on to review the outcomes of work using a variety of target systems—everything from J. B. Rhine's early die studies, to today's work on random number generators, instrumental transcommunication (expanded), biological systems (expanded), metal bending, the multiplication of matter (new), psychic photography (new), cosmic rays, and photons moving through double slit systems (new). Finally, the section considers what we know about the physical and psychological factors involved, and discusses training techniques, models, and theories that have emerged from this information.

The final section of the book explores what the experience of performing mind-matter interaction is like for those who do it, pulling from the phenomenological study I did for my dissertation, but better organized and with, in a few cases, with new conclusions. The material includes descriptions of experiences in a performer's own words. It also considers what appears to inhibit performance.

You might ask why I tackled this book—which was an insane amount of work. In many ways, *The PK Zone* represented the end of a quest that started in the early 1990s, when I suddenly began having psychic experiences. Being a physician, it blew me away that I could do things I'd thought were impossible. My desire to understand myself, me to return to school for a doctorate in parapsychology. Jon Klimo, Jerry Solfvin, and Alan Vaughan were on my dissertation committee. It was Jerry who told me he wanted everything on mind-matter interaction from around the world since the dawn of man to be in my literature review. After I finished gasping for air, I went to work.

There no textbooks on mind-matter interaction available to draw on for the literature review, only the excellent *Handbook of Parapsychology*, edited by Benjamin Wolman. Unfortunately, I soon discovered that no one had summarized the literature since the mid-1970s! That meant I had to track down and read every study I could find for a quarter century, and analyze them from scratch to figure out which were the most significant and what they indicated. My job was made harder by the fact that the online parapsychology library didn't yet exist. So, I was limited by what I could borrow or buy. The only studies I threw out were those where I had been told there was a question of fraud.

informed the aortic valve of my heart was so narrow I might live a year or two or could die any minute. My daughters urged me to have my valve replaced but I could not undergo surgery with peace of mind until I have finished working on the book I started for my Chinese friends entitled Search for a World View that Will Harmonize the Scientific Concepts of the Physical and Spiritual Realms. So here I am in China working on my book. Dr. Blasband has once a week used his healing power to heal my heart.

The writing of my book proceeds slowly as each chapter takes much reading of research projects. Like many SSE members I am very much interested in the research of consciousness. I hope those who plan the annual conference for SSE will invite Harry Oldfield to demonstrate the use of his inventions which he has demonstrated in many countries and for one of the annual conferences for ISSSEEM where he received a prize for his contribution. I am sending to Dominique chapter 26 of my book entitled Taoism and the Mysterious Chi that has information about Oldfield's inventions in it.

Below: statue of Confucius in Shandong



Henry Bauer writes about

Closed Minds – Corrupted Science

Knowledge Monopolies in Science and Medicine

At the end of September I finally delivered to the publishers a book-length discussion of how science has become increasingly dogmatic. The first version of that book was sent to a well-known publisher in 2003, after I had sent a query and gotten a positive response; but I still have not heard again from them. The theme of the book was foreshadowed by my 2004 article in JSE 18:4, "Science in the 21st Century: Knowledge Monopolies and Research Cartels", and in a talk last November, "HIV/AIDS blunder is far from unique in the annals of science and medicine" (video at <http://j.mp/Fd8Sa>), and in a couple of blog posts, "Suppression of Science Within Science" (<http://j.mp/61AbxR>) and "The New World Order in Science" (<http://j.mp/7D1VNP>).

The book has the tentative title, *Closed Minds, Corrupted Science: Knowledge Monopolies in Science and Medicine*, but as usual it will be the publisher who chooses the final title.

It was a massive task.

When I finally finished writing my 551 page dissertation, I made a personal promise to try to keep the research at least within ten years of being in date, so that no other graduate student would have to suffer the way I had. I spent four years rewriting the material and updating it to become my first book, *The PK Zone*, winner of the iUniverse Editor's Choice Award and Reader's Choice Award.

The PK Zone literature review only covered up to late 1999-early 2000. Once that book was out, in between working on what would become *Handbook to the Afterlife* and *Suicide: What Really Happens in the Afterlife?*, I tried to add studies as they were published in order to keep the manuscript up to date, with the plan to re-publish it. I also took into account various reviews and suggestions for how I could improve the book. Part of that, involved tracking down some original studies in the online database, so I could read and cite them, instead of relying on summaries by others.

As 2010 loomed nearer, I realized my summary of the research was getting perilously close to ten years out of date. As soon as I finished the final copy editing for *Handbook to the Afterlife*, I approached McFarland with the manuscript and was thrilled by their enthusiasm for the book. The 2010 release of *Mind-Matter Interaction: Historical Reports, Research & Firsthand Accounts* not only updates the research to 2009 (when the manuscript was sent in to McFarland), but also allowed me to update the style, kill most of the quotes, add in older research that had been previously unavailable to me, and to correct typos. I'm grateful to my parapsychological colleagues, many of whom offered me their insights, comments, and suggestions to help to make this a better book. That said, it was an enormous undertaking, even with the earlier work to draw upon, and I'm not sure I'll do it again.

There are two reasons someone might want to read *Mind-Matter Interaction: Historical Reports, Research & Firsthand Accounts*. The first is if they want a parapsychology textbook. It does a good job of covering the basic research and theory of the field. The second is to help mind-matter interaction experiencers (especially poltergeist agents) better understand themselves, come to grips with what their abilities say about their unconscious processes, and learn how to control their talent. I recommend that these individuals read the book from start to finish. Learning the stories, research, and experiences in the order can bring about deeper self-understanding for experiencers. More than a textbook, this work is my

As with at least two of my last three books, this one would not have been conceived without the benefit of what I've gained from three decades of participation in the Society for Scientific Exploration. The chief theme is that unwarranted dogmatic hegemony of a single interpretation has come to prevail on an increasing range of scientific topics, creating what I'm calling knowledge monopolies. (I don't particularly like that term but have been unable to think of anything more appropriate.)

I've noted before that while our Society was founded as a forum for topics entirely taboo in mainstream science (UFOs, extrasensory perception, cryptozoology, etc.), we came to be discovered and appreciated by researchers of impeccably mainstream topics whose work was being shunned because it contradicted the prevailing mainstream consensus; so we heard for instance from Thomas Gold about unorthodox views about the origin of oil deposits, and about cold fusion, and about what's wrong with Big-Bang cosmology, and why HIV = AIDS is not a slam dunk. It was only through being exposed to these and similar modern stories of suppression of minority views that I came to realize how general a phenomenon this has become.

That this realization has yet to become general is illustrated by the observation that the individuals who encounter it --- and who had not benefited from membership of SSE --- are surprised that science isn't working the way they thought it did. Those who see that something is wrong with the Big-Bang theory don't know that there are geologists who see things wrong with plate tectonics and whose work is suppressed; and that there are paleontologists who see what's wrong with the asteroid theory of dinosaur extinction and whose views are suppressed; and that there are molecular biologists who see that HIV/AIDS theory is untenable and whose work is kept out of the mainstream literature; and so on, through string theory, and how we sense odor, and whether carbon dioxide emissions are significantly contributing to global warming. My book discusses three of these at some length, and a few others more briefly.

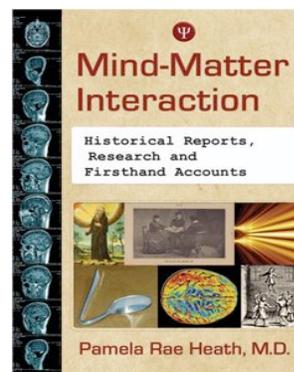
Quite recently there occurred an extraordinary episode of censorship of an unpopular opinion which provides material for a strong chapter in the book. The commercial publisher Elsevier caved in to protests from mainstream vigilantes, withdrawing already accepted articles, already published on-line as in press, which cited evidence suggesting that there are flaws in HIV/AIDS orthodoxy. The alleged reasons for withdrawing the articles was possibly libelous content and possible "threats to global public health"! Imagine how powerfully compelling those articles must have been to pose a clear and present danger to public health around the globe.

Not only that: the journal's editor was fired and the journal's mission changed --- it had been founded precisely to publish interesting things that mainstream peer review would have rejected.

Why has dogmatism been taking over science?

Here I benefited from having participated in the relatively recent development of the interdisciplinary field of science & technology studies, STS, which draws on history of science and philosophy of science and sociology of science and other disciplines. Through learning something in those fields, I was able to recognize how dramatically science has changed since about the middle of the 20th century: it is now inseparably associated with and dependent on business, industry, and government. Ironically enough, this has happened because modern science had been so successful, and also --- not unconnected, of course --- because the growth of science since the 17th century simply could not be sustained. So resources are increasingly subject to cutthroat and not always ethical competition; conflicts of

gift to them, my way of trying to help them discover the same self-insight and self-acceptance that I received from four years of graduate school. Because no matter how much it may freak you out the first few times it happens, mind-matter interaction is a completely normal, universal human ability. It has shown up in every time and culture around the world. And, like other processes involving the unconscious mind, if you can get past the "what" to the "why," you can learn a great deal about your own deep needs and feelings.



Pamela Rae Heath has an MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and practiced anesthesiology for nearly 30 years, serving as Chief of Anesthesia in Humana Hospital-Abilene and at Chinle Hospital on the Navaho Reservation. She began having spontaneous psychic experiences in the early 1990s, which led to her returning to graduate school for a doctorate in psychology with a dual specialization in parapsychology and hypnosis. Her dissertation was on mind-matter interaction.

Dr. Heath is a member of the Parapsychological Association, the Society for Psychical Research, and the Society for Scientific Exploration. She has published books and journal articles on experiential research, mind-matter interaction, place memory, and the afterlife. Her books include: *Mind-Matter Interaction: Historical Reports, Research & Firsthand Accounts*; *Handbook to the Afterlife*, and *Suicide: What Really Happens in the Afterlife?*

SITU Collection Needs Home

From John Reed, our Treasurer

We are looking for a storage space someone could temporarily donate for SSE's use so that we could store the SITU collection.

Locations in the Northeast would be preferred. Even if we have to split it up into several locations, that is OK. I will take care of the trucking and transportation. It is costing us \$214.00 per month as it is, which is more than \$2,500.00 per year, and SSE just can't afford it any more. If you have any suggestions please contact me: joreed43@yahoo.com



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Why EdgeScience? Because, contrary to public perception, scientific knowledge is still full of unknowns. What remains to be discovered - what we don't know - very likely dwarfs what we do know. And what we think we know may not be entirely correct or fully understood. Anomalies, which researchers tend to sweep under the rug, should be actively pursued as clues to potential breakthroughs and new directions in science.

The Journal for Scientific Exploration

Over 400 original research papers form the JSE are now online. Since 1987, the JSE has published research on consciousness, ufos, alternative energy, and many more scientific anomalous related topics.

JSE Book Reviews

Read over 500 original book reviews related to science and scientific anomalies. Originally published in the JSE.

The Explorer

The newsletter is a communication forum for SSE members. The Explorer also publishes reviews of SSE meetings, letters from the President, contributed articles and updates on SSE member activities. It is received by over 550 members in 32 countries around the world.

The Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE) is a multidisciplinary professional organization of scientists and other scholars committed to studying phenomena that cross or are outside of the traditional boundaries of science and, for these or other reasons, are ignored or studied inadequately within mainstream science. The Society publishes the Journal of Scientific Exploration as a professional forum for the presentation, scrutiny, and criticism of scientific research on topics outside the established disciplines of mainstream science.