

From our Viewpoint

Conferences

AA-EVP 2009 Conference: We are very excited about the AA-EVP Conference July 11 – 12, 2009 at the Westin Los Angeles Airport Hotel. Presenters will focus on techniques for EVP/ITC and we have many successful experimenters demonstrating their methods in “live” formats. Various EVP recording techniques will be shown along with analysis of the results. There will be ITC workshops showing the video-loop, moving-water and crystal-reflection methods. The forensic analysis of EVP will also be presented.

We are offering members an amazing conference price for “early bird” registration before January 1st. The “early bird” price of \$150 for this 2-day educational conference is almost half of what the cost will be at the door. A registration form is included in this mailing, or go to aaevp.com/resources.html to register. There is also information on booking your room at the 4-star Westin for \$115 per night.

This will be a ground-breaking conference featuring state-of-the-art techniques to get you excited and motivated. We look forward to seeing you there.

Something new for this conference is that we are seeking sponsors to offset expenses. A “Sponsors’ Page” at aaevp.com is possible and/or a “Sponsors’ Table.” Please contact us at aaevp@aol.com if you can help.

FFF One-Day Conference: The Forever Family Foundation is holding a one-day conference on November 8, 2008 titled, “The Synchronized Universe: Exploring Communication with The Dead from Electronic Devices to Mediumship,” at The Woodlands, 1 Southwoods Road, Woodbury, NY (Long Island) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Woodlands is a beautiful old mansion and the employees have said that there are quite a few departed spirits that frequent the place. The morning session will be co-hosted by the FFF and the AA-EVP. The guest speakers for the morning session will include Dr. Claude Swanson author of *The Synchronized Universe: Exploring Communication with the Dead, From Electronic Devices to Mediumship*, (see the article on page 7). We will be doing a presentation and ‘how to record’ workshop on EVP.

The afternoon will include a luncheon/fundraiser for the Forever Family Foundation as a sit-down meal with demonstrations from several well-known mediums. Visit www.foreverfamilyfoundation.org for more information or see the flyer included in this mailing.

Research

Hemi-Sync Trials: Participants are returning the [Hemi-Sync](#) kits. Ten AA-EVP members have been participating in the experiment to see if listening to binaural synchronization frequencies during EVP recording sessions will

help. We expect to begin analysis of results next month.

Real-time EVP Communication: The [Windbridge Institute](#) has completed Phase 1 of the research study. This is the initial work of conducting a literature search, equipment definition and testing. We are greatly encouraged by the professionalism and attention to detail that Julie and Mark have demonstrated in the execution of this first [Sarah Estep Research Fund](#) (SERF) project.

The next phase is data collection and this should begin shortly. Phase 3 is data analysis and Phase 4 is documentation, which is to be followed with a report submission to a peer-reviewed journal. Results will be reported whether or not they indicate the presence of phenomena. If the results are positive, then subsequent projects are anticipated.

Online Listening Trials: The third online listening test has been completed and a [combined report](#) has been written. The question is how well website visitors are able to correctly identify words in EVP. The report can be accessed via the Research section of aaevp.com. The trials included 17 examples, 510 participants, 9,002 possible words, 2,271 words correctly recognized, with an overall 25.2% correctly recognized words.

An improved protocol has been developed based on lessons learned. Some of the data substantiates the hypothesis that hearing EVP is a learned ability, but more study is required. The next step is to attempt publishing in a peer-reviewed journal. Meanwhile, your comments and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Documenting Past Studies: Skeptics sometimes accuse researchers of selectively reporting experimental results. For instance, the first two listening trials showed an average of 30% word identification but the third trial pulled that down to 25%, which seems to cast a bad light on EVP. If we were selectively reporting results, we would not report it, but our policy is to report everything. Remember that 25% word recognition means there is something there and shows that EVP is not imagined.

Previous studies that we think should be reported on include using EVP to find a missing person and the [4Cell EVP Demonstration](#). Let us know if you wish to participate in this effort and/or if you have additional information.

Research Initiatives by Other Groups: Other groups are also conducting research. Their work is important and it would help our growing research community to be able to access their results. If you have friends who have conducted what you consider credible research/study into the nature of these phenomena, consider inviting them to contact us to discuss cooperation amongst our organizations.

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Article Contributions: Articles that explain techniques, help people understand the concepts of ITC and/or provide a role model to which others can aspire are considered for publication in the NewsJournal. The average column is 450 to 480 words—fewer with pictures. Articles should be short and to the point as they would be for a newspaper. Feature articles may be up to four columns, serialized or presented as a brief which refers to the full article which can be placed on the AA-EVP website. Announcements of member activities are welcome, as are reports of successes working with these phenomena and brief comments about your observations. Email submission to aaevp@aol.com or mail to AA-EVP, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA.

Submission Deadline and Publishing Dates: The NewsJournal is published quarterly, the first of January, April, July and October. Article submission must be delivered to the AA-EVP by the first of the second month of the quarter preceding the publishing date. A year from the publishing date, the NewsJournal may be added to the AA-EVP Document Archive.

Subscription: The AA-EVP NewsJournal is a benefit of membership in the AA-EVP. Membership information may be found on the AA-EVP website at aaevp.com or by writing to the AA-EVP at the above address. There is also a membership form at the back of this NewsJournal. Address label shows membership renewal quarter. Annual membership is \$30.00. International members **not** receiving the NewsJournal via email should add \$10.00 USD for postage.

The AA-EVP: The AA-EVP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational corporation. All contributions in excess of membership dues are tax deductible in the USA. AA-EVP Board: Tom and Lisa Butler (Directors), Martha Copeland, Margaret Downey, Debra Caruso, Sandy Pfortmiller and Janice Oberding. Opinions expressed in contributed articles do not necessarily reflect AA-EVP views and policy.

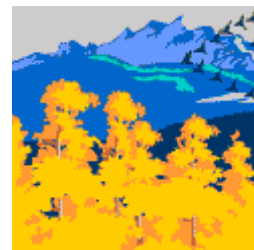
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Comparing an ITC Image with a Photograph of Bénédicte

The Testimony of Marie-Hélène, Bénédicte's Mother

As told to Anabela Cardoso

What I am going to tell you happened in Brittany on the 9th of July 2004, when we were on holiday. It was after dinner and I had just put a piece of aluminum foil on a plate of cheese to cover it. I know ... It's very prosaic and my mind was far from any experiment but this is what happened.



As I was sitting at the table chatting with my mother and my husband—I still can't believe it—I looked at the recently covered cheese plate and my daughter's face was printed on that foil just in front of us. I then started to take photos of this very amazing event which seemed truly incredible to me. While I was taking the photographs with my Minolta Dimage XT my mother became nervous and thought it was silly that I photographed a plate and asked me why I was doing it. I got up and went near her to show her my small camera screen without telling her anything. She immediately recognized the face of her granddaughter and asked me where I had got it. I told her it was on the aluminium paper; she then got up and came to where I was, sat on my chair and without me telling her the place she immediately spotted this little face. Then the same thing happened with my husband. And my husband—who is not a good observer—exclaimed: "It's incredible; I can see Bénédicte's face!" and he burst into tears.

I took the photos because I was afraid to see the image disappear. But the truth is that the little face remained on the same spot of the aluminium foil until the 14th of July and in the meantime I took photos with another camera, a Nikon F-401. The Nikon was less convenient to photograph the little face because it does not zoom and I wanted to show the photos to other people....

On the 14th of July we had to return because our holidays were over and I had to hand back the plate which was not mine, it belonged to the house we were renting and so I unwrapped the aluminum foil. To this day I regret not having brought that plate with me for I think I could still have my daughter's face imprinted on the aluminum foil! It was really silly of me not having brought the plate home. Many people, friends who saw the photos later on, had the same opinion: they could see Bénédicte's face on them.

Marie-Hélène Bienaimé, France

Physiognomic Analysis Performed on an Image Obtained through I. P. V. S.*

by Daniele Gullà

Interdisciplinary Laboratory
for Biopsychocybernetics Research

The Case Under Investigation

The investigation consists of attempts to explore the authenticity of an alleged ITC image unexpectedly obtained when a plate covered with aluminum foil was photographed. In the photograph, the creases in the foil were apparently seen to have spontaneously taken on the visual configuration of the face of a deceased girl. The girl's identity was immediately claimed to be recognized by her mother (who took the photograph) and by other relatives present at the time.

Description of the Case

The anomalous photograph that is at the center of the case initially came to the attention of Dr. Anabela Cardoso, who then arranged for it to be sent to me for analysis. It was shown to Dr. Cardoso by the lady responsible for taking it and whom Dr. Cardoso and I met while attending the International Conference of Infinitude held in Paris in 2007. Having inspected the photograph, Dr. Cardoso considered it of sufficient interest to be sent to me, together with photographs taken during the lifetime of the deceased daughter whose image it appeared to be. These photographs would enable me to carry out a possible verification of any similarities in physiognomic characteristics between the alleged ITC image on the tinfoil and the images of the girl shown in the photographs taken during her lifetime.



Figure 1. Image with the "extra" appeared through the deformation of the aluminum foil. The purported face to be recognized has been encircled by a yellow mark.

Technical Steps in Making the Anthropometric Comparison: The ITC image and one of the lifetime pictures of Bénédicte were normalized in terms of pixels and contrast, and subsequently, metric and morphologic measurements were taken of the two images. The two images were then superimposed one on the other so that the appropriate mark points ('repère' points) coincided.

Continued page 4

* I.P.V.S. : Acronym devised by IL Laboratorio which stands for "Interazione Psi-Visiva di tipo Strumentale" (Psi-Visual Interaction of Instrumental type, more commonly known as ITC image).

Learn more about IL Laboratorio at www.laboratorio.too.it

Image Analysis

Morphologic Test of Pattern Recognition with Neural Networks:

The test of morphologic compatibility was performed with the Neural Networks program utilized by the American intelligence services (FBI) known as the Universal Image Recognition program. This morphologic test takes into consideration the whole of the cranial structure of the human head, elaborating the

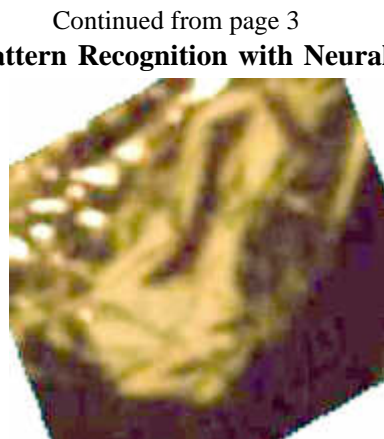


Figure 2. Detail of the supposed ITC face enlarged and rotated through approximately 30 degrees

contours of the “structural cage” and does not focus on the distances of single repère points. Instead it analyzes in a more general way the shape of the various parts of the cranium. The test was performed using the ONE_TO_MANY mode that compares the ITC image with 3,000 other images contained in the database of the Universal Image Recognition program. This database is composed of masculine and feminine somatic types of faces, all of European origin and aged between 10 and 70 years.



Figure 3. Four images of Bénédicte, the deceased French girl visually recognized by her mother as the subject of the ITC image in the aluminum foil, taken during her lifetime

The final data is the result of a miscellaneous comparison of 3,000 x 3,000 or more precisely 9,000,000 comparative tests. In the final result visible on the screen in Figure 7, seven similar images were found but only one reaches the maximum score which surpasses the threshold of FAR (False Acceptance) and FRR (False Recognition Rate),

which the program sets respectively at percentage values 0, 1% and 0, 03%. This image was one of Bénédicte's lifetime photographs. That image reached the highest score and it was therefore identified as the face most similar to the ITC image with a rate of 98.97%.

It is possible to read on the central report of the computer screen printout in Figure 7 that besides the choice of the anomalous ITC image proper (which was also added to



the database of the program), which is identical to the image for which a comparison was required because it is the same image, and therefore attained the highest score of 192000000 (file denominated “Photo David et Bénédicte-1r.jpg”), the second most similar image with a score of 59136000 is Bénédicte's lifetime photograph (file denominated “Photo David et Bénédicte-2.jpg”) shown on the right side of the computer print-out. This image, which gave a percentage similarity rating of 98.7% was therefore identified as the face most similar to the ITC image (The Italian Courts of Justice accept a reading of 95% when establishing cases of human identity).



Figure 5. The same operation was then carried out using another image of Bénédicte superimposed on the ITC picture with alignment of the repère points with morphing technique. The similarity of the faces and the apparent coincidence of the points are again noticeable.

Conclusions

The technological applications used in the comparative analysis have revealed several points of similarity. The morphologic comparison done with Neural Networks on a sampling of 3,000 faces shows that a high percentage of compatibility between the ITC image and the photograph taken during the young girl's life exists. However, it should be borne in mind that

Continued page 5

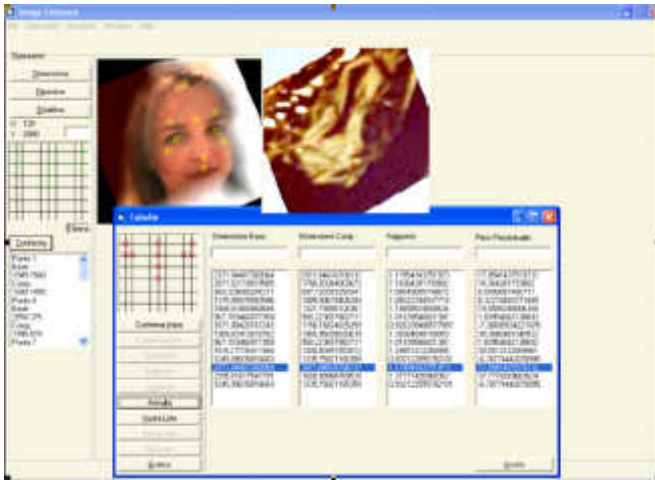


Figure 6. In this analysis the distance relationships between the repère points of the two images were measured. Although the relationships are noticeably constant, with values in the region of number 1, there are percentage value changes that indicate the presence of some spatial deformations in the tinfoil of the ITC image that prevent definitive conclusions, from the metric point of view, as to whether or not the two images share the same identity.

the alleged ITC image taken by the mother under the circumstances and with the exposure value (i.e. the time the shutter remained open during the shutter click) concerned, produced a particular effect of light/shadow on the reflective surface (i.e. the aluminum foil) that does not allow us to highlight identification marks capable of allowing an evaluation sufficiently sensitive to yield total compatibility with an image taken during the subject's lifetime. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that my analysis is limited to measurements made on optical information whose authenticity and origin cannot be accurately determined.

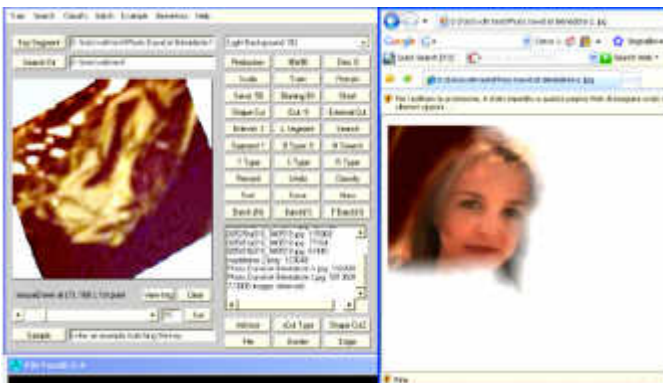


Figure 7. Morphologic comparison between the ITC image and 3,000 faces performed with neural networks. Bénédicte's lifetime image was recognized as the most similar to the anomalous image with a percentage of 98.97%.

Unfortunately it was not possible to achieve an accurate comparison of the metric relationship between the repère points because, although a very marked similarity was found, the image containing the "extra" presents spatial deformations which are obviously due to the particular conditions of the creased aluminum foil on which the image was imprinted. Consequently it was not possible to obtain precise anthropometric data from the image. Proper

measurements could only be taken from Bénédicte's lifetime pictures. The missing instrumental confirmation of the metric methodology does not, however, diminish the probability of a definite identification, even though we have to deal with comparisons between two images that differ from each other as to the material on which they are imposed. It would have been different if we had analyzed two homogeneous photographs and had found instrumental discrepancies with one of the two methods used.

Nevertheless, the morphologic analysis (which is more representative by virtue of its analysis of the images through the simulation of human vision) and the probabilistic comparison between the ITC image and the population of 3,000 faces in the database render the hypothesis of compatibility of the two faces valid.

Translated from the Italian original by Dr. Anabela Cardoso and originally published in No. 31 of the *ITC Journal* which is published 3 times a year. For subscription information, write to cuadermostci@itcjournal.org

This article, along with a bibliography can be accessed via <http://aaevp.com/research.htm>

Bequest

We thank Victor Zammit for running this in his weekly report (www.victorzammit.com):

BEQUEST- Why not leave a bequest in your will to a reputable paranormal investigation research group to promote empirical research into the afterlife. Funding could accelerate the understanding by millions around the world that there is an afterlife. There were those in the past who asked me for suggestions where to direct a bequest. Accordingly, I have a few on the list—depending on which aspect of the paranormal is preferred. The first research group, which also has charity status, is the American Association of Electronic Voice Phenomena, managed by Tom and Lisa Butler. I have known these researchers for a number of years and highly recommend the AA-EVP as an organization actively involved in meaningful afterlife research which is spreading the light on a global level.

Help the AA-EVP When You Shop

Just a reminder as we approach Christmas. If you shop at Amazon.com or on eBay consider going to those websites via the links on the front page of the AA-EVP website (www.aaevp.com). The Association is part of these vendors' affiliate programs, which means that it receives a small commission for each purchase made via the links.



Thank you for remembering the Association. It all helps!

Can Science Unlock the Secrets of the Non-Physical World?

by Robert Ginsberg, Vice-President, Forever Family Foundation

Virtually all who have suffered the loss of a loved one struggle with a myriad of emotions as they attempt to navigate their “new” physical lives. To various degrees, the ebb and flow of sadness, guilt, horror, fear, depression, etc. can wreak havoc as one attempts to seek meaning in their loss and in their lives. However, if you asked those in grief to describe the one overriding reason for their suffering, I suspect that most would answer, “The finality of death.” We have been raised in a society that makes us believe that there is an answer, explanation or remedy for everything, a world where nothing is impossible. Yet, death now presents a situation that appears to have no solution, and we cannot fathom the reality of not seeing or hearing from our loved ones again.

Forever Family Foundation, a global not-for-profit organization, was founded based upon the tenet that a belief in, or evidence of, an afterlife is immensely helpful to those in grief. It’s taken quite a while, but today many mental health professionals have come to the realization that a belief that our consciousness survives our physical death is perhaps the most effective form of grief therapy. Such progressive therapists have integrated this into their practices, and encourage their patients to maintain a relationship with their deceased loved ones. This remains heresy to the more “mainstream” professionals who still counsel their patients to disassociate from the deceased and find ways to cope with their loss.

People have certainly contemplated life after death for thousands of years. The ancient Greek civilization utilized “psychomanteums,” sensory-deprived chambers with reflecting pools that people utilized to see and communicate with the dead. Mystics and shamans have always exhibited the ability to enter meditative states to seek and receive ancestral wisdom. I always found it interesting how ancient civilizations from different parts of the world, with no visible means of transportation or communication, all drew similar or the same afterlife depictions in their cave paintings. The question of survival is by no means a modern query.

Many of the world’s most eminent and well credentialed scientists, medical doctors, psychologists and inventors took up the cause of proving survival in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. People such as William James, F.W. Myers, William Crookes, Oliver Lodge, and Charles Richet, to name a few, risked their entire careers by their steadfast investigations of mediumship. Despite uncovering a preponderance of fraud among the mediums of the day, their extensive bodies of evidence gleaned from work with a few superstar mediums led them to the

conclusion that these communications could not be explained by any scientific principles known to mainstream science. However, they could not discount the possibility of a storehouse of information from which data could be extracted by people who could somehow “tap in.” Nor could they eliminate the possibility of an “etheric body” that surrounded our physical bodies, another form of energy that could store information. Thus, they never achieved their ultimate goal of uncovering proof of an afterlife.

Today, although there are still scientists doing mediumship research, they have come no closer to the illusive proof than their esteemed colleagues of yesteryear. Even worse, their research still faces the same disdain from their peers who remain closed minded to the conclusions that the evidence suggests. We also now have a substantial body of evidence from near-death experiencers, which has been enabled by modern technology that allows us to bring people back from the dead. The extreme sensory experiences that

come at time when heart and brain functions are non-existent would seem to be hard to refute.

I believe that EVP offers a unique opportunity not only to those seeking to maintain a relationship with their loved ones, but represents the “shining star” of future survival research. Whereas mediumship requires an interpretation of information by the medium, and we rely upon the near-death experiencer to share the details of their non-physical experience, EVP offers tangible empirical evidence that can be gleaned by using our own physical senses.

The most convincing evidence occurs when there is an interaction between the discarnate and the sitter/experimenter. For example, in mediumship, when a discarnate personality comes through, and direct questions are answered, it is hard to chalk this up to information retrieval. How does a storehouse of information show emotion and interact to queries? EVP research has apparently shown some of the same interaction. Questions are asked and answered, with the evidence documented in media for all to hear. Interpretation, except for deciphering the actual words if not clear, is not needed on the part of the experimenter.

Of special consideration is the increased frequency of reports of EVP when a recorded session with a medium is played back. Several of the mediums certified by Forever Family Foundation have independently verified this phenomenon, adding that they, themselves, did not hear the recorded phrase during the sitting.



Mystic Mood by Giuseppe Toscano, www.flicker.com

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The Synchronized Universe

by Dr. Claude Swanson

(This article was published at: synchronizeduniverse.com. Dr. Swanson will be speaking at the Forever Family Foundation conference in Woodbury, NY (Long Island) on November 8, 2008. We are also guest speakers and the afternoon of the 8th will be a sit-down gourmet luncheon and fundraiser for the Forever Family with readings from guest mediums. For information go to foreverfamilyfoundation.org)

A new scientific revolution is quietly underway. Laboratories around the world have proven that many kinds of paranormal phenomena are real. It represents a new kind of force, one that is able to travel forward and backward in time, a force that does not weaken with distance. It is a force unlike anything conventional science has ever seen.



Dr. Claude Swanson

The Synchronized Universe summarizes this evidence for many kinds of paranormal phenomena. In many cases these strange forces have been demonstrated under rigorous scientific statistics, with odds of millions or even billions to one against chance. This evidence is presented in a “user friendly” way, with a minimum of jargon, and with over 140 photographs, figures and sketches.

The author, an MIT- and Princeton-educated physicist, Dr. Claude Swanson, has put together the “best evidence” showing that our present scientific paradigm is broken. He describes scientifically controlled remote viewing and ESP experiments, demonstrations of long-range healing, psychokinesis (mind over matter), scientifically controlled experiments in levitation, teleportation and out-of-body phenomena (OBE).

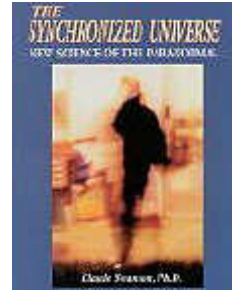
These are just a few of the areas where new research is defying the old beliefs of conventional science. It points the way to a new, expanded science which, instead of denying the role of consciousness and spirit, begins to integrate these forces into a larger, more highly evolved and integrated worldview. The truly “unified field theory” must explain and understand both science and consciousness. In doing so, it begins to heal the ancient rift between science and spirituality. And in the last chapter of the book, he proposes some ways to modify and expand present science to begin to achieve these goals.

Some of the best proven paranormal phenomena are those of ESP, remote viewing, psychokinesis, and some group consciousness experiments. There are also rigorous experiments showing that energy healing has real benefit, although as with all the paranormal forces, our science does not understand the nature of the force. Evidence is also described for astral or out-of-body travel, the near-death experience, levitation and teleportation. Certain gifted individuals have been able to master these forces and produce them at will. They are known as “adepts” and are also discussed in the book. In modern times a tradition still exists of the yogi, India’s “spiritual superman,” who evokes some of these powers. The tradition and methods of training and development of these abilities is also described.

The last chapter of the book presents a new model of physics which may be able to explain some of these strange and mysterious phenomena. Present day physics has no hope of explaining the paranormal, which is one reason it consistently denies or ridicules scientific evidence for these forces. We propose that a deeper theory is needed, one which goes beneath the quantum realm to a more fundamental picture of the universe. This leads to the idea that every particle in the universe is connected to every other particle, that nanosecond to nanosecond they interact and are coupled across the vast distances of space.

This leads to the central idea that we are living in a “synchronized universe,” one layer of which we see and interact with and are synchronized with. This means every particle, every atom that we see as “real” is synchronized with the other atoms and particles in what we call the “real” universe. *Other universes, with a different synchronization, can coexist with our own and yet they can pass right through each other.* The model explains in a very natural way the strange time and space effects of psychic phenomena. It explains how objects pass through walls in teleportation and astral travel. It begins to offer a way to understand how the soul, the center of human consciousness, can exist in a permanent form, surviving human death. It offers a useful beginning to a deeper understanding of the universe and of ourselves.

See www.synchronizeduniverse.com to purchase the book.



Secrets

Continued from page 6

What we need today is collaboration—we need “Team Science.” We need to design research to incorporate all of the various phenomena. I look forward to future research that combines mediumship and EVP. I believe that we will one day discover the same mechanism that allows all nonlocal consciousness; whether it is telepathy, remote viewing, EVP, mediumship, deathbed visions, healing, etc.

To that end, I am thrilled that the AA-EVP will be joining Forever Family Foundation as a sponsor of our November conference in New York, and that Tom and Lisa Butler will be presenting at this venue.

The many foundation-certified mediums who will be participating in the day’s events, combined with the venue being a historic mansion, should make for some interesting experiments during the day.

For those seeking more information about the one-day conference: *The Synchronized Universe: Exploring Communication with the Dead, From Electronic Devices to Mediumship*, visit www.foreverfamilyfoundation.org. Those in attendance will be treated to presentations by the Butlers and Dr. Claude Swanson, followed by a gourmet luncheon during which demonstrations of mediumship will be conducted by foundation-certified mediums.

Pain and Confirmation of Survival

by Margaret Downey

When people ask me, “What is the AA-EVP?” I usually respond by explaining that we help people learn to record for and recognize EVP. But many of us know, the Association is much more. We truly are a supportive community; kinda like a second family. The Idea Exchange is not only a place to share our research. It is also a place to share our hearts, be they happy or sad.

On June 11th I made my way to the board in order to share both my sorrow and the comforting EVP messages I received. It was a sad day for our family. My son and his girlfriend had found out in the past week that she was two months pregnant. We were all so excited about the baby, but June 11, she had a miscarriage.

Of course, after seeing my son and his girlfriend, I went straight home and got out my Duracell KP028 to conduct a radio-sweep EVP session to ask about the baby. The first one is rather graphic, and I hope not to upset anyone by it. It was just so real and important at that moment, I thought it beautiful to hear them speaking amongst themselves about what happened. ***“Hi, Grandpa. Margaret’s baby is dead. Hazel’s looking at him.”***

The third part was the least clear to me, but Hazel is my granddaughter who also never made her way into the physical world. I don’t know why they called him my baby instead of my grandchild, or why they referred to him as being dead, because according to the next clip, he’s just fine. I told them I needed a clear message and this is what was said: ***“Listen, we hear something. The Big Circle. The Big Circle. We’ve got the baby.”*** I also recorded one more sweet one that said, ***“Margaret, we love him.”***



I was so thankful to have gotten these wonderful messages and to able to share them on the board. Little did I know that just two weeks later, I would lose my cherished canine companion and once again be pouring my heart out. I was absolutely devastated. My dog, Kindred, turned ten in April. She was diagnosed with kidney disease in February 2005, and given a prognosis of living between one week and three months. Instead we had made it forty months!

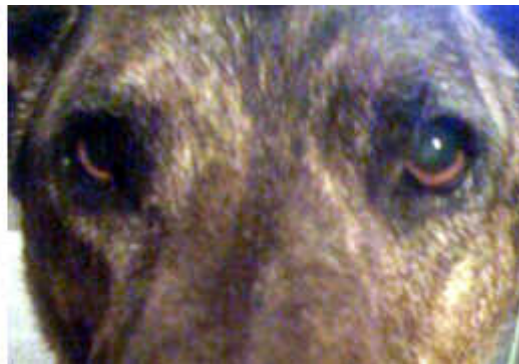
Sadly, when we went for a new blood test, we learned that there had been no improvement. (I had her hospitalized the previous week to try to turn things around. Hospitalization had worked twice before.) She was declining

quickly and had let me know over that weekend that she was done fighting, so I made the difficult decision to let her go.

As she was making her transition, which was very quick and peaceful, I asked my grandfather to come for her. After I got home, despite my tears, I did a recording to ask if he got her. I recorded my grandfather saying, ***“Kindred met me.”*** There were other wonderful messages about her, including what sounds like a reference to ***“The Pet Circle”***—of all things—perhaps the animal version of the Big Circle?

A couple days ago, I got one of those “do it now” feelings in regard to doing a water reflection session. Of course, I was hoping to see my Kindred girl. As I was flipping through the frames from the session, I got to the one shown here, and instantly felt she was looking right at me, and I was reminded of a few close-up pictures I took of her. She’d get really close to my face while I was lying on the couch, and stare at me until I noticed her. In this picture, I was trying to capture the essence of what I would see when I would open my eyes. I hope you are able to see the subtle color difference between her dark brown fur and the black background in the ITC image. It’s definitely the shape of her head, and those big brown eyes ... looking right at me once again.

A few days after this, I did some experiments using the Paranormal Puck [See next page] and was amazed by the results. I wanted more confirmation about who Kindred was with and recorded, ***“Dylan, Grandma.”*** This is my grandson and my grandmother. A few seconds after this



came, ***“Pet that you love.”*** I find it totally amazing that the Puck would spit out not only Dylan’s name, but Grandma as well. Though I already knew them to be together, it’s still mind-boggling to me to hear this from the Puck.”

My EVP and ITC work has been an important part of the healing process for me, but having the support of all the beautiful souls on the Idea Exchange makes it even more so. The next time someone asks me about the AA-EVP, I just might have to come up with a better explanation!

Margaret will be giving workshops on both the radio-sweep technique and the moving water ITC technique at the 2009 AA-EVP conferences. See the registration form to get a great pre-registration price!

The Paranormal Puck

Bill Chappell, owner of Digital Dowsing, develops technology devices for hauntings investigation. One such device known as the Paranormal Puck depends on an approach that, to our knowledge, has not been previously used. (www.digitaldowsing.com) As can be seen in the picture, its name comes from its shape as a 2.5 inch square, 1.0 inch thick, black box that connects to a computer via a USB cable. The Puck itself is just a set of sensors with the speech-synthesis computer chip. The real work is accomplished by a supplied computer program designed to be hosted by a Microsoft Windows computer.

Design

Hauntings investigators speculate whether or not nonphysical influences are accompanied by changes in temperature, the ambient electromagnetic field or possibly the electrical condition of the atmosphere. The Puck was designed to allow investigators to detect and record these changes and possibly correlate them with reported phenomena.

Of interest to EVP researchers is that environmental changes can be used to stimulate a built-in speech synthesis capability so that, if intelligible phrases are produced by the Puck, they will be the result of these environmental changes and may be evidence of phenomena. That means a novel way to produce EVP.

The Puck has nine sensors: left and right voltage and frequency, six Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF) sensors and one temperature. The outputs of the sensors are selected as voltage, frequency or EMF. With these, variations in the energy characteristic in the environment are sensed to change the operation of a speech-synthesis microchip.

A 2,000-word library is available for selection in the Speech mode. In the Phonemes mode, energy variations are used to select fragments of words. These fragments are referred to as phonemes or allophones, and when heard in random order, sound as if the machine has a serious stutter.

According to the manual, the unit is designed to collect data and to enable the operator to relate changes in the environment with possible speech output. The software also allows the operator to use detected changes to trigger a device, such as a webcam or an alarm. Think of this as a trip-wire to catch a ghost with a camera.

Keith Clark posted an interesting review of the Puck in the Idea Exchange and noted a concern about the relationship between the degree of change in energy and word or phoneme selection. His observations and questioning of the Puck's functionality is exactly the kind of critical thinking we like to see for such new technology.

This is a good place to give you Bill's perspective. In a message to us, he wrote, "I started all this as a joke. Don't get me wrong. I have a strong belief in the afterlife but talking to them was just not one of them. On my site I even

explain that the whole idea was a joke! I was asked/challenged to build a device similar to a Frank's Box. I thought 'Hey, why not?' The joke was on me. Everything I thought I understood has been rocked to the core over the last eighteen months. However, I'm still very wary of saying what this really is.

"I understand the electronics, software and firmware, but I can't wrap my head around what I have seen. Now I'm the first to say it's mostly gibberish. Then those moments occur that make my heart stop. Still, I can't grasp the actual mechanisms in place. How can something understand firm-

ware in a handheld device and control it? How can it/they figure out code hardware and all the timing issues to make any of these possible? So I always tell people that I don't understand how these types of events occur...."

We agree that much of what comes out of the Puck is gibberish. It is probably equivalent to transform EVP that is not able to be understood. We also agree that how it works needs to be better

understood by the practitioner. How the software is written and how the synthesizer is triggered is one part of the question, but this is a unique way of transcommunication and we do not have enough experience with it to understand how normal operation might appear phenomenal.

Voice Synthesis

Three techniques for EVP are being used today. Transform EVP is the formation of voice from noise in a recording device. We know a lot about this technique and there has been little progress beyond the breakthrough introduction of digital voice recorders. Radio sweep and EVPMaker using live voice represent a second technique. This is the "just in time" formation of messages from available sound fragments, but because of the use of live voice, they are not able to be considered for serious research.

The third technique is the use of speech synthesis. Real-time conversations have been demonstrated with both EVPMaker and the Paranormal Puck. The exciting thing is that, if meaningful comments are found when using just phonemes as the raw source, then it is reasonable to argue that some form of intelligence has caused the voice.

We cannot recommend the use of the Puck for personal transcommunication until more study has been conducted. Assuming Bill continues to make the device, it is reasonably priced and we strongly encourage technology-savvy practitioners to work with it to help us have a better idea of what it can do. Speech synthesis is probably not satisfactory for communication with loved ones because it lacks the recognizable voice and personality of transform EVP, but as a platform for the study of trans-etheric phenomena, it promises to open many new doors.

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EVP Analysis by Alexander MacRae

Alexander MacRae met with an associate at the Travelodge in Glastonbury, England who wanted to reach a particular person. What happened can be a lesson to all of us that what we might think as trivial might be very important.

One series of EVP recorded during that session said, *“Merlin, the office of the Apothecary, Hallelujah High Street Band, Bless the waters ... bless the money.”* Alec wrote that, “In Glastonbury, reputedly ancient Avalon, there is a place called Chalice Gardens which is reputedly the repository of the Holy Grail. It has mineral springs which you can partake of and pools where people have thrown coins. There are powerful forces around.... I had even visited the Apothecary’s office.

“I wanted to ignore the Hallelujah High Street Band as it was obviously trivia, amusing, but trivia. No place in serious research and might reflect adversely on my work. But if one is to be honest, one has to include everything, even if it causes embarrassment. So, reluctantly, I included it, but did not analyze it properly.”

After Alec sent the results, the associate wrote back: “There is still a lot for me to learn in this, so let me ask the questions outright.... Is it feasible that the uttering ‘Hallelujah High Street’ could have a meaning very much in line with what we were expecting? The word ‘Band’ would not fit all that well, but we could perhaps come up with a replacement word that would sound similar and fit better, such as ‘Ben.’ If you think this is a track to follow, *Hallelujah* was an expression our particular person often used; 222 ‘*High Street*’ was the address where much of her work was done, and the address was used such as in ‘let’s meet in *High Street*....’ The place where the person speaking, and whose presence we had invoked, did all her tremendous teaching work was a place called ‘Ben Lomond.’ Isn’t this getting fascinating?”

After Alec re-listened to the EVP, he wrote, “I was led by content into thinking it should be *band*.... I am now 80% confident about it being *Ben*.”

So much for trivia, Alec is right; when recording for someone we should include everything!

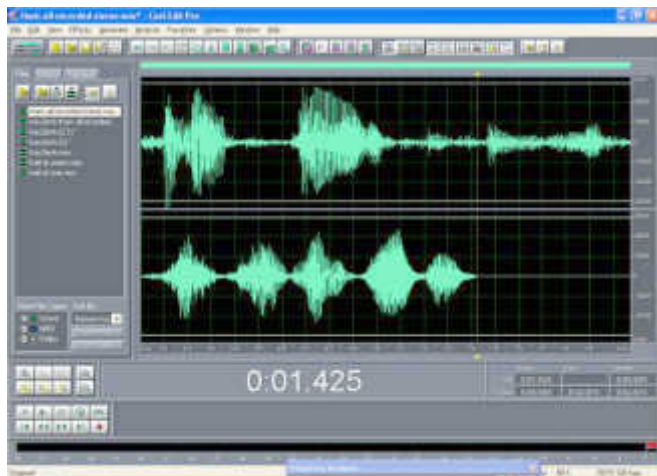


Figure 1

Waveform Analysis

Alec conducted some interesting analysis of another EVP that he recorded that day. It said, *“That’s all recorded.”* He explained to us that, “In Figure 1, the upper trace is me saying, ‘That’s all recorded,’ in an effort to match the EVP, which is shown with the lower trace. Measuring the Inter-Segment Interval (ISI) shows that, for the lower trace, ISI is uniform at 20.4 milliseconds (ms), thus the staccato rhythm.

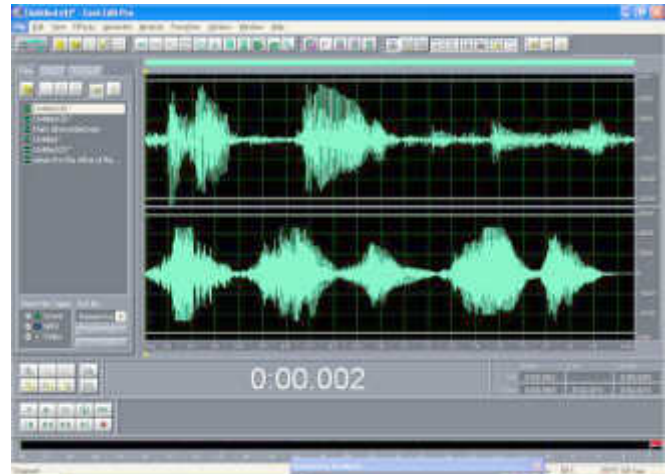


Figure 2

“In the upper trace, there is no uniform interval. The longest is 20 ms and the rest are much less or not measurable, as one segment tends to slip into the next. However, to aid comprehension, the EVP trace was stretched, here it is at the actual length recorded—much shorter—and the ISIs are actually around 4.4 ms. (Note: in this specific system the frequencies are unaffected). Thus (you hear) the rhythmic staccato effect, first spoken of by Swedenborg. As you can see in Figure 2, it is much faster. Finishing in 1.44 seconds as compared to 2 seconds in the previous picture.

Continued page 11



Figure 3

The spectral intensity of the EVP (violet or forefront) and the normally spoken phrase (blue or background)

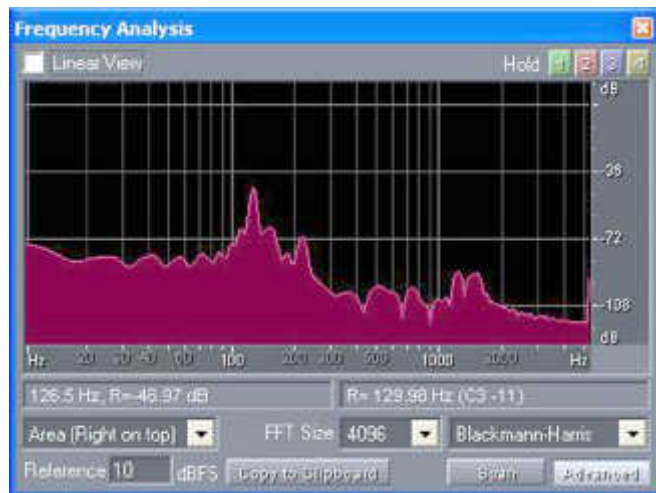


Figure 4

"In Figure 4, the EVP spectral display indicates a peak at 126.5 Hz, as calculated by the computer and shown in the top left lower window. This corresponds to the glottal pulse's averaged repetition rate and is characteristic of that speaker.



Figure 5

"Figure 5 shows the spectral response of the normally spoken phrase. The lower peak represents the glottal pulse and the higher one its second harmonic. As can be seen, top left bottom window, the lower peak is at 102.2 Hz.

"The more rapid speech using the same words, and the uniformity of the ISI would tend to confirm that the example is indeed EVP. And the difference in glottal pulse rates, plus the difference in timbre, the normally spoken phrase has a prominent second harmonic, whereas the EVP doesn't show this, which further confirms EVP."

Alexander is probably the most prolific researcher in our field. He has a growing bibliography of article in peer-reviewed journals and has received many research grants. He will be conducting a workshop on voice analysis at the 2009 AA-EVP conference in Los Angeles July 11th and 12th. See the brochure accompanying this NewsJournal and keep an eye on <http://aaevp.com/resources.html>.

John Shrimpton wrote that he took a few people, including one of his investigators, out to a rural cemetery in a very small town called Elk City, Nebraska, for an overnight investigation on March 20, 2008. "While we were there, my investigator thought he noticed movement at one border of the cemetery and we both walked over to the area. I didn't see or hear anything unusual but on playing back the audio from that time, we got a really interesting EVP that said, *'Don't let go.'*

"The odd thing is that the investigator that witnessed the movement is a soldier and Iraq war veteran. In late 2007, he was on a mission flying a Blackhawk helicopter. His best friend since childhood was also on board. Their chopper was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade and the helicopter crashed. His friend was fatally wounded in the crash.

"When I played this EVP for him he began crying and told me that 'Don't let go' was one of the last things that he had said to his friend while he was alive (holding his hand until medics could arrive). He also stated that the voice sounded very much like his friend. I thought this was interesting and perhaps what was recorded wasn't attached to the cemetery, but attached to him instead?"

Where Have All the Apparitions Gone?

An educational project by the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena sought to investigate and research all known haunting reports in the borough of Swindon, England. One hundred and forty-five accounts were found but only half of these were included in the "census report." The other half lacked the quality of detail needed for useful analysis. Reports from the last thirty to forty years showed that 82% of the reported hauntings involved at least one sighting of an apparition and more than half also involved some sort of movement (seen or unseen) of inanimate objects as well as auditory phenomena and unusual "sensations."

Twenty-four of the reports included events that happened in the last ten years, either as part of a longer-term "haunting" or as a new event. Of those hauntings taking place in the last decade, only one-third included the sighting of an apparition. This stands in stark contrast to the 82% sighted from older surveys. Surprisingly, even the hauntings that were a continuation of long-running cases primarily marked by apparitions prior to the last decade were now found to be largely apparition-free.

Another interesting finding looked at that old idea that hauntings take place at night. This theory was inconsistent with the findings in the study which showed the most common time for haunting events to occur was in the afternoon. In fact, over two-thirds of the events in this survey happen in the afternoon.

From: [The Paranormal Review](#), April 2008, Issue 46, "Where Have All the Apparitions Gone? Conclusions of a Census of Hauntings" by David Wood

Group Recording in Atlanta

In July, Martha Copeland had a group over for a recording session. Twelve people attended and six of them were AA-EVP members. Martha wrote, "Tony Golembiewski, who is a fairly new AA-EVP member, set everything up and we had a 'Greet and Meet' meeting here at my house. Phil Akin and Jerry Bennett were present as well as Ginny (Martha's sister), Laurie Bean and Kim Maddox.



Samantha Bean

"We did a recording and Laurie heard her daughter, Sam, come through several times and even once through another person's recording. Karen, a friend of Laurie's who used to be a nonbeliever, was in the group. The voice of her son, Tom, who was killed in an automobile accident twenty-one years ago, also came through.

"Joyce, whose son committed suicide, heard him singing in her recording. Joyce said that is what he would do in his physical life; sing to her.

"Laurie's daughter, Sam (or Samantha) came to me in a dream the night before, and told me to tell her mom to turn on the radio at home and dance. I told Laurie about the dream and she laughed and said that is what she and Sam used to do."

Martha was really impressed with everyone and said that everyone was highly intelligent and very interesting. She wrote that Phil was into visual ITC and that she hopes to learn from him how he uses his webcam to capture images. The group is going to try meeting monthly. Martha wrote, "It would be wonderful if other members would try to get together into groups. There seems to be a greater success rate, and more energy in a group recording session."

Martha Copeland will be conducting a "how to record" workshop at the 2009 AA-EVP conference in Los Angeles, July 11th and 12th. See the brochure accompanying this NewsJournal and keep an eye on <http://aaevp.com/resources.html>.

Etheric Studies Community Search Tool

The AA-EVP maintains three "Links" pages at aaevp.com. One for member's links, one for organizations similar to the AA-EVP around the world and one for websites that are important to our field of study but that are not directly related to ITC.

At the bottom of the aaevp.com front page and on the main [Links](#) page is a search tool titled: **Search AA-EVP and Member Websites for Examples, Information and Resources**. There are currently over sixty websites in the Google search tool. If you are looking for information about EVP, ITC and Etheric Studies, save yourself some time and search for it using this tool.

Current Status of Mediumship Research at The Windbridge Institute

by Julie Beischel, PhD

Although the issues of survival of consciousness (life after death) and mediumship were fundamental during the inception and development of parapsychology as a science, research interests soon shifted toward psychic abilities including telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition and investigations of mediums became few and far between. Several authors have also noted that historical mediumship research lacked the proper research design, statistical power, and elimination of potential sources of error for current researchers to value even "positive" studies. Furthermore, historical mediumship research often involved trance mediums who entered a sleep-like state involving amnesia during their readings; modern, American participants, however, most often practice mental mediumship involving a focused and waking state of consciousness.

The continued evaluation of the phenomenon of anomalous information reception (AIR) by mediums and research addressing the survival of consciousness hypothesis are important for many reasons, including those that are academically important as well as those that are socially relevant. First, an understanding of the mediumship process may aid in determining which mechanisms may be at work during the cognitive processing of non-local, non-sensory information. In addition, survival and mediumship studies provide unique evidence for an issue central to consciousness science: the relationship between the mind/consciousness and the brain. That is, is consciousness (a) a product of the brain as theorized by materialist neuroscientists or is consciousness (b) mediated, transmitted, transformed, guided, or arbitrated by the brain as hypothesized by such scientists as Max Plank and William James?

On a socially applicable front, this research is important beyond just addressing the public's growing interest in mediumship and the survival of consciousness. First, mediums may be able to perform socially useful tasks like finding missing persons or contributing to criminal investigations, but in order for society to sensibly utilize the information mediums provide, the process by which it is acquired needs to be better understood. In addition, the information mediums provide may contain wisdom or knowledge that could benefit scientific, technological, and/or social progress. Furthermore, scientific evidence for life after death could revolutionize health care by alleviating the anxiety felt by hospice patients and their families and changing the way allopathic physicians view death. Finally, mediumship readings may be helpful in grief counseling and recovery. For these academic and socially relevant reasons, it is important to continue investigating the information mediums report as well as the mediumship process itself. As with the study of any natural phenomenon, bringing mediumship into the regulated environment of the laboratory allows for the controlled and repeated examination of AIR by mediums.

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Mediumship Research

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Ideally, laboratory-based mediumship research should include two equally important factors: a research environment that optimizes the mediumship process for both the medium and the hypothesized discarnate in order to increase the probability of capturing the phenomenon, if it exists, in a laboratory setting, and research methods that maximize the experimental blinding of the medium, the rater, and the experimenter in order to eliminate all conventional explanations for the reported information and its accuracy and specificity.

Together, these two factors optimize the possibility of achieving positive results while also controlling for experimental artifacts.

There are two major mediumship research fronts in progress at The Windbridge Institute: *proof-focused* studies aiming to gather additional evidence about mediums' reported communication with the deceased (i.e., anomalous information reception), and *process-focused* studies that investigate the mediums' experiences of that communication. Both directions contribute to our understanding of the information that mediums report and to our ability to use the information appropriately as a society.

On the proof-focused side, the studies are designed simply to further test the primary hypothesis of mediumship research: Skilled mediums can report accurate and specific information about the deceased loved ones (termed discarnates) of living people (termed sitters) even without any prior knowledge about the sitters or the discarnates and in the complete absence of any sensory feedback.

In January of 2007, a study I performed while still with the University of Arizona was published in the peer-reviewed journal *Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing*. In that paper, titled "Anomalous Information Reception by Research Mediums Demonstrated Using a Novel Triple-Blind Protocol," we put forth this conclusion: "The present findings provide evidence for anomalous information reception but do not directly address what parapsychological mechanisms are involved in that reception." In other words, the mediums were reporting accurate and specific information that they could not have received by any normal means or through deception, but where the information was coming from, we couldn't say.

Back in 1896, Harvard Professor and American Society for Psychical Research (ASPR) co-founder William James (often called the father of American or modern psychology) came to a similar conclusion regarding his study of trance medium Mrs. Leonora Piper:

In the trances of this medium, I cannot resist the conviction that knowledge appears which she has never gained by the ordinary waking use of her eyes and ears and wits. What the source of this knowledge may be I know not, and have not the glimmer of an explanatory suggestion to make, but from admitting the fact of such evidence I can see no

escape. [Address by the president. *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research*, 12, 2-10.]

And while far more eloquent, Professor James came to basically the same conclusion about one trance medium that we did regarding a group of mental mediums over 100 years later. Clearly, further modern research is needed.

Most scientists would agree that we cannot accept the

findings from a study as real until that study has been replicated and the same results found. And some, if not most, scientists would argue that the replication needs to take place in a laboratory separate from the one that published the first study before we can view the findings as real rather than as just a fluke.

At Windbridge, we are currently seeking support for a replication of the published AIR study (that is, the AIRII). We have collected

about half of the data to date. Once a second positive peer-reviewed study is published, we hope the phenomenon of anomalous information reception by mediums will begin to be taken seriously by more conventional scientists.

The data collected to date (from over a century of mediumship research) cannot distinguish between three main explanations:

- Survival of Consciousness — there is life after death and some recognizable part of our consciousness goes on to live beyond the body and talk to mediums;
- Super-Psi — the medium retrieves the information using clairvoyance, precognition, and/or telepathy with the living (collectively called "psi"); and,
- Psychic Reservoir — all information since the beginning of time is stored somehow and somewhere in the universe and mediums are accessing that cosmic store rather than communicating with the deceased.

However, a medium's experience of communication with the deceased is reportedly much different than her experience with psi. It is the difference between dead people and dead information. But that concept is only anecdotal at this point. We now need to study it in the controlled environment of the laboratory.

That brings us to the second arm of the current Windbridge research: process-focused studies about the mediums' experiences.

The study of how things are experienced by the experimenter is called phenomenology. For our current phenomenology studies with mediums, I have been working with Windbridge Adjunct Research Fellow Adam Rock, PhD.

For the first study (Phenomenology I), Dr. Rock qualitatively analyzed research mediums' answers to the questionnaire item "Describe in as much detail as possible your experiences while communicating with the deceased." Our peer-reviewed paper detailing the results of that study was recently published in the [*Journal of Scientific Exploration*](#) [22(2): 179-192].

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Tom and Lisa Butler (left) with Julie Beischel and Mark Boccuzzi (right)

Eastern State Penitentiary



This summer Debbie Caruso, along with her investigation team [The Haunting Evidence Messengers](#) (T.H.E.M.), appeared with medium Jeffery Wands on a segment of the [Maury Show](#). The group was taken to Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia, PA for the program.

From www.easternstate.org: “Opened in 1829 as part of a controversial movement to change the behavior of inmates through ‘confinement in solitude with labor,’ Eastern State Penitentiary quickly became one of the most expensive and most copied buildings in the young United States. It is estimated that more than 300 prisons worldwide are based on the Penitentiary’s wagon-wheel, or ‘radial’ floor plan.

“Some of America’s most notorious criminals were held in the Penitentiary’s vaulted, sky-lit cells, including bank robbers Willie Sutton and Al Capone. The inmates were not allowed to communicate with each other or meet for any purpose, not even for religious services. Ministers sermonized to the inmates while walking through the prison, their voices echoing through the cellblocks. The inmates were not allowed to sing, whistle, have visitors, see a newspaper or hear from any source about the outside world. They were allowed in their exercise yards, which were attached to their eight-by-twelve-foot cells, just one hour per day. At Eastern State, you went into your cell and you stayed there. You saw no one except a guard, and you spoke to no one.

“After 142 years of consecutive use, the penitentiary was completely abandoned in 1971, and now stands a lost world of crumbling cellblocks and empty guard towers.”

Debbie and the group were sent to the prison to spend the night. Immediately upon entering the prison, Chris Scherillo captured an apparition on his Sony Handicam DCR 92.



He hadn’t even had time to put the camera in night-shot mode. [To see the apparition watch the video at www.thehauntingevidence.com/easternstatepenitentiary.htm.]

When they went to Death Row, Jeffrey Wands began sensing information from some of the inmates. He said that he was sensing a man named Frank who was a rapist. Debbie spoke into her recorder and asked for a name of someone who was there. She recorded, *“It’s Frank the rapist.”* After Jeffrey said he had someone named Robert Johnson, Debbie asked for him and requested that he tell her something so that she would know it was him. She recorded, *“It’s me. Robert Johnson.”* When Debbie asked Al Capone to give his nickname she recorded *“Scar Face.”*



Possible ITC image of Capone as shown on the Maury Show

Debbie wrote, “We sat in a circle on the floor of the prison and Jeffrey started a séance. I used my HDR-SR1 video camera and Panasonic TC15L1 plasma screen TV to create a feedback loop for ITC pictures. As soon as we got involved calling spirits, the screen started going crazy and as soon as we broke the circle the screen went back to normal; it was very noticeable.” They did capture a picture of what they feel to be Al Capone (above).

Also from www.easternstate.org: “Al, Chicago’s most famous mob boss, spent eight months at Eastern State in 1929-1930. Arrested for carrying a concealed, deadly weapon, this was Capone’s first prison sentence. His time in Eastern was spent in luxury compared to the other inmates; Capone had oriental rugs, a cabinet radio, free time, and access to the deputy warden’s phone. An article in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, August 20, 1929, describes Capone’s cell: ‘The whole room was suffused in the glow of a desk lamp which stood on a polished desk.... On the once-grim walls of the penal chamber hung tasteful paintings, and the strains of a waltz were being emitted by a powerful cabinet radio receiver of handsome design and fine finish...’ The restored cell, with its oriental rugs and fine furnishings, is a popular stop for many visitors.”

After seeing the video, Jutta Liebman of the German [VTF](#) wrote, “The whole TV-presentation was very successful during the Maury Show and consequently many new people will be convinced of the reality of EVP.”

The Fallacy of Paranormal Democratic Science

by Dave Wood

Original text published by Paranormal Site Investigators, www.p-s-i.org.uk

PSI looks into “democratic paranormal science,” and whether this is one of the greatest barriers holding back psychical research

As we have written here before, the tragedy of psychical research is that, whilst other fields of study have come on in leaps and bounds over the last hundred or so years, the field of paranormal study has hardly advanced at all.

For a long time we could blame this on poor methods and poor funding: fewer people doing research, hence fewer outlets for the research. But recent years have seen the field of parapsychology raising its method game, and thousands upon thousands of part-time paranormal investigators flooding the field.

The advancement of science can be likened to building a house. Firm foundations are laid, and every new discovery, no matter how small, builds upon what we already know. With thousands of researchers all knowing the increasing foundations, and adding to them, psychical research could advance like never before.

So what's the problem? Paranormal research today seems to be built on the shakiest of foundations. No matter how much we like to think otherwise, so much in the paranormal investigation field is built on what we see in the media, rather than what we read in academic books and journals.

Research is further hampered by a seeming “democracy” of thought. Everyone assumes that no-one else knows anything; therefore people feel that every thought, no matter how unscientific, is equal to every other thought. We seem to base our knowledge on pub-style discussions of opinion and rather dubious hunches. After all, if no one knows better than anyone else, then my guess is as good as anyone else's, right?

So rather than researchers assiduously reading the trials and tribulations of those who have come and gone before—learning and building—we all start from nowhere and, if the experience of the last ten years is anything to go by, get precisely nowhere, either.

The field of paranormal research is weighed down by the fool's gold of misattributed experience, topped up with pseudoscience, and no collaboration seems to be based on the sharing of knowledge and research.

All the while educational charities like the Society for Psychical Research (www.spr.ac.uk) and the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (www.assap.org) have accumulated the wisdom and research of ages, but few people seem to bother with them. After all, any one person's random thoughts are just as valid as the accumulated scientific discoveries of decades?



Dave Wood

Dave is currently Co-coordinator of PSI and Chairman of the National Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena.

Reading deeply into our subject and learning from our predecessors might be less fun than ghost hunting and making it all up ourselves, but are we really going to achieve anything?

Forensic Expert's Opinion

This interesting message came in on member Keith Clark's discussion board at www.itcbridge.com. To quote:

“I have been a forensic audio and video expert for a number of years. I am certified and have investigated and also testified in cases ranging from narcotics to homicide, some of which were high-profile cases such as the Sarah Johnson double homicide and the case of missing American Natalie Holloway for the Dr. Phil Show on ABC.

“I have been asked on occasion to help with EVP recordings. Some of these are quite remarkable. I have worked on several that are truly intriguing. One of these was a case in Clinton, MA, USA. This case was featured on the series *Ghost Hunters* ... I will never forget the day I started my analysis of the recordings. I put the tape into my JVC system and instantly the lights started to flicker and dim. I didn't think too much of it until I started discovering voices on the recording. That is when all the electrical systems at the lab went out completely. It was a little unnerving as it happened at a very interesting section of the audio.

“One of the aspects of working a case like this is that as an expert I have to base my findings on facts. This is interesting as the forensic community at large regards this type of work as frivolous or as not worthy of mention publicly. I am not so sure that it can be that easily overlooked IMHO.

“One case I worked was a taped reading from a renowned psychic here in Maine. There were several women present at this gathering and as they always did, they taped the session to help remember the medium's statements.

“There was a woman whose son was recently killed in an accident at home. This woman was asking questions and as she was speaking you could hear a male voice saying “Ma,” “Mom Help,” “Ma,” etc... This went on for over three minutes. It was random and was not related to equipment malfunction or other mitigating factors. It was clearly a male and clearly a human voice but it was not in the normal frequency range of the others present that day.

“Quite intriguing and still makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up when I listen to it. I think that the scientific community needs to take this research a bit more seriously as I believe there are plenty of legitimate examples out there.”

Signed, Arlo E. West

Why Has There Not Been More Study of the Paranormal?

A 2005 Gallup survey shows that just about three in four Americans believe in the paranormal. So the question that needs to be asked is, “Why has there not been more study of the paranormal?” The scientific community is largely funded with public money. For instance, in July 2008, the US Government agreed on additional current-year science funding. The DOE Office of Science, NASA and National Science Foundation each received \$62.5 million, much of which is earmarked for education.¹ Tuition fees do not cover the cost of universities and public funding is required. This means that science degrees are subsidized by the public.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is a department of the Federal Government, funded by the public and supposedly in the service of the public. Yet according to the NSF in the 2006 annual Science and Technology report, “A recent study of 20 years of survey data collected by NSF concluded that ‘many Americans accept pseudoscientific beliefs,’ such as astrology, lucky numbers, the existence of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), extrasensory perception (ESP), and magnetic therapy (Losh et al. 2003). Such beliefs indicate a lack of understanding of how science works and how evidence is investigated and subsequently determined to be either valid or not.”²

“Losh et al” is a reference to an article in the *Skeptical Inquirer*. A further comment about “pseudoscientific beliefs” is based on a reference from the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOPS) now known as the *Committee for Skeptical Inquiry* (CSI), which states: “According to one group studying such phenomena, pseudoscientific topics include yogi flying, therapeutic touch, astrology, fire walking, voodoo magical thinking, alternative medicine, channeling, psychic hotlines and detectives, near-death experiences, unidentified flying objects and alien abductions, the Bermuda Triangle, homeopathy, faith healing, and reincarnation.” The celebrity skeptic, James Randi, is one of the founders and it is the publisher of the *Skeptical Inquirer*.

So the answer to the question is that the organizations we are paying to help us understand and live with nature are the same ones that think we are uneducated and misguided. Well, it is actually worse than that. The publicly funded organizations such as universities and the NSF are also very much aligned with the skeptical community which is determined to protect the intellectually naive masses (that is three in four Americans) from belief in anything that is not specifically supported by mainstream science. Their assumption is that, “if it is not accounted for in mainstream science, it is impossible and therefore cannot be.” The skeptical community has little or no research supporting their view of frontier subjects such as EVP and mediumship, so the net result is that they win their point by being the dominant group and discrediting research that does support the subject. In a very real sense, social pressure

brought by the skeptics to potential research donors and scientists has and continues to prevent research that might prove or disprove our hypotheses. That is simply stopping progress to preserve the status quo.



One technique used to discredit a subject such as psi functioning is to put it in the same group as belief in a flat earth and the moon landing conspiracy theories. If one must be seen as unlikely, then all must be equally unlikely. But there is another factor involved in the success of the skeptical community. Many of the concepts involved in psychic ability (psi functioning) and survival are shared by religions. This leads to people thinking of such concepts as ghosts in religious terms such as demons and possession,

rather than in terms of what is empirically supported. In this issue, *The Fallacy of Paranormal Democratic Science*, by David Wood (pg 15), explores the idea that some people assume knowledge of a subject by ignoring those who are possibly more experienced. The real answer to the question might be that we are not very clear about what we believe.

Psi studies are fairly well represented by parapsychology. It is true that parapsychologists are shunned by mainstream science, but they at least have a culture of collaboration and peer-reviewed journals. There are even doctoral programs in some universities. Parapsychology claims to study survival, but other than reincarnation, near-death and out-of-body experiences, that community shuns etheric studies as much as mainstream science shuns them.

The skeptical community will only change its mind about survival of personality if mainstream science begins to openly study the evidence and conclude that the evidence indicates a real effect, rather than our delusion. Mainstream science will not study our subject if we do not present it in a rational manner. Making research funds available for projects conducted with good science is one way that we can attract mainstream science, but the most important thing we can do is to develop a community in which evidence-based reports are held in high regard, and collaboration amongst researchers is seen as a natural part of learning. It is important that we learn how to talk about our subject so that we can accurately report our experiences and research results. Peer review will only be possible when we learn to respect knowledge. If we do not develop the culture of a scientific community, there is little hope that we will gain the respect of mainstream science.

You are a member of this community and in a very real sense, you control if or when our field will attract serious research. Learn all you can; avoid “assuming knowledge.”

1. American Institute of Physics, *Success: President Signs Bill Providing Additional Science Funding*, www.aip.org/fyi/2008/072.html
2. National Science Foundation, *Science and Engineering Indicator 2006*, “Chapter 7: Science and Technology: Public Attitudes and Understanding,” www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind06/c7/c7s2.htm



Paranormal Puck resting beside a laptop computer. It connects via a USB cable. The control panel is visible on the screen.

EVPMaker uses a random number process for phoneme selection, and we know random processes provide a historically effective psi detection technique. The use of changes in environmental energy to stimulate a speech synthesis process presents many unknowns, but has been demonstrated as an effective psi detection technique by such psi functioning researchers as Dean Radin. Based on the limited experience with that technology, the next step is probably to move Puck functionality into computer software and develop a control panel which allows management of environmental detection and recording.

Conclusion

Bill Chappell has given us the first real innovation in this field in recent times. We cannot recommend the Puck for general use until more study is done to understand how the Puck works and why. Technology-savvy people need to study its design, speech synthesis and the supporting technology to help us better understand the capabilities. The one problem with all EVP technologies is learning how to avoid mistaking normally produced sounds from paranormally produced messages. The community has little experience with this very new technology; however, we are confident that in the coming months, environmentally stimulated voice synthesis will prove to be an important approach to transcommunication.

We hope to demonstrate the Puck at the 2009 conference.

Big Circle Recording Dates

Please think about recording with the Big Circle on or close to October 2, 16 and 30, November 13 and 27, and December 11 and 25. Then go to the Big Circle area of the Idea Exchange and share what you recorded. Many members have recorded messages intended for other members so share your recordings with the group! Our recording dates actually fall on Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

Contribute Experiences to a New Book

Have you been contacted by a deceased loved one? Were you given information that you were later able to validate? Josie Varga's latest book, *Visits from Heaven*, will feature a collection of After Death Communication (ADC) accounts. Contributors will include authors, mediums, speakers, bereaved parents, psychotherapists and more. If you have a story to share or have any questions, please contact the author via email at josievarga@comcast.net or visit her website at www.josievarga.com.

Mediumship Research

 Continued from page 13

We found that the mediums most often reported experiencing the deceased in multiple ways including seeing and hearing the deceased, smelling fragrances associated with the deceased's physical life, feeling ailments or causes of death, and changes in the mediums' emotional feelings.

In the second phase of that study, mediums filled out an instrument called the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory (PCI) that quantitatively measured their experiences. Dr. Rock and I recently submitted a paper detailing the results of that study for publication in the *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*. Briefly, we found that mediums' states of consciousness are statistically different during communication with the deceased than their normal (i.e., non-AIR) states of consciousness.

For the Phenomenology III and IV studies, we hope to both qualitatively and quantitatively analyze mediums' experiences during communication with the deceased as compared to their experiences while performing psychic telepathy readings for the living. This data should begin to differentiate between the hypotheses suggesting the source of mediums' information and thus address the issue of survival of consciousness.

Julie Beischel, PhD, is the Co-Founder and Director of Research at The Windbridge Institute. www.windbridge.org

Dr. Beischel received her PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology with a minor in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Arizona. She was the first ever recipient of the William James Post-doctoral Fellowship in Mediumship and Survival Research at the University of Arizona where she served as Co-Director of the [VERITAS Research Program](#). She is currently a member of the [Parapsychological Association](#), a member of the scientific advisory boards of the [Rhine Research Center](#) and the [Forever Family Foundation](#), and an [Institute of Noetic Sciences \(IONS\)](#) Shift-In-Action Luminary. Her academic training allows her to design and apply traditional research methods to investigating more unconventional topics of study including the survival of consciousness and other parapsychological phenomena. In June of 2008, Dr. Beischel and Windbridge Co-Founder Mark Boccuzzi began a pilot study supported by AA-EVP investigating real-time EVP conversations. More information and full copies of published articles are available at www.windbridge.org.

Julie will present results of the Real-Time EVP Conversation study funded at the 2009 AA-EVP conference.

Researcher Reports

If you record an EVP that you would like to share here please email us at aaevp@aol.com.

- Teri Daner recorded several messages during a Thursday evening group Big Circle session. One of the messages said, *"I'm in heaven, not in Jersey."*
- Paula Elcox wrote that her sisters and brother got together to toast their dad's birthday. Paula left the recorder on while they were taking some pictures. On the recording you hear her commenting that the picture is nice and her husband agreeing then an EVP says, *"It's nice."*
- Kim Fred wrote that they were having terrible weather with lightning and tornadoes. She was staying up to watch the weather when the phone rang at 2:30 a.m. She immediately thought it must be some sort of terrible news for someone to be calling so late. She answered with great trepidation to find no sound whatsoever. She hung up and then found that the phone was not even working. Before she could return to her chair the phone rang again and again there was nothing there. Out loud she said, "Stop it, you're freaking me out a little." The phone did not ring again but she got her recorder and asked "Okay, who wants to talk?" She recorded two things. First her niece's name, *"Candi,"* and then *"Bad storm, there now."*
- Yvonne Whybra thanked Linda Gray for recording an EVP for her writing, "You caught an EVP ... [that] said ... *"Help my daughter I love her so much"* I had been trying to record and asking her to come to one of the AA-EVP members. I believe she did. She also came again two more times to another two members. I just want you to know these captures have changed my life."
- Cheryl and Chuck Johnson write, "We use Sony digital recorders, ask questions with pauses between and get very good EVP."
- Neil Kiernan recorded at the grave of a family named Petersen. At the end of the recording a voice said, *"We're from Texas."* The next day Neil went back and asked what town in Texas. He recorded a female saying, *"The town of Dorchester."* Neil wrote, "Dorchester didn't sound like a typical Texas-sounding name but I Googled it and sure enough in North-Eastern Texas there is a very small town named Dorchester. (This turned out to be a very interesting thread on the AA-EVP message board in which member Deborah Preece gathered some interesting information on the family through Ancestry.com.)
- Jutta Liebman of the German VTF wrote, "In the last weeks I have tried to record EVP for a friend, who had asked me to mention during a next EVP recording session, her problem about a law case at court, which she had applied for getting back the house of her deceased parents. The only clear voices that I have captured in this connection said: *"Life is permanent learning"* and *"We will give support"* (translated from German.)
- David Mierzwinski is attempting to build his own version of an auto-tuning (hands off) radio which is the key

element of the popular "box" system (radio sweep). In order to make the unit easily reproducible he decided to go with a radio kit and then modify the circuit to his specific needs. He did and one of the first messages recorded with his new setup was, *"Don't be frustrated, talk to Bubbie."* David wrote: "Bubbie is the code name of an old pal of mine from 35 years ago. We lost contact with each other and I found out he had crossed over in October 2004. He has become an important contact in connection with my work."

- Christopher Scott posted an example in the Prediction Registry of the Idea Exchange. The consensus amongst other members was that it said: *"He speaks. Get her to the doctor, Chris."* Chris wrote, "The reason I submitted this to the Prediction Registry was that it predicted my mother's heart attack. A week later, she died." (Chris, our thoughts are with you.)
- Stephen Siciliano said in the Idea Exchange that, "I actually had an entity (my aunt) give me some inside family information that was kept from me. In turn I found out that the information was valid. It was awesome.... The information she gave me was very important, and I would have been hurt had I not received it. I talk to her every day through EVP communication."
- Tanjla Vasquez wrote, "One evening I was in my home office playing and talking to my dogs, Toby and Baxter (Bichon Frises). I had just commented on something to do with Toby. When I played back my recording, a woman with a strong New York accent is saying, *"Baxter, you're a good dawg."* It seems to echo out of the background but it is very clear to me ... a couple of my friends think it might be *"Baxter you're a good boy."* You can also hear my dogs panting in this recording."
- Thomas Weinmann said that he tried recording for a few months after his father crossed over. At first, he just wasn't sure of what he was hearing but then he recorded a very clear voice saying, *"Guess who?"* Tom wrote, "It was like the person was right in the room with me. But to this day, I cannot be sure if that was my dad. I repeatedly asked for 'guess who' to identify himself but he never did."

Tom had been recording this past May and wishing his mother Happy Mother's Day, hoping to get communication from her. He never got a chance to listen to that recording. It, along with all of his other EVP recordings, were lost in a fire that started in the house next door but also caught his house on fire and destroyed it.

- Vicki Talbott wrote that the Hemi-Sync experiments were a productive experience for her. "I got one of the most interesting answers to a question that I think I've ever gotten. They were trying to get creative with the simple questions I was asking! I asked what was on the shirt I was wearing. It's a red Victoria's Secret night shirt, with the brand name embroidered across the chest in the same color. I asked for the brand name, too."

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Researchers Report

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Their response? *'It burns across her chest. That would be poetic. You can't say we're not smart.'* It was clear and all at once. Can you believe that—hilarious—a reference to scarlet letters and my name (Victoria's Secret) burning across my chest as well as the red of the t-shirt linked to the red of fire burning. ;)

I am also now listening to my Hemi-Sync CDs more that focus on the other side. I believe I have been having more profound experiences as a result.

Travel Trend Alert: Ghost Hunting Breaks

From the UK comes this news: The demand for scary haunted hotel holidays is growing at a rapid rate!

Paranormal breaks specialist Haunting Breaks has added three new haunted venues to its portfolio to meet a surge in interest in its ghost hunting weekends, thanks to the continued success of television programs such as Living TV's *Most Haunted*, ITV's *Supernatural* and the Zone Reality's *Ghost Hunt* and *Psychic Private Eyes*. "These TV shows have made psychics and the paranormal accessible," said Carol Bowen, director of Haunting Breaks. "People are now more knowledgeable in this area and as a result keener to experience ghost hunting themselves."

Bowen says that there are generally two types of guests: the serious ghost hunter and the experience seeker keen to try something new and exciting. "Both get really excited when things start happening," says Bowen. "Dimmed lights and the history of the castle or hotel is often enough to get visitors spooked regardless of whether they believe in the paranormal or not and, for many, the thought of something scary is almost as good as the real thing."

White Noise T-Shirts and Ball Caps

These were given to the press to publicize the movie *White Noise* and Universal Studios gave some to the AA-EVP. We have eight T-shirts (size large only) and eight

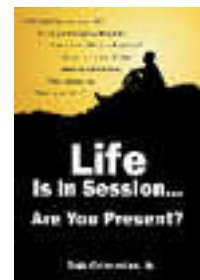


adjustable caps that we are making available for a donation of \$19 for a shirt and \$15 for a ball cap. This includes the cost of Priority Shipping. Both are dark blue with white lettering. International members should add \$5 (all US funds) for mailing. You can order at aaevp.com in the [Resources section](#) or via postal service at PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA.

News From Members

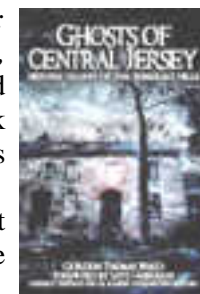
If you would like to have something you are doing featured here please email the information to aaevp@aol.com six weeks prior to the next NewsJournal release date.

- We reported on Bob Crimmins' book, *Life is in Session, Are You Present?* in 2007. Bob's late wife Gloria was instrumental in helping Bob with the book. Bob interviewed people all over the country asking them the same fifty questions about life. Each chapter in the book covers a separate question like, "What is God?" or "What do you think happens after you die?" It was so thick that Bob and his son decided to print it as a two-part book. Part one includes questions one to twenty-five and is now available at <http://lifeisinsession.com>.



Bob donates his time in training injured soldiers coming back from Iraq without hands or arms in how to use the Dragon Naturally Speaking software. Bob wrote, "Since I donate the software and training to the soldiers, any sales of my book will bring in more money I hope so I can buy more software to train more soldiers."

- A new book, *Ghosts of Central Jersey: Historic Haunts of the Somerset Hills*, by Gordon T. Ward was just released and is available at Amazon. The book was edited by Association members Garrett Husveth and Al Rauber.
- Karen Mossey did an overnight investigation of Alcatraz and the Presidio while in California in April. You can visit her website at <http://ectoweb.com> to see a write up of the investigation and listen to EVP she and fellow researchers captured.
- The *Daily Record* ran a good article on Garrett Husveth title, Audio Researcher Aims to Get Ghostly Voices on Tape. (See www.dailyrecord.com)
- Al Rauber just put together a fifty-three slide, eighteen voice (EVP) lecture titled, "The Lizzie Borden Tapes - A Paranormal Case Study." Al wrote, "Basically, it's an account of the two TV shows I did from the location and all of the info (some great, some not so great) I was able to take out of the investigations. Also, a theory on who may have been the murderer." A write-up that Al has done on the case will be in *The Hatchet* which is a Lizzie magazine. The website, lizzieandrewborden.com, is setting up a section just for Al and the EVP from his investigations, Al says that it is the top Lizzie site out there.
- In honor of the new movie, *The X-Files: I Want to Believe*, Amanda Beals did an article for MainStreet.com which included an interview with AA-EVP member Rich Smith. In it, Beals gives readers an idea of the costs involved in ghost hunting. The article also provided a link to the AA-EVP. See it at <http://mainstreet.com/x-files-opened-paranormal-price-guide>.



YouTube Video is Available on CD

The [Big Circle YouTube](#) video is available on a CD as a one-part file. We know that some of you do not have access to the Internet and would like to view this fourteen minute minidocumentary. We also know that some of you would like to show this to a friend, and having it on a CD would make that easier to do.

The CDs are \$12.50 each (U.S. funds) including mailing. You can order online at:

http://aaevp.com/resources/books_order.htm

or by writing to:

AA-EVP, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA.



There is No Death and There are No Dead



The book is receiving praise as an important EVP/ITC learning tool. Why not consider giving a signed copy as a gift to yourself or a friend?

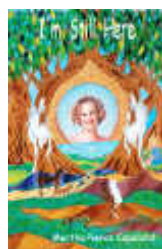
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The book is \$18 plus shipping. Include tax if you live in Nevada.

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\$30.00 per year All benefits for one year

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not receiving the NewsJournal via email: \$40.00 per year

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\$100 per year Same as above + Member name listed in NewsJournal

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You may specify that your donation is used for research or for the public outreach and education of the Association: _____

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You must be 21 years old or older to be an AA-EVP member.

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Do you wish to receive the newsletter via postal service? _____ or via email? _____

Do you record EVP? _____ Plan to record? _____ Do you have research/development background that may apply to EVP? _____

By indicating that I want to share my name and address with others on the Member Registry, I realize they are private and I agree that other names on the list will not be given to anyone who is not on the list, used for commercial purposes or the furtherance of personal causes. I also understand my membership will be terminated if I violate this agreement. I certify that I am twenty-one years of age or older. I understand that the AA-EVP is not liable for the results of EVP/ITC experiments that I might conduct, and that the Association is also not liable for damages due to the use of information it publishes on the Internet or in literature such as the NewsJournal. Officers of the AA-EVP reserve the right to refuse membership to anyone.

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail to: AA-EVP, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA