

GET READY FOR SOME MIND-EXPANDING READING

Debra Alford, Guest Editor

Energy, Intent, and Healing, the Eighteenth Annual ISSSEEM Conference in June 2008, offered addresses, workshops and programs by over fifty distinguished scientists, scholars, and healers, as well as research papers and an abundance of provocative and energetic discussion during meals and breaks. It was a powerful coming-together of healers and learners, researchers and advocates, thinkers and mystics, musicians and theorists, scientists and poets. Of the many excellent addresses and presentations, we chose five to share with you in this issue of the journal.

As guest editor and interested student, I boldly plowed into the work of translating these five verbal presentations into written form, while preserving each person's unique voice. I was soon awed by the fascinating and intelligent work of these people. It has been an honor to interact with them, and I have been permanently and decisively expanded by my intimate connection with their ideas. As I checked a few facts, learned how to spell some of their more esoteric references, and absorbed the depth and significance of what they were saying, I found myself wishing I could just hang out and learn from these people.

That's just what you're going to get to do as you read these articles. You'll be spellbound as Christine Page spins her magical web of myths, alchemy, scholarship, spiritual consciousness, astrology, and mysticism. She makes a very good case for integrating one's disowned aspects, honoring the mystery, and living in love. I was so inspired and learned so much from her presentation that I asked her to include an extensive bibliography with her article, because I'm certain that you (like me) will want to read more.

My only regret with Dean Radin's presentation is that in the process of streamlining it for publication, some of his wonderful humor did not come through. If you were there for his talk, you'll remember that he had the audience rolling in the aisles! The resulting article, however, is excellent because Dean clearly explains some significant experiments that illumine telepathy, presentiment, and the illusion of separation. He has a talent for bringing clarity to very complex ideas. I encourage you to look at his website; his biography helps inform us about how he came to the multi-dimensional approach he brings to his work.

Prepare to be treated to an extended glimpse into the mind of another renaissance man: Berney Williams' Presidential Address opened my mind to subjects I had never heard of, let alone considered. It's as if he opened his arms wide and included us in his animated inner dialogue about the scope and promise of healing, learning, and intention – and helped us have some fun along the way. And don't worry: since he didn't have enough time to go into depth on many of the subjects he touched upon, you'll have enough reading for a year if you dig into his notes and references.

The ISSSEEM/ACEP panel discussion stirred up a lot of interest and energy – and no wonder, with such a distinguished and varied group of people contributing. Their wide-ranging discussion explored the intersection of energy psychology and energy medicine, the need and opportunity for energy healing in humanitarian relief, the challenges and opportunities of leading-edge healing practices, the human antennae experiments, (are you intrigued yet?) and much more.

Clearly, I admire the variety, depth, and intelligence of all these presentations, and yet . . . there's a special place in my heart for Larry Dossey's address. His gently self-deprecating humor and his soft Texas drawl only serve to enhance his keenly defined perspective on how distant healing and intercessory prayer have been – and ought to be – studied. His careful analysis and well-considered conclusions have left me with the intention to read all of his books! I was impressed as well with his humble and gracious dedication of this talk to two extraordinary women who inspired and taught him so much.

I highly recommend that you follow the fascinating threads and connections beyond the door that each one of these people has opened. They have written more fascinating books than you can shake a stick at, have been involved with a wide variety of groundbreaking research, and have explored and expressed profound ideas for the world to consider. Check the web; learning more about what they have to offer just might inspire your own voice in new areas.

I'll close with a gem of a quote that articulates an idea that was woven throughout this conference:

"I used to believe that we must choose between science and reason on one hand, and spirituality on the other, in how we lead our lives. Now I consider this a false choice. We can recover the sense of sacredness, not just in science, but in perhaps every area of life."

– Larry Dossey, M.D.
from *Reinventing Medicine*

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