

THE DREAM ABOUT EXTENDED ABSTRACTS OF DISSERTATIONS:

Being an Essay on the Origin of the Present Volume

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Once in a while a dream comes true—a dream that starts out as a vivid, exciting challenge and refuses to die.

The first dream source began in the late 1940's when I first discovered Dissertation Abstracts (www.lib.umi.com/dissertations/), published by the University of Michigan. What a wealth of information! These abstracts immediately became (and have since remained) one of my favorite sources for research on any topic (with now more than 1.6 million titles). They assumed an importance that previously had been reserved for the various indices to periodical literature which scholars had developed. Although subsequent publications in refereed journals would contain much more detail than would be permitted in the abstracts, they would tell me whether or not it was worthwhile to obtain the entire dissertation. Rarely was I disappointed when I took the time to get the entire dissertation. Their bibliographies and reviews of literature were occasionally amateurish, but always informative. Through the 1950s and 1960s dissertations were considered by me to be the most underused research resources available anywhere, and they probably still are. The Inter-library loan system facilitated their use. Frequently the abstracts led to personal correspondence with the authors. Networking using regular mail and telephones was greatly stimulated.

In the early 1970s the second dream source came to my attention when I discovered one of the most exciting intellectual resources ever made available—

a periodical called the *Journal of Irreproducible Results*. It was founded a couple of decades earlier; it is now more than 50 years old and it is still being published (www.jir.com). It had some outrageously funny articles, some of which had utterly profound implications woven into the humor. One such article provoked me vigorously to prepare a manuscript that would tie together all Ann Nunley and I were exploring about spiritual healing and what later came to be called *Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine*. My manuscript never got submitted, in part because my focus shifted to the dream.

One night in the mid 1970s, after working late on the manuscript, I dreamed of four special issues of some journal that would be devoted to extended abstracts of doctoral dissertations. There were four pages to each article, and the third page of each was devoted exclusively to tables and figures. The dream came back vividly several times, and each time I would enjoy recalling the contents of one volume or another. I mentioned the idea to several editors during the late 1970s and 1980s, but I did not receive much encouragement.

Finally I mentioned it to Steve Fahrion, the Senior Editor of the ISSSEEM journal, in the mid-1990s and he was encouraging. His Science Editor, T. M. Srinivasan, was also encouraging. For most of the time since the mid 1990's I have been on the board of ISSSEEM, so I brought up the topic from time to time at board meetings in which both editors participated. Finally, in 2005 permission was given to proceed on the preparation of one such volume for the journal, *Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine*. The dream may come true!

In September I invited all those who had completed outcomes-based doctoral dissertations since 2000, and had a full version of the dissertation published on the Holos University Graduate Seminary web site (www.hugs-edu.org) in an Adobe PDF format to join in building the dream. We accepted the first 24 of them to respond with permission to include their work in the first volume, and added a couple of alternates. We also submitted a proposal to the program committee that, for the 2006 conference, these 24 papers take the place of the Friday Pre-Conference Science papers we have had for the last two years at the annual conference. That got accepted as well, and the dream took one more step towards fulfillment.

The reason for limiting the extended abstracts to those dissertations available in full on the web is that the dream kept changing with the rapidly evolving computer technology. And now we wanted to make available an accompanying CD that would have the full text of the dissertations. So, in addition to the extended abstracts, anyone could access through any Internet browser any of the 24 dissertations from anywhere on the planet—really underscores the “International” aspect of the International Society for the Study of Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine.

Technically on one CD we are able to access one large file that has all 24 dissertations, plus all 24 extended abstracts in such a way that we are able to enter one search command and, in a matter of minutes not hours, find every occurrence of any word or phrase in any of the 24 extended abstracts or entire dissertations. That is powerful searching. Those with sufficiently sophisticated software would be able to search all 24 at a time with the full use of Boolean operators. The 24 primary authors have been asked to give permission to have their entire dissertations included on the CD, and all those who give permission in time will be included in the first edition of the CD. Those who respond with permission later will have their works included in a subsequent edition.

The CD technology is also evolving and, by the time the manuscript for the second volume is available in 2007, our plan is to have the ability to compact the files enough to have the 24 new extended abstracts combined with those of the first volume and have an even more powerful search capability. That material will be submitted first to the Journal, *Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine*, but only after it is completely compiled and ready to go to press. No commitment to publish the second volume has been requested or granted, but we commit to submitting it to SE/EM as a gesture of our appreciation for publishing the first volume.

In the preparation of this first volume, authorship was handled in such a way that the first author is the graduate student and the second author is the chair of the dissertation committee. The first authors were invited to prepare the four-page manuscript of the extended abstract and submit it to the editorial review of the second author, the Technical Editor, the Chief Executive Officer, and the Guest Editor. Most proceeded in that fashion. In a few instances the initial draft was prepared by the second authors. The rare third author is in recognition of extraordinary editorial input. In the second volume authorship

will be exclusively by the first author and inclusion of the entire dissertation manuscript will be prerequisite to acceptance.

Special recognition must go to our Chief Executive Officer, Penny Hiernu, and ISSSEEM's desktop publishing master, Dallas Hawkes. His expertise in bringing out the issue and getting the final manuscript in shape displayed extraordinary acumen. Without the outstanding efforts of both of them (as they went far beyond any reasonable expectation a Guest Editor could have) we would never have completed the long journey to publication in time for the conference. Working with the two of them has been an inspiration and an exercise in pure joy.

Although the initial arrangement of the 24 titles and authors was in chronological order, we decided that alphabetical order of surnames of first authors would be more useful for future researchers. For those who want the chronological order, the first and second authors by year of defense are as follows:

- 2001** Michele Bertini and Berney Williams;
Margaret Clench and Berney Williams; and
David Eichler and Bob Nunley.
- 2002** Muriel Agnes and Bob Nunley,
Janet Bailey and Norm Shealy,
Sandra Egli and Ann Nunley; and
Suzanne Gibson and Berney Williams.
- 2003** Laquita Allen and Norm Shealy;
Ginger Bowler and Norm Shealy;
Elizabeth Cochran and Ann Nunley; and
Barbara Haydon and Bob Nunley.
- 2004** Audrey Boxwell and David Eichler;
Karin Cremasco and David Eichler;
Genevieve Hangen and Ann Nunley;
Linda Hutchins and Mei-fei Elrick;
Vickie Nutter and Paul Thomlinson;
Susan Russell and Norm Shealy; and
Martina Steiger and David Eichler.

2005 Charlene Bradshaw and Norm Shealy;
Maryanne Cowan and Bob Nunley;
Nancy Garrison and Bob Nunley;
Sara Hake and Ann Nunley;
Cynthia Reed and Norm Shealy; and
Shannon South and Bob Nunley.

For the Pre-Conference symposium at the 2006 ISSSEEM annual meeting the 24 papers are being arranged by second authors (Committee Chairs). They (with abridged titles) are as follows:

Bob Nunley (6)—Early Morning

1. Maryanne Cowan, *Crystal Bowl Toning and its Clinical Effect on GDV*.
2. Shannon South, *Love-Wisdom Meditation and History of Sexual Abuse*.
3. Nancy Garrison, *The Effect of Reiki on the Level of Free Radicals*.
4. Barbara Haydon, *Human Energy Fields Before and After Shealy Rings*.
5. Muriel Agnes, *Toward an Integral Energy—The Vascular Autonomic Signal*.
6. David Eichler, *A Subtle Energy Transduction Device and Anxiety Levels*.

David Eichler (3)—Late Morning

1. Audrey Boxwell, *Guided-Imagery/Visualization and Irritable Bowel Syndrome*.
2. Karin Cremasco, *Body Harmonization©: Body Wisdom and Depression*.
3. Martina Steiger, *Getting Unstressed (Gus), and Adolescents' Well-Being*.

Berney Williams (3)—Late Morning

1. Michele Bertini, *The Effects of Guided Imagery and Music on Anxiety*.
2. Margaret Clench, *Psycho/Physiological Effects of a Trinity Table on Anxiety*.
3. Suzanne Gibson, *Effect of Music & Focused Meditation on GDV and POMS*.

Ann Nunley (4)—Early Afternoon

1. Sandra Egli, *Equivalence in Hara Assessments Using the Brennan Science Model*.
2. Elizabeth Cochran, *Workbook on the Burden of Care and Alzheimer's*.
3. Genevieve Hangen, *Mystical Experiences and Self-Esteem: Women over 60*.
4. Sara Hake, *The Effect of Heartmath Techniques on Emotional Intelligence*.

Mei-fei Elrick (1)—Early Afternoon

1. Linda Hutchins, *Effect of Archetype Education and Analysis on Depression*.

Paul Thomlinson (1)—Early Afternoon

1. Vickie Nutter, *Reiki—Autonomic Nervous System and Heart Rate Variability*.

Norm Shealy (6)—Late Afternoon

1. Janet Bailey, *Checklist Of Health Issues, Illness Information and Blood Type*.
2. Laquita Allen, *Toning & Quartz Crystal Bowls & the Body's Energetic Balance*.
3. Ginger Bowler, *Hanna Krueger's Hands On Healing Procedures and Products*.
4. Susan Russell, *Free Radical Reduction & Electro Stimulation of Ring of Crystal*.
5. Charlene Bradshaw, *Influence of Religious/Spiritual Orientation on Health*.
6. Cynthia Reed, *Effects of Intention on Decreasing Anxiety and Depression*.

Our goal is to place in your hands the four pages that will most likely let you know whether or not you want to look at the entire dissertation. Consequently we have left the numbers of tables and figures just as they are in the dissertation to facilitate finding them once the larger work is consulted. The first authors' e-mail addresses are listed after each article. If an address does not work, or if further addresses are needed, contact the registrar@hugs-edu.org for a current address.

We are very interested in providing the extended abstracts in languages other than English. Anyone willing to translate the entire volume into another language and permit two other editors fluent in that language to critique the translation, please contact the Guest Editor at Nunley@ku.edu. We will assure at least electronic publication once the translation has been agreed upon as accurate by three independent sources, and we will seek hard-copy publication.

May your use of the volume be as enjoyable as the process of putting it together. Once in a while a dream comes true!

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