

News

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**Scientists/Psychologists to speak on Isthmus Institute's science/religion lecture series.

DALLAS--"The Reach of the Mind" will be the subject of the Isthmus Institute's third annual lecture series at The University of Texas Health Science Center. The Department of Psychiatry at the health science center will co-sponsor the event. This year's programs will be held on two consecutive weekends, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, Dec. 7 and 8. The lectures will be held in Gooch Auditorium and will be open to the public at no charge.

The Dallas-based Institute is a group established to encourage discourse between science and religion. "This year's lecture series will further expand Isthmus' exploration of the convergences of these disciplines as it examines the nature and significance of research into paranormal experience and extra-sensory modes of perception," says Dr. James Hall, one of the institute's founders and a past-president. Hall is also clinical associate professor of Psychiatry at the health science center.

Opening the series on Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. will be Dr. John Beloff, senior lecturer in the Department of Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. The topic of his lecture will be "Science, Religion and the Paranormal."

A noted parapsychologist, Beloff is editorial consultant for the *British Journal of Psychology* and editor of the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*. He has also served as president and council member of the latter group.

Beloff graduated from University College, London, in 1952 and left for the University of Illinois, where he became a research assistant to R.B. Cattell. He was first assistant lecturer, then lecturer at the Queen's University at Belfast, Ireland from 1953-62, receiving his Ph.D. there in 1956. He has been a faculty member in psychology at the University of Edinburgh since 1963.

He has authored two books, *The Existence of Mind* and *Psychological Sciences*, as well as edited several parapsychology journals.

Speaking Saturday, Dec. 1, at 9 a.m. will be Dr. Elmer Green. Green is a physicist on the staff of the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas. His topic will be "Biofeedback and the States of Consciousness."

Green's background includes both physics and psychology. The scientist studied at the University of Minnesota and UCLA. From 1947-57 he was a physicist with the Test Department of the U.S. Naval Ordnance Test Station in California where he gathered optical and electronic data. He later began graduate work at the University of Chicago where he worked on a number of electronic machines and systems, including one for measuring pain thresholds in humans. He also developed a mathematical model for psychophysics of visual intensity during that time.

At Menninger Green developed a Psychophysiology Laboratory in the Research Department. He has also been working with biofeedback training with the autogenic responses, as well as temperature-feedback training for blood-flow control. His research has included National Institute of Mental Health-funded work on "Voluntary Control of Internal States" and "Alpha-Theta Brainwave Training, Reverie and Imagery." Since 1970 he has been the director of the Voluntary Controls Program at the foundation.

On Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. K. Ramakrishna Rao, vice-chancellor of Andhra University, will be the featured speaker. Rao's subject will be "Parapsychology: Its

Implications for Science and Religion." The educator, whose current academic position is comparable to the presidency of an American university, has founded and headed the Department of Psychology and Parapsychology at his institution. In 1982 Andhra Pradesh honored him with the best teacher award.

Rao is a graduate of Andhra and has also studied at the University of Chicago, where he was Smith-Mundt Fulbright scholar and was a fellow of the Rockefeller Foundation in 1958-60. From 1962-65 Rao worked with Dr. J.B. Rhine at Duke. In 1976 he joined the staff of the Institute for Parapsychology there and served as its director until his return to India in June of this year.

The last speaker in the series will be Dr. Robert Jahn, dean of the Princeton University Engineering School. Jahn will speak Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. His topic will be "Psychic Research: New Dimensions or Old Delusions?"

The Engineering Anomalies Research Program at Princeton, says Jahn, deals with experiments in related areas. They are low-level psychokinesis, gaining methods for the acquisition of information from remote locations that is inaccessible by known sensory communication channels and developing theoretical models for better research in these areas.

Jahn has had academic appointments in the Physics Department at Lehigh University and the Division of Engineering at California Institute of Technology, as well as Princeton, from which he graduated with three degrees. He is consultant editor for *American Scientist* and associate editor for the *AIAA Journal* and has served on many committees and subcommittees for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Jahn is currently listed in 21 "who's who"-type directories, has published extensively and is a popular consultant in his field.

For further information about the program, call the Isthmus Institute at (214) 286-2900.

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