

# Teaching Skepticism in a Physical Science Class for Non-Science Majors

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A discussion of unusual topics and experiments incorporated into a core physical science course for non-science majors in order to promote critical thinking skills. In addition to conventional science, unconventional subjects include miracles, faith healing, ghosthunting, parapsychology, free energy, magnetic therapy, homeopathy, and more. For a preview, see the class website:  
<http://faculty.msmary.edu/epstein/>

Mike Epstein is a retired government chemist and currently an assistant professor in the Department of Science of Mount Saint Mary's University. He is a former vice-president and member of the board of directors of NCAS and received an educational award from the James Randi Foundation in 1999.

**Saturday, October 8, 2005**  
**2 - 4 pm**

Montgomery County Library  
Bethesda Branch  
7400 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, Maryland  
(A short walk from the Bethesda Metro station)



**National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**

FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members  
For more information call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at  
(301) 587-3827  
e-mail: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)  
[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)



# Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

OCTOBER 2005

## NCAS Board Notes

- The September Board meeting scheduled for the 10th after the NCAS program was cancelled for lack of time before library closing. There is nothing new to report.
- Whenever possible Board meetings will be announced in this *Shadow of a Doubt* mailing (email and hard copy)—otherwise by email notice to all NCAS members, who are always welcome to attend. Members who do not already receive the *Shadow* by email and wish to receive such email notices, please send us your email address marked “Member Email Address.” Participation in the NCAS-SHARE member-to-member email exchange list is by separate request.
- If you can distribute or post flyers for each monthly NCAS event at work or in your community (at the local Panera, etc.) please contact us.
- The NCAS Board welcomes your comments and questions any time by email to [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org) or call 301-587-3827 ☎

## The Secrets of an Unusual Mathematician

**Wed., Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m.** Join Edward Burger, professor of mathematics and chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Williams College, for an entertaining evening that proves that mathematical thinking is both a creative and an artistic endeavor.

In a lively hands-on presentation, learn about some great mathematical ideas that arise from puzzles, observations of everyday life, and habits of curiosity and effective thinking.

No math background is required, and no math will be explicitly mentioned. Even if you dislike math, this

is the program for you!

Burger’s book, *Coincidences, Chaos, and All That Math Jazz: Making Light of Weighty Ideas*, is available after the program.

**Tickets:** Gen. Admission \$18, RAP Members \$15, Senior Member \$13

**Location:** Marion & Gustave Ring Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden, Independence Ave. & 7th Street, SW ☎

## Dava Sobel Takes on the Universe!

**Wed., Oct. 19, 6:30 p.m.** Join award-winning author Dava Sobel for a journey through the cosmos, from the sun and the origins of our solar system out to Pluto and beyond. In an extraordinary presentation, she reveals the planets as objects and places of beauty, sources of legends and mythology, and the inspiration for poems, paintings, and music in science fiction and other literature.

Sobel highlights modern scientific findings, reminding us that not since the Copernican Revolution of the 16th century have people experienced such an upheaval in their understanding of the planets. She delves into planetary origins and oddities through the lens of popular culture, including her own near-encounter with Moon dust.

Dava Sobel is the bestselling author of *Longitude*, *Galileo’s Daughter*, and the new *The Planets* (Viking Penguin), which is available for signing after the program.

**Tickets:** Gen. Admission \$20, RAP Members \$15, Senior Members \$13

**Location:** Carnegie Institution, 1530 P St., N.W. ☎



**National Capital Area Skeptics**  
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