

Spirit Chat

Host: Windbridge Certified Research Medium Joanne Gerber

Guest: Windbridge Director of Research Julie Beischel, PhD

November 23, 2009

<http://www.joannegerber.com/ChatRoom.php>

[Nov 23, 2009 4:59:43 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Good evening everyone! Welcome to Spirit Chat!
[Nov 23, 2009 5:00:18 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Before our guest arrives tonight, I would just like to mention that during tonight's chat, there will not be any readings.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:00:46 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Julie Beischel is not a psychic or medium. Julie is an afterlife research expert.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:01:55 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Tonight Julie will be talking with you about the scientific exploration of the survival of consciousness (the afterlife), and will be happy to address your science related questions.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:04:08 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	I would now like to welcome our special guest, Dr. Julie Beischel. Good evening, Julie :)
[Nov 23, 2009 5:04:35 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Hello, Joanne and everyone! Thanks so much for having me. When I was on Spirit Chat the last time in March of 2008, we were just getting started at Windbridge and hoping that we could make it work. Now, more than a year and a half later, we have really established ourselves as one of the leaders in the field of survival of consciousness (life after death) research. We remain the only research organization in the world whose primary research focus is mediumship and spirit interaction and communication.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:05:07 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	It is certainly progress in work!
[Nov 23, 2009 5:06:52 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Julie, would you mind talking a bit about how you got interested in this field of research? For a scientist, it's a little bit risqué, however it seems you were motivated to pursue...

[Nov 23, 2009 5:08:37 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	When I was in graduate school at the University of Arizona getting my doctorate, I lost someone very close to me and started to wonder about what was known scientifically regarding mediumship and the survival of consciousness (life after death). I came across the research that was being done at the University at that time and took a position there after I graduated...
[Nov 23, 2009 5:09:44 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	When the funding for the program at the UA ended, my husband Mark Boccuzzi and I founded the Windbridge Institute and moved all of the basic mediumship research and the screening of research mediums there.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:11:35 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	How would you comment on the scientific progress regarding proving the survival of consciousness over the past ten years?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:13:39 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Over the last decade, progress made in survival research was limited compared to more mainstream research due to the funding limitations in our field. However, I believe we have established that certain mediums are capable of anomalous information reception (or AIR)...
[Nov 23, 2009 5:14:56 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	AIR refers to mediums reporting accurate and specific information about deceased people (discarnates) without using fraud or deception, without any prior knowledge about the discarnates or their sitters, and without any feedback...
[Nov 23, 2009 5:17:13 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The existence of AIR, however, does not prove an afterlife. In the parapsychological community, two alternative hypotheses for mediums' information also exist: (1) mediums are using telepathy, clairvoyance, and/or precognition (or psi) to get their information and/or (2) mediums are 'reading' the information they report from some sort of cosmic database or Akashic record.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:18:33 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	To differentiate between the different hypotheses, we have begun studying mediums' experiences -- in short, mediums know what telepathy feels like and that is not what they experience during mediumship communication. This line of research is helping us lean in the direction of survival but more research needs to be conducted.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:19:02 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	I will try to post answers to people's questions as we go along. Thank you for your questions.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:15:23 PM PST]	kathancaster(C)	What is the evidence that mediums are connecting to the deceased and not simply reading the minds of loved ones? Why don't the deceased share more than identifying information? Do they ever share information about their present experience?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:20:50 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We have found that the deceased tend to share three types of information: 1. Information identifying the discarnate ("It's me! It's me!") 2. Information showing the discarnate is still aware of the sitter's life ("I'm here! I'm here!") 3. Messages for the sitter ("I love you! I love you!")

[Nov 23, 2009 5:22:05 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In the past when we have asked mediums to report information from the deceased about their present experiences and found that the mediums' own belief systems about the afterlife may have affected their responses.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:19:07 PM PST]	Sandi(C)	Hi Dr. Beischel, what would you recomend for reading on the subject?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:23:23 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We have an online bookstore of books Windbridge researchers and advisors recommend. You can access it at http://tinyurl.com/WindStore
[Nov 23, 2009 5:23:50 PM PST]	Sandy(C)	Is there any particular personality type or history that seems to cause someone to become a medium? What about the effect of something like NDEs on an individual having mediumistic experiences?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:27:45 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We have each medium take several personality and psychological tests during their initial screening and we found that there are certain personality characteristics common among them. These include the Intuitive (N) and Feeling (F) types in the Myers-Briggs test. As we collect more data on this topic, we will publish it. I just attended the International Association for Near Death Studies (IANDS) meeting and the theme was increased psychic experiences after NDEs so that is a recognized occurrence.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:26:32 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Lots of questions for you, Julie :)
[Nov 23, 2009 5:28:29 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Joanne: I'm typing as fast as I can! :-)
[Nov 23, 2009 5:28:54 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	You are doing great, Julie :)
[Nov 23, 2009 5:29:11 PM PST]	actorveronica(C)	During the research you speak of, what sort of experiments/processes are carried out to prove the aftelife existance? And also, please, how are research mediums different from mediums of the Spritualist Church(es)?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:29:57 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Good question. I'll answer this in two parts...

[Nov 23, 2009 5:33:06 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	1) Our research protocols are quite complicated and I would recommend people view our publications to learn more: http://www.windbridge.org/publications.htm In short, we examine mediumship readings under quintuple-blind conditions that eliminate all conventional explanations for the accuracy of mediums' information (proof-focused research) and study the mediums' experiences during discarnate communication (process-focused research).
[Nov 23, 2009 5:35:19 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	2) We don't study Spiritualist mediums so I can't really comment on that, but Windbridge Certified Research Mediums (WCRMs) are screened and tested under blinded conditions and are trained in mediumship research, research with human subjects, and the process of grief.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:38:37 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	In comparing the certification process with the Spiritualist churches and Windbridge, I can say that the Windbridge certification process is a more "fact proven", and more rigid testing than the current Spiritualist Church certification program.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:40:12 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Spiritualist church mediumship certification does not include any blind - medium sitter testing.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:41:46 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	The Windbridge certification would be provide to be an outstanding model for the Spiritualist Churches to follow.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:36:01 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In the down time between questions, I will just post some Windbridge fun facts...
[Nov 23, 2009 5:36:18 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In addition to myself, the Windbridge research group includes Windbridge co-founder (and my husband) Mark Boccuzzi; Adam Rock, PhD; Chad Mosher, PhD; and Mike Biuso.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:37:06 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The three spirals in the Windbridge logo represent mind, body, and spirit.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:38:27 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Perhaps our proudest achievement at Windbridge to date was receiving a research grant from the Bial Foundation for a project titled "Process- and Proof-focused Investigation of Anomalous Information Reception by Mediums: A Two-Part Quantitative Study." The Bial Foundation, associated with a major pharmaceutical company of the same name in Portugal, began offering a biannual grant competition in 1994 for research in parapsychology and psychophysiology. In the past, Bial grants have been awarded to researchers in 22 different countries and at such institutions as Duke, Harvard, and Princeton Universities. Over 200 proposals written by over 600 scientists around the world were submitted, and about 50 awards were granted. Windbridge was fortunate to receive one of them.

[Nov 23, 2009 5:41:41 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Since Windbridge's beginning in January of 2008, we have published peer-reviewed articles in the following journals: Journal of Parapsychology, Journal of Scientific Exploration, Australian Journal of Parapsychology, and Transpersonal Psychology Review.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:43:56 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Julie, regarding the Windbridge certification program (or from your experience in the VERITAS program at Univ. of AZ).. would you be able to give us some sort of percentage as to how many applicants actually pass the testing vs. not?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:46:12 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Joanne, it is about a 75% passing rate. So, about 25% of practicing mediums confident enough in their abilities to be tested in a lab do no better than guessing under conditions in which they do not receive feedback from the sitter.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:47:33 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	More fun facts: This year, I was invited to speak at the Odyssey Hospice, VITAS Hospice, and the San Diego Bereavement Consortium (San Diego, CA; 3/09); the Rhine Research Center (Durham, NC; 5/09) where Mark and I both talked; the Society for Scientific Exploration Meeting (Charlottesville, VA; 5/09); and the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) 13th Annual International Conference (Tucson, AZ; 6/09).
[Nov 23, 2009 5:48:35 PM PST]	sm(C)	What would you recommend for someone who is interested in getting involved in afterlife research?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:53:05 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	First, become familiar with the parapsychological literature. Two, recognize that what is portrayed on television is NOT research. Three, realize that afterlife research is a broad field which includes mediumship, NDEs, reincarnation, etc. and if you are interested in getting involved, having a clear idea of where to focus and the questions you want to answer is critical. And four, resolve to living in poverty. :-)
[Nov 23, 2009 5:54:08 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Awwwww...your last line made me feel sad..:(
[Nov 23, 2009 5:54:19 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	People interested in acting as sitters in our mediumship research should sign up to our email list (if they haven't already) at: http://www.windbridge.org/news.htm#list
[Nov 23, 2009 5:54:26 PM PST]	dmanmom(C)	When looking at Joanne's webpage it says she is a Windbridge Certified Research Medium Level 3.....can you explain what level 3 means?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:55:35 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The WCRMs' levels are based on the time they have spent in research and the number of studies they have participated in. The levels do NOT reflect the mediums' abilities.

[Nov 23, 2009 5:56:03 PM PST]	BonnieVent(C)	How is this research funded?
[Nov 23, 2009 5:57:53 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Because of the controversial nature of this research, we cannot apply for the vast majority of government or private research grants. Therefore, the research is supported by small private grants and the generous support of our donors and members....
[Nov 23, 2009 5:58:44 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	If you are interested in supporting afterlife research at Windbridge, you can: Tell your friends about Windbridge! Join the Windbridge email list: http://www.windbridge.org/news.htm#list Become a member of Windbridge: http://www.windbridge.org/members.htm When you are shopping at Amazon, use the Windbridge store: http://tinyurl.com/WindStore Buy great Windbridge gear: http://www.cafepress.com/windbridge Make a contribution online -- every dollar makes a difference! http://www.windbridge.org/donate.htm Attend a Windbridge event: http://www.windbridge.org/news.htm
[Nov 23, 2009 5:59:09 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Windbridge memberships include (1) discounts on Windbridge events, (2) a subscription to our quarterly, e-newsletter, Winds of Change, and (3) access to the Windbridge online "groupsite" which can be thought of as an invitation-only, more secure, advertisement-free, searchable version of popular social networking sites where Members as well as Windbridge Researchers, Advisors, and Mediums can connect. The groupsite includes: discussion forums (including "Ask a Medium" and "Ask a Researcher"), a photo gallery, Windbridge articles and book reviews, audio interviews, a calendar of events, relevant popular media articles, and members' profiles.
[Nov 23, 2009 5:59:41 PM PST]	Mary(C)	Does Windbridge have a rating for comparative medium accuracy?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:05:41 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Good question. Because mediums vary in accuracy depending on the day, the sitter, the discarnate, the phase of the moon (or not), and many other factors we don't yet understand, we do not have a set bar for what makes a good medium (though there are parameters that a medium must pass in order to become certified by Windbridge). In our research, we compare the average scores sitters give readings intended for them to scores they give reading intended for other sitters without knowing which ones are which.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:06:10 PM PST]	shayd002(C)	How is the scientific community coming around to the concept of "afterlife" ?

[Nov 23, 2009 6:08:34 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In short, not so well. The mainstream scientific community hasn't even let go of their grasp on materialism and still believes consciousness is a product of our biochemistry. Thus, they are far from entertaining the possibility that consciousness can exist outside the body (like during NDEs or out of body experiences) much less that it can exist *without* a body.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:09:26 PM PST]	sm(C)	Thanks for your answer, Dr. Beischel. I'm currently working in social science so am already resigned to poverty (lol). To clarify, I have a BA in psychology from UChicago and live in Oregon, but don't find much here about parapsychology. I'm interested in grad school. Would it be better to look at established Universities or an Institute devoted to parapsychology?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:13:39 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In the US, there are no Universities with graduate degrees in parapsychology. There are a couple in Europe (e.g., the Koestler Parapsychology Unit at the University of Edinburgh). In the US, the closest you may get is a psychology department that may allow you to do a parapsychology project for your thesis or dissertation. You could also look into the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto, CA.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:09:52 PM PST]	Mary(C)	What a shame funding is not allowed by the vast majority of public and private research grants? New ideas 'outside of the box' have traditionally been shunned for being controversial. How can this close-minded attitude toward research be changed?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:16:43 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Physicist Max Plank said "An important scientific innovation rarely makes its way rapidly winning over and converting its opponents; it rarely happens that Saul becomes Paul. What does happen is that its opponents gradually die out and that the growing generation is familiarized with the idea from the beginning." I hope we can hang on for that long!
[Nov 23, 2009 6:17:46 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Me too...:)
[Nov 23, 2009 6:18:19 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	::laugh
[Nov 23, 2009 6:18:28 PM PST]	eesingingal(Q)	Can a spirit be in more than one place at a time?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:18:28 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(A)	The answer to this, through my experience as a medium is YES.

[Nov 23, 2009 6:19:43 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	I would agree with Joanne. When we do study readings, the medium is in one location, I am in another location asking the questions, and the sitter is in another location and doesn't hear the reading at all and the discarnate finds a way to reach all of us.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:18:59 PM PST]	John_Combs(C)	I believe that the Windbridge received a grant from the AAEVP for real time studies. Could you give us some general parameters for the research on this real time study?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:21:27 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	That's right, we received a small grant from AA-EVP to study alleged real-time communication using a specific software program called EVPMaker. That study is complete and we are working on the publication at this time.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:22:26 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	I am looking forward to the publication, Julie...
[Nov 23, 2009 6:22:29 PM PST]	shiningdove(C)	How would a medium go about getting certification? And tested? What is the process?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:25:07 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	At this time, we are screening a number of prospective research mediums and the process is closed to new participants. However, due to the hundreds of mediums who have expressed an interest in being tested, we are developing a separate testing service for mediums. If you would like to be notified when this service becomes available, sign up to our email list at: http://www.windbridge.org/news.htm#list
[Nov 23, 2009 6:26:55 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	In conclusion of tonights Spirit Chat, Is there anything else that you would like to mention to our Spirit Chat community?
[Nov 23, 2009 6:28:07 PM PST]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thank you for having me as a guest! Support independent research! :-) Happy Holidays!
[Nov 23, 2009 6:28:03 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	This has been a wonderful chat, Julie. Thank you so very much for being our special guest for this evening. I look forward to having you back again next year, to update us on your scientific progress :)
[Nov 23, 2009 6:28:50 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	If you would like to receive email notifications regarding upcoming chats and events, be sure to sign up for the newsletter right here on my site.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:29:27 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Also, I now have a NEW fan page on Facebook! Check it out to learn more about where I will be and what I will be doing with my work with Spirit :)

[Nov 23, 2009 6:31:17 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Thank you, agn Julie...It has been a wonderful evening. Please visit www.windbridge.org , and please support afterlife research :)
[Nov 23, 2009 6:32:19 PM PST]	joanne_gerber(P)	Thank you all for joinign Spirit Chat. Good night to all of you, adn may your Holiday Season be filled with love, joy and peace...God Bless each and everyone of you.
[Nov 23, 2009 6:32:29 PM PST]	lynn(C)	TY Julie and Joanne
[Nov 23, 2009 6:32:32 PM PST]	Sandi(C)	Thank you both for doing this
[Nov 23, 2009 6:32:36 PM PST]	Joannie(C)	Thank you both. Very interesting & informative. Happy holidays!
[Nov 23, 2009 6:34:13 PM PST]	sm(C)	Thank you both for your wonderful work