



The following is a transcript of the March 10, 2008, on-line, chat room interview with Dr. Julie Beischel, Director of Research at the Windbridge Institute for Applied Research in Human Potential, on *Spirit Chat* with Joanne Gerber. <http://www.joannegerber.com/>

[Mon Mar 10 17:06:00 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Good evening everyone. Welcome to Spirit Chat! I am pleased and honored to introduce a very special guest tonight. I would like to welcome renowned afterlife researcher Dr. Julie Beischel. I have had the honor to work with Dr. Beischel with the University of Arizona VERTAS mediumship research program, and look forward to participating in the new mediumship research program at Windbridge Institute for Human Potential, under the direction of Dr. Julie Beischel. Please visit the Windbridge website at: <a href="http://www.windbridge.org">www.windbridge.org</a> or email Dr. Beischel at: <a href="mailto:beischel@windbridge.org">beischel@windbridge.org</a> We welcome Dr. Julie Beischel!
[Mon Mar 10 17:06:50 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Hello everyone! Thank you for joining me tonight.
[Mon Mar 10 17:07:25 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Hello Dr. Beischel. Welcome to Spirit Chat.
[Mon Mar 10 17:07:37 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thank you.
[Mon Mar 10 17:07:47 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	It is such an honor to have you offer this chat this evening.
[Mon Mar 10 17:08:01 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	I'm excited to be here.
[Mon Mar 10 17:08:14 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thank you for having me
[Mon Mar 10 17:08:36 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	I would like to ask you some questions about your work as a mediumship researcher.
[Mon Mar 10 17:08:49 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Okay. That would be great.
[Mon Mar 10 17:09:25 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	First, can you please tell us, how you define the word "medium"?
[Mon Mar 10 17:10:32 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	A medium is a person who experiences regular communication with the deceased loved ones (called "discarnates") of living people (called "sitters") during a process called a reading.



[Mon Mar 10 17:13:42 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	How did you get involved in this field?
[Mon Mar 10 17:14:48 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	When I was in graduate school at the University of Arizona, 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.
[Mon Mar 10 17:15:57 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Interesting. It seems that your interest was prompted by a personal experience, as well.
[Mon Mar 10 17:16:49 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Yes, that was what started my interest in the topic. I had never really thought about it before that.
[Mon Mar 10 17:17:01 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	And can you please tell us what is the current status of mediumship research findings?
[Mon Mar 10 17:18:59 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Historically, life after death and mediumship were primary topics of study at the beginning of parapsychology. Then in the 1930s, focus switched to psychic abilities like telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition. In addition, mediums studied in the past were often trance mediums (meaning they were not conscious of and could not remember the readings they provided), so historical studies may not be applicable to modern-day mediums and the processes they (you) use...
[Mon Mar 10 17:19:54 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Also, several authors have commented that historical mediumship research lacked the proper research design, statistical power, and elimination of errors for current researchers to value even "positive" studies...
[Mon Mar 10 17:21:08 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Despite these issues, we can conclude at this time that certain mediums can report accurate and specific information about individual discarnates even without any prior knowledge about the sitters of the discarnates and in the absence of any feedback -- a phenomenon we call "anomalous information reception"...
[Mon Mar 10 17:22:21 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Moreover, we can say that the accuracy of the information cannot be explained as a result of fraud or "cold-reading" (a set of techniques used in which feedback from the sitter is used to fabricate "accurate" readings)...



[Mon Mar 10 17:24:53 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	<p>The source of the information as well as the details of the mediumship process, however, are still not well-understood. We still do not know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-do mediums get their information psychically or are they actually communicating with the deceased?</li> <li>-is a medium's physiology different than a non-mediums'?</li> <li>-does a reading help or hurt the grief recovery process? -can mediumship be taught?</li> <li>-what is the afterlife like?...</li> </ul>
[Mon Mar 10 17:28:05 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	<p>Also, controlled research involving communication with the deceased without the aid of mediums (sorry, Joanne!) is just beginning. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-do measurable changes occur in the environment when a discarnate is present? (Despite what you might have seen on TV, there is no data showing that this is possible.)</li> <li>-Can measurable changes be translated into technologies allowing the deceased to communicate with us?</li> </ul> <p>These are also topics we are interested in. So, there is my very long answer about the current status of mediumship research!</p>
[Mon Mar 10 17:28:49 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Thank you, Julie.
[Mon Mar 10 17:29:28 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Can you tell us what experiences do mediums have that lead them to believe they are communicating with the deceased?
[Mon Mar 10 17:30:43 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	<p>We recently did a study that will be published in an upcoming issue of the peer-reviewed Journal of Scientific Exploration (JSE) in which we asked mediums whose abilities had been tested in the lab "Please describe, in as much detail as possible, how you personally experience receiving communication from a discarnate" and then we looked at their answers for common themes. This is called phenomenological analysis. Phenomenology is the study of "the way things are experienced by the experiencer." Windbridge researcher Adam Rock, PhD, did the analysis of the mediums answers (all the way from Australia!)</p>



[Mon Mar 10 17:33:17 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Dr. Rock found that the mediums most often reported: --experiencing the discarnate in more than one way and that included --seeing images of the discarnate in their mind's eye, --hearing the discarnate speak in their mind's ear, --smelling fragrances associated with the discarnate... *before* their passing --feeling the discarnate's ailments or cause of death --and an alteration in their own emotions based on the emotions of the discarnate.
[Mon Mar 10 17:33:51 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	It is important to note that there are people who experience these things and may even label themselves as mediums and provide readings to paying clients, but who are unable to report accurate or specific information without receiving feedback and information from the sitter.
[Mon Mar 10 17:34:14 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	For example, we have found that of the mediums confident enough in their abilities to sign up to be tested in the laboratory, 25% of them provide information during the readings which isn't any more accurate than guessing.
[Mon Mar 10 17:34:36 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	This is why the testing and certification of mediums that we do at Windbridge is important. On our website, we provide a list of mediums (and their contact information) from all over the country whose abilities have been tested. That way, people have a place to go to find a medium that they know is reputable.
[Mon Mar 10 17:35:26 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	That actually brings up another point too. A lot of people contact us looking for a medium in their area of the country, but we have gathered a lot of evidence supporting the accuracy of telephone readings. In fact, a lot of mediums claim that phone readings may actually be better than in-person readings because they can feel relaxed in their homes (maybe even in their pajamas!) during the readings and they are not distracted by the visual grief of the sitter. A lot of mediums don't even offer in-person readings.
[Mon Mar 10 17:37:43 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	I agree, Julie. I think it is wonderful that this information is available so that the client can make educated decision regarding choosing a medium.



[Mon Mar 10 17:38:20 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	There is no regulation -- anyone can hang a shingle and say they are a medium and charge grieving people for readings.
[Mon Mar 10 17:38:31 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Can you tell us how you screen the mediums?
[Mon Mar 10 17:39:24 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Before participating in research at the Windbridge Institute, each prospective research medium is screened over several months using an intensive 8-step screening and training procedure. Here are the steps we use: Step 1: Written Questionnaire Step 2: Personality/Psychological Tests Step 3: Phone Interview (with a medium) Step 4: Phone Interview (with an investigator) Step 5: Two Blinded Phone Readings Step 6: Mediumship Research Training Step 7: Human Research Subjects Training Step 8: Grief Training
[Mon Mar 10 17:39:57 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Upon successful completion of the eight steps, the medium becomes a Level 1 Windbridge Certified Research Medium (WCRM-1). The mediums' certification levels increase as they participate in additional research studies. I'm happy to report that Joanne is currently a WCRM-2!
[Mon Mar 10 17:40:29 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Each WCRM also agrees to donate a minimum of four hours per month to assist in various aspects of the research, to uphold a code of spiritual ethics, to embrace a strong commitment to the values of scientific mediumship research, and to abide by specific Windbridge standards of conduct.
[Mon Mar 10 17:47:51 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Why is your research important?
[Mon Mar 10 17:49:23 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Buckle up. This will be a long answer... In addition to certifying accurate and reputable mediums, we are also performing research that will help us better understand the process of mediumship. A study we published last year in the peer-reviewed journal EXPLORE: The Journal of Science and Healing provided statistically significant evidence that certain mediums are able to report accurate and specific information about the deceased. But the source of that information is still not understood...



[Mon Mar 10 17:50:30 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Mediums may actually be communicating with the deceased or they may be using some form of telepathy or mind-reading to access the information. In and of themselves, the data (from over a century of research) cannot distinguish among hypotheses such as: 1.the survival of consciousness (i.e., the continued existence, separate from the body, of an individual's consciousness or personality after physical death), 2.super-psi (i.e., the retrieval of information through clairvoyance, precognition, and/or telepathy with the living, also called super-ESP); and 3.the psychic reservoir hypothesis (i.e., that all information since the beginning of time is stored somehow and somewhere in the universe and mediums are accessing that cosmic store rather than communicating with the deceased)...
[Mon Mar 10 17:51:24 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Investigators attempt to "control" for telepathy by keeping the mediums blinded and separated from the sitters and by keeping the experimenter who interacts with the mediums blind to all the details about the sitters and their discarnates, but because the limits of psi (telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition) are unknown, it is not possible to eliminate psi as an explanation for the results.
[Mon Mar 10 17:51:59 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	There are, however, two major types of information that support the survival hypothesis over the super-psi and psychic reservoir explanations: 1. evidential information reported during readings that is consistent with discarnate motivation and intention and 2. the mediums' experiences during the readings.
[Mon Mar 10 17:53:13 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The first type is consistent with survival and may be present in non-research mediumship readings, but is difficult if not impossible to design into laboratory protocols; the information can be observed when it occurs spontaneously, but it cannot be easily, repeatedly, or statistically demonstrated...
[Mon Mar 10 17:54:02 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The second class of data, the experiences of the mediums, also supports the survival hypothesis but, unlike the first class, can be easily and repeatedly investigated in the laboratory using both qualitative and statistically quantitative methods. Unfortunately,



		to the best of my knowledge no such data has been published...
[Mon Mar 10 17:56:05 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	At Windbridge, the investigation of mediums' experiences in order to differentiate between the survival and psi hypotheses—the fundamental question in mediumship research—is a top priority in our planned research. For example, we are halfway through replicating the published EXPLORE study to verify the finding that mediums can report accurate information about deceased people and we are also further examining the mediums' experiences to better understand where the information they report comes from. During one of the interviews that are part of our medium screening process, we asked them “Can you discriminate information received from discarnates versus that received by general psychic reading, telepathy, etc.? How?” 100% of the Windbridge Certified Research Mediums said YES and here are some of the comments they made: “When a spirit is specifically there I can feel them energetically, my body feels them.” “Psychically, I will feel information coming from a person; spiritually, I will feel a presence in the room.”
[Mon Mar 10 17:58:25 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	This is just what's called “anecdotal” evidence – meaning it wasn't collected in a controlled environment – so further study is needed. In science, something hasn't really happened in the world until it is published in a peer-reviewed journal. (And some would say it hasn't happened until it has been replicated in more than one laboratory and published.) Until then, scientists conclude -- rightly so -- that it could be a fluke. Until mediumship can be repeatedly demonstrated in a laboratory setting, “science” will continue to ignore it, and in turn, real world changes (like health insurance companies covering mediumship readings as an established treatment for grief) cannot occur...
[Mon Mar 10 17:59:29 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In addition to the *qualitative* phenomenology study published in JSE that I described above, we have developed two more *quantitative* studies that investigate mediums' experiences using a



		questionnaire called the Phenomenology of Consciousness Inventory (PCI) – one that compares the experience of communicating with a discarnate to “normal waking consciousness” and one that compares discarnate communication with psychic/telepathy readings. Adam and I will be presenting some of the data from the first study in about a week at the Yale Divinity School during the Society for the Anthropology of Consciousness meeting there. (I will also be presenting the data to date from the personality tests that 27 mediums took as part of their screening.)
[Mon Mar 10 18:00:03 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The studies about the mediums’ experiences are important in establishing where the information a medium reports is coming from – is it a dead person or is it dead information? At this time, we are hoping to obtain funding that will support the remaining phases of this crucial study.
[Mon Mar 10 18:00:39 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	How do you fund the research?
[Mon Mar 10 18:01:12 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Due to the controversial nature of survival and mediumship research, we cannot apply for government grants or the vast majority of private grants to support our studies. Therefore, our research is supported entirely by private donors. This was the case even when the research took place at the University.
[Mon Mar 10 18:01:49 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Why did you move the research out of the University?
[Mon Mar 10 18:02:37 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	The University administration and human subjects office were always supportive of our research, but the funding for my position (which was provided for 4 1/2 years solely by one generous individual – no monetary funding was received from the University) ended at the end of December 2007 and the VERITAS Research Program and all mediumship screening and research was closed at that time. In order to continue performing this important work, Mark Boccuzzi and I founded Windbridge...



[Mon Mar 10 18:04:53 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	There are several benefits to being on our own now. Windbridge is an independent organization and so all donation dollars go to research (vs. at larger organizations where up to 40% goes to overhead and months can be spent waiting for protocol approval), we are free to research any topic that we feel is important (vs. being restricted by someone else's idea of what is important or appropriate), and the research can remain focused on investigations that are most applicable to people's daily lives and that can best serve all living things (vs. being limited to the topics government or private granting organizations choose to support). At Windbridge, we are able to make and report important discoveries quickly. We are interested in 1) answering questions that are meaningful to the public vs. meaningful to statisticians or academics and 2) learning about mediumship from the medium's perspective.
[Mon Mar 10 18:06:07 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	How can people support your research?
[Mon Mar 10 18:07:08 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thank you for asking! They can become Members of Windbridge ( <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/members.htm">www.windbridge.org/members.htm</a> ) or make a donation ( <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/donate.htm">www.windbridge.org/donate.htm</a> ) to support research...
[Mon Mar 10 18:07:44 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	One of the major problems throughout the history of parapsychology is that investigators did it "on the side" – they had "real jobs" to pay the bills and performed studies and wrote them up in their limited free time. This is still the case today and tremendously limits the progress that can be made (which in any science is already slow-going)...
[Mon Mar 10 18:08:32 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	At the University, I was one of the only (if not the only) researcher working on mediumship studies full-time – even Dr. Schwartz had numerous other University and research responsibilities and usually could only dedicate a couple hours a week to meeting with me about the research design and progress. We have made a lot of progress in this field so far (with just one donor) and I hope to be able to raise enough to support full-time research so that I do not fall into the same historical "on the side" trap. This research is important (I don't know of a topic that applies to more



		people than what happens when we die) and my intention is to be able to give it the dedication it deserves...
[Mon Mar 10 18:09:11 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Every dollar counts. While we have VERY few overhead costs at Windbridge (since the research takes place over the phone and through the Internet and no physical location is required), I do need to attend academic meetings and receive current issues of journals and those expenses can easily be offset through donations...
[Mon Mar 10 18:09:52 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Of course, we would be more than happy to receive larger gifts that could support entire studies. In those cases, we work with the donor to design protocols that best fit the donor's interests and can name those studies after the donor or in memory of their loved ones who have passed. Please see <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/donate.htm">www.windbridge.org/donate.htm</a> for more information. I think that does it for my shameless begging! Thank you for staying!
[Mon Mar 10 18:09:54 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Can donations be made using paypal at the website: <a href="http://www.windbridge.org">www.windbridge.org</a> ?
[Mon Mar 10 18:11:02 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Yes, they can. There is a donate button at the top of our homepage that will take you to a letter from me. At the bottom of that page is a PayPal link.
[Mon Mar 10 18:11:30 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	That's great, and so easy to do.
[Mon Mar 10 18:11:40 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Yep!
[Mon Mar 10 18:14:04 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Please explain to us how mediumship is studied in the lab.
[Mon Mar 10 18:14:21 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	This will be a long answer too...
[Mon Mar 10 18:14:46 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Ideally, laboratory-based mediumship research includes two equally important factors: 1) methods and protocols that eliminate normal explanations for the information, and 2) a research environment that optimizes the process for both the medium and the hypothesized discarnate...



[Mon Mar 10 18:14:47 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	That's okay...it is all worth the wait :)
[Mon Mar 10 18:15:44 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Great! These two factors maximize the ability of a phenomenon, if it exists, to be seen in a laboratory setting and limit the explanations for positive results. I like to say "You can't study football on a basketball court using baseball players and the rules for hockey."
[Mon Mar 10 18:17:53 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	<p>So the first thing we do is control for any normal explanations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>--We perform readings over the phone and keep the mediums blinded to any information about the sitters to control for fraud. It is hard to claim a medium looked up information about the sitter beforehand when they don't even know the gender of the sitter and only have the first name of the discarnate.</li> <li>--We don't let the sitter and the medium interact during the reading. They are usually in two different cities if not states. That controls for "cold reading".</li> <li>--We keep the experimenter blinded to the sitters' and discarnates' information also. This way the experimenter can't inadvertently give clues to the medium.</li> <li>--We don't let the sitter hear the reading as it takes place. Then during the scoring of the reading for accuracy, the sitter is given two readings to score, one which was intended for them and one which was intended for someone else. This prevents what's called rater bias -- when someone knows a reading was intended for them, they may have a tendency to score it as either more or less accurate than it actually is. By giving them two readings to score, it balances out any biases.</li> <li>--We ask the mediums to answer specific questions about the discarnate during the reading. This prevents readings that are so general that they could apply to anyone...</li> </ul>
[Mon Mar 10 18:18:45 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	<p>And then we make sure the methods aren't so rigorous that they make it impossible to obtain positive results. There was a mediumship study published a few years ago in which the group in England got negative results, but they made the mediums perform five readings in five 1/2 hours and they didn't test to see if</p>



		<p>the mediums were any good beforehand, they just contacted the local Spiritualist church and asked them to send some mediums over. We certify our mediums before they participate in studies to make sure they are capable of providing accurate information. In addition, our studies are designed to keep energy and motivation levels up for both the medium and the hypothesized discarnate...</p>
<p>[Mon Mar 10 18:19:50 PDT 2008]</p>	<p>ANNIE(C)</p>	<p>Wedding Congratulations to you and your husband! I am very impressed with Windbridge Institute and it's findings. Finally, a careful and scientific analysis is in place to support the accuracies of mediumship. Hopefully this will put a stop to charlatans who prey on vulnerable individuals and to the nay sayers that there's validity to this work. Thank you for presenting the information so clearly.</p>
<p>[Mon Mar 10 18:21:29 PDT 2008]</p>	<p>Julie_Beischel(P)</p>	<p>Thanks, Annie! Now this might get complicated... Using the EXPLORE study we published last year as an example, we had 8 mediums and they each did 2 readings for 2 different discarnates. The readings all took place over the phone and only the medium and I were on the phone. I served in place of the actual sitter (as what's called a "proxy"). Neither I nor the medium were given any information about the discarnate or the sitter except for the discarnate's first name. During each reading I asked the medium about the discarnate's physical appearance, personality, favorite hobbies, and cause of death. I also asked the medium if the discarnate had any comments or requests for the absent sitter.</p>
<p>[Mon Mar 10 18:23:04 PDT 2008]</p>	<p>Julie_Beischel(P)</p>	<p>The phone readings were then transcribed and turned into lists of individual items in which all references to the discarnate's name were removed. Each of the absent sitters were given 2 readings to score – one was the reading in which the medium was given the name of the person they lost and the other was a reading in which the medium was given the name of another discarnate – the sitters didn't know which reading was which. During scoring, the sitters gave each of the items in each list an accuracy score and also gave each entire reading a score from 0 to 6 and chose the one they thought was theirs. For that study,</p>



		the sitters gave the readings that were for someone else – even though they didn’t know they weren’t theirs when they scored them – an average score of 1.9 on a scale of 0 to 6 and the readings that were theirs an average of 3.6 which is statistically significantly higher than 1.9. When the sitters were asked to choose which reading they thought was theirs – again, not knowing which was which – they chose their own reading 81% of the time. That is also statistically significant. A reference to the paper can be found on our publications list on the website ( <a href="http://www.windbridge.org">www.windbridge.org</a> ).
[Mon Mar 10 18:23:57 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Please tell us about the kinds of information that you found that mediums report.
[Mon Mar 10 18:24:54 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We have found that mediums most often report 3 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!”) Most statements a medium makes fall into one of those categories. Would you agree, Joanne?
[Mon Mar 10 18:26:17 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Yes, Julie. I do agree. An evidential medium will work to get the most evidential information from the discarnate during a session.
[Mon Mar 10 18:26:58 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	I agree. And an evidential discarnate will help out too!
[Mon Mar 10 18:27:03 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Afterall, it is the medium’s job to prove the continuity of life.
[Mon Mar 10 18:27:41 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	It is what every medium hopes for! :)
[Mon Mar 10 18:28:20 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	And that is totally dependent upon the energy of the communicating spirit and other factors during a session.
[Mon Mar 10 18:28:51 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	You bet. And we try to take all of those factors into account when we design a study.
[Mon Mar 10 18:29:42 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Have you found in your research, that many mediums tend to report information about deceased animals?



[Mon Mar 10 18:30:27 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Yes, mediums regularly report identifying information about deceased companion animals and experience the animals as being “with” the discarnate humans. This is very interesting (and comforting for those of us with animal loved ones) and it really contributes to our understanding of consciousness.
[Mon Mar 10 18:31:29 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	And, speaking from my own personal experiences, can be as healing hearing from our pets as it is from our loved ones.
[Mon Mar 10 18:32:18 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	What effects could your research have?
[Mon Mar 10 18:32:58 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Wow. If scientific evidence for the survival of consciousness (life after death) can be found, we could see numerous beneficial social effects: --It may alleviate the common fears and anxiety surrounding death. This would be tremendously helpful for hospice patients and their families...
[Mon Mar 10 18:33:26 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	--We may be able to use mediumship readings in grief recovery therapy. Readings can have an incredible effect on the sitter...
[Mon Mar 10 18:33:54 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	--Evidence for survival may revolutionize healthcare. If doctors stop considering death as a failure and rather as a natural transition, we may be able to train patients about death just like we train expectant mothers about birth...
[Mon Mar 10 18:34:14 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	--Law enforcement agencies may begin to regularly and openly use mediums to find missing persons and solve crimes...
[Mon Mar 10 18:34:51 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	--The results of the research will help us better understand the nature of consciousness and its relationship to the physical brain. What is consciousness? Can it exist without a brain?...
[Mon Mar 10 18:35:13 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We should note that there may also be negative consequences, such as increased suicide rates, that could occur as a result of evidence for survival of consciousness.
[Mon Mar 10 18:35:25 PDT 2008]	doe(Q)	Thank you for your "chat" this evening Dr. Beischel. The information you've shared with us tonight is fascinating and I wish you only the best as you continue this important research. I've had several readings with reputable mediums, Joanne being one of



		them. I did my homework and researched each medium beforehand. Receiving specific messages, love and validations from a deceased loved one through a medium, as well as the comfort that comes with knowing that the one you love is free of pain, surrounded by complete love and light is absolutely priceless and indeed, does help the grief recovery process...thanks Joanne!
[Mon Mar 10 18:35:25 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(A)	Thank you for sharing your thoughts, Doe :)
[Mon Mar 10 18:36:30 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	How can a medium sign up to be tested?
[Mon Mar 10 18:37:04 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	At this time, we are screening a large number of research mediums and are not accepting new participants. If people are interesting in being contacted if and when recruitment re-opens, they can join our email list at <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/mediums.htm">www.windbridge.org/mediums.htm</a>
[Mon Mar 10 18:37:34 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	How can sitters sign up to participate in experiments?
[Mon Mar 10 18:38:05 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Unfortunately, we are not accepting new sitter participants at this time. But we plan to use an online sitter screening questionnaire in the future. To be notified about sitter recruitment, people can join our News and Updates email list: <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/news.htm">www.windbridge.org/news.htm</a>
[Mon Mar 10 18:38:13 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Are you participating in any upcoming events?
[Mon Mar 10 18:38:54 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We have 2 events with different mediums tentatively scheduled in May (one in Phoenix, AZ and one in Tucson, AZ). People can check back to our News page or join our News and Updates list to get more details as they become available: <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/news.htm">www.windbridge.org/news.htm</a> Also, I am available to travel for speaking engagements. I can be contacted at <a href="mailto:beischel@windbridge.org">beischel@windbridge.org</a>
[Mon Mar 10 18:39:11 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Does Windbridge study other topics besides mediumship?
[Mon Mar 10 18:39:46 PDT 2008]	ANNIE(C)	Thank you for your response. I look forward to exploring your website.



[Mon Mar 10 18:40:05 PDT 2008]	suezqq1(C)	Thank you also, because I have been previously scammed by psychics on the internet, which makes it very impossible to have faith
[Mon Mar 10 18:40:24 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We are also interested in other forms of interaction with the deceased, for example, using technology and environmental monitors. And in general, we are interested in answering questions about the potential that exists within our bodies, minds, and spirits. Specifically, we are investigating: --how we can heal ourselves and each other, --how we can affect events and physical reality with our thoughts, and --how we are connected to each other, the planet, and other living things.
[Mon Mar 10 18:41:55 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	This has been so wonderful and so informative. We are running close to the end of our chat, but Dr. Beischel will be happy to now answer any questions you may have.
[Mon Mar 10 18:43:31 PDT 2008]	deetez02(C)	You said that little is known about physiological changes to mediums; have you done any research to measure physiological phenomena such as an MRI during readings, etc.?
[Mon Mar 10 18:44:37 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	I would love to do physiology studies, but that requires A LOT of funding to use the machines and a researcher with access to them to want to work with us.
[Mon Mar 10 18:45:43 PDT 2008]	davidj(C)	You are presenting a paper this month that has to do with personality characteristics of mediums. Can you tell us any results of that analysis?
[Mon Mar 10 18:47:20 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	In brief, we have found that mediums tend to score low in neuroticism, high in agreeableness, and very high in openness to experiences. They also tend to be high in absorption and to be categorized as "NFs" (Intuition and Feeling) using the Myers-Briggs type indicator.
[Mon Mar 10 18:47:32 PDT 2008]	rankino1(C)	I am VERY IMPRESSED with everything you have presented!
[Mon Mar 10 18:47:53 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thank you very much!



[Mon Mar 10 18:47:59 PDT 2008]	stargazer(C)	As a researcher at a university with many publishing demands, I'm sure...do you publish in peer-reviewed journals? If so, please give examples. I'd love to read some of your research.
[Mon Mar 10 18:48:51 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Yes. All of our peer-reviewed publications are available at <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/publications.htm">www.windbridge.org/publications.htm</a>
[Mon Mar 10 18:51:10 PDT 2008]	suzanna(C)	Is there a list of psychics certified by your program?
[Mon Mar 10 18:51:45 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	A list of Windbridge Certified Research Mediums can be found at <a href="http://www.windbridge.org/mediums.htm">www.windbridge.org/mediums.htm</a>
[Mon Mar 10 18:53:04 PDT 2008]	gay(C)	what statistical tests do you run?
[Mon Mar 10 18:55:50 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	To name a few, we run paired t-tests to compare control and intended reading scores, p-rep to look at replicability, effect size for studies with small samples, binomial probabilities to look at sitters' choices between 2 readings, and correlation stats to look at the relationship between things like personality test scores and accuracy rates.
[Mon Mar 10 18:56:16 PDT 2008]	leefry(C)	Is it better to keep silent when you are a sitter, or should questions be asked of the medium?
[Mon Mar 10 18:56:52 PDT 2008]	sushi(C)	I loved the chat tonight. Thank you for sharing your knowledge with us. I hope you'll return again and update us on your research.
[Mon Mar 10 18:58:25 PDT 2008]	CaroleC(C)	Joanne and Julie, thank you so much for a very interesting, informative evening.
[Mon Mar 10 18:58:27 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	It is usually best to keep as quiet as possible but to provide the information the medium asks for. Just remember what you provided. Some people are really good at changing something you said and making it sound like unique information.
[Mon Mar 10 18:58:53 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	My expression is "less is more."
[Mon Mar 10 18:59:08 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	On the part of the sitter?
[Mon Mar 10 18:59:53 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thank you all so much for chatting with me. I had a great time. And thank you, Joanne, for having me.
[Mon Mar 10 19:00:10 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Yes. It is always best for the medium to bring forth the information, letting the spirit communicator provide first, and then if the sitter wants to validate....



[Mon Mar 10 19:01:04 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	So that the mediums mind does not interfere, and analyze or conclude.
[Mon Mar 10 19:02:03 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	I find it to be most validating when the medium does not quite understand images or words, names, etc. as received from the spirit communicator, but the sitter can completely understand.
[Mon Mar 10 19:02:44 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	I agree.
[Mon Mar 10 19:05:44 PDT 2008]	clb(C)	How much time needs to pass between readings and why?
[Mon Mar 10 19:06:02 PDT 2008]	Pansy(C)	Thank you Julie and Joanne. This is very interesting. I, too, would love to hear more from you as things progress.
[Mon Mar 10 19:08:24 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	We don't use sitters who have been grieving less than a year because the research environment is not always conducive to healing. I have also heard mediums use one year as a rule for between readings. I would caution people from becoming medium junkies. It takes time to process the information a discarnate provides and learn to see the ways in which they communicate with you.
[Mon Mar 10 19:09:41 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Julie, I can agree with that. When a client presents that question to me, my reply is once to twice a year.
[Mon Mar 10 19:10:32 PDT 2008]	crystalholmen(C)	Do you find in the research that it matters how long a discarnate has been dead?
[Mon Mar 10 19:10:41 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	We have to remember that a reading can help to heal, but ultimately it is through our own experiences through which we are able to heal and move forward.
[Mon Mar 10 19:11:36 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Thank you Dr. Beischel for spending the extra time with us this evening. It is greatly appreciated.
[Mon Mar 10 19:11:39 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	How long a person has been dead is not a factor that we have looked at specifically. It is, however, on the LONG list of things we'd like to investigate.
[Mon Mar 10 19:12:11 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	No worries, Joanne. Thank you for having me.
[Mon Mar 10 19:13:25 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	From a medium's point of view, There seems to be little relevance, except in some cases where the reading takes place is immediately after a passing.



[Mon Mar 10 19:14:52 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	I want to thank Dr. Beischel for joining us this evening. This has been a most wonderful evening, and I do look forward having her back again!
[Mon Mar 10 19:15:15 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Please remember to visit <a href="http://www.windbridge.org">www.windbridge.org</a>
[Mon Mar 10 19:15:40 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	And, if you would like to contribute, your donations would be greatly appreciated :)
[Mon Mar 10 19:16:06 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Thank you all for coming. May God bless each and every one of you!
[Mon Mar 10 19:16:18 PDT 2008]	Julie_Beischel(P)	Thanks, everyone. Good night!
[Mon Mar 10 19:16:39 PDT 2008]	joanne_gerber(P)	Good night!