

# Quantum Mechanics and "Spooky Action at a Distance" Prof. Allen Stairs

Einstein and Schrödinger both worried that quantum mechanics posits "spooky action at a distance." This was Einstein's phrase, and it referred to the fact that quantum mechanics seems to allow that what an experimenter does in one location can instantaneously affect things elsewhere. While Einstein and Schrödinger found this worrisome, others (mostly non-scientists) have embraced the idea, seeing it as evidence for some sort of hyper-connected reality. This talk will look at the underlying theoretical and experimental situation. We'll examine the notion of "quantum entanglement" and ask whether it's as spooky as it's sometimes cracked up to be.

**Allen Stairs** is a member of the Philosophy Department at the University of Maryland, where he is associate chair. His research centers on issues in the foundations of quantum mechanics.

**Saturday, May 8, 2010  
1:30 pm**

Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd.,  
Bethesda, Maryland  
Near Bethesda metro

**FREE admission – Everyone welcome,  
members and non-members**

For more information, call the 24-hour NCAS  
Skeptic Line recording at 301-587-3827.  
[ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)  
[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)



**National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**  
20/20 SINCE 1987

## Drinking Skeptically

On Wednesday, May 12, come to Jackie's new Sidebar at 8081 Georgia Avenue (entrance on Sligo Avenue) in Silver Spring, MD, at 7:00 p.m. to join fellow NCASers for the next DC-area *Drinking Skeptically* event. *Drinking Skeptically* is an informal social event designed to promote fellowship and networking among skeptics, critical-thinkers, and like-minded individuals. There's no cover charge and all are welcome.


Don't drink? Don't let that stop you from joining us! Some of the world's most famous skeptics are teetotalers, and we are happy to have you!

[ncas.org/ds-ncas.html](http://ncas.org/ds-ncas.html)

[www.jackiesrestaurant.com](http://www.jackiesrestaurant.com)

[www.drinkingskeptically.org](http://www.drinkingskeptically.org)


The new Sidebar connects to the restaurant and lounge where we previously met, but is a new space of its own. It will have its own limited menu, although you can always dine next door at the restaurant. (January's *Washingtonian* magazine rated Jackie's #82 of all DC-area restaurants.)

Remember that drinking skeptically means drinking responsibly. If there's one thing science has taught us, it's the effects of alcohol on the human body. 



## Erratum

Due to a printing error, the following lines were omitted from the April *Shadow of a Doubt*:  
"Based on 'emanations' Hurkos received during a visit

to the site where some of the victims' bodies had been found, he advised authorities to search for a man whose business was 'either junk or garbage.' Police then arrested trash collector John Tarmon, but were unable to obtain any evidence linking him to the crime." The full text is available at [ncas.org/pdf/2010-Apr-Shadow.pdf](http://ncas.org/pdf/2010-Apr-Shadow.pdf). 

## Library of Congress' "Music and the Brain"

The Library of Congress' "Music and the Brain" events offer lectures, conversations, and symposia about the explosion of new research at the intersection of cognitive neuroscience and music. This is the second year of the series which comprises a monthly lecture usually complemented by a concert (Admission to these lectures is free, but tickets are required for the concerts that follow.). Last year's series is available as podcasts at: <http://www.loc.gov/podcasts/musicandthe-brain/index.html>

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2010 at 6:15pm (no concert this time): "Wellness and Growth: Acoustic Medicine and Music Therapy," Dr. Jayne Standley, Director of the Music Therapy Program, Florida State University and Dr. Vera Brandes, Director, Research Program Music Medicine, Paracelsus Medical Private University, Salzburg

Lecture takes place in the Whittall Pavilion, adjacent to the Coolidge Auditorium in the Library's Jefferson Building, 1st Street SE, between Independence Avenue and East Capitol Street, Washington, DC. 