

# Veritas Vioxx: Looking at Junk Science & Junk Justice

Rescheduled  
from last May

## Roberta Shaffer

Roberta Shaffer will look at recent examples of the use of scientific evidence/expert testimony in American courtrooms. As more of our litigation involves questions of science, what standards are our judges using? How have these standards evolved over the years? Does junk science necessarily lead to junk justice?

In August 2005, Roberta I. Shaffer became the Executive Director of FLICC/FEDLINK. Before assuming this post, Shaffer was the Director of External Relations and Program Development at the College of Information Studies, University of Maryland—College Park. She taught courses on information use and users, legal information, management, and strategic planning.

Shaffer received a bachelor's degree in Political Science with a concentration in

demography from Vassar College; her law degree is from Tulane; and her master's in librarianship from Emory. She is admitted to the District of Columbia, Texas and United States Supreme Court bars.

2:30 - 4 pm, Saturday,  
September 9, 2006

NEW LOCATION:  
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library  
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA  
22043-2099

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)



**National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series**

20/20 SINCE 1987

### NCAS Celebrates 20 Years

To begin our year-long celebration of NCAS's 20th anniversary, everyone who attends the September 9 lecture will be given a free reproduction of the first NCAS newsletter (vol. 1, no. 1), from the time when the *Skeptical Eye* was but a gleam.



# Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

SEPTEMBER  
2006

## NCAS Board Notes:

### Local Michael Shermer Talk

NCAS is hosting Michael Shermer, executive director of the Skeptic Society, in a local author talk and book signing by him as part of a national tour promoting his latest book, *Why Darwin Matters: The Case Against Intelligent Design*. We invited Alliance for Science ([www.allianceforscience.org](http://www.allianceforscience.org)) to co-sponsor the event with us on October 12, 7:00 to 9:30 pm at Oakton High School, Vienna, VA. At that event, NCAS will present Dr. Shermer with NCAS's first annual Philip J. Klass Award for Outstanding Contributions in Promoting Critical Thinking and Scientific Understanding. Details about that NCAS event and Shermer's other author talks on October 12 at the Cato Institute in D.C., and others to be determined, will be posted on [www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org) and in the next *Shadow of a Doubt*.

### New NCAS Web Site

The newly redesigned NCAS web site is now active on a new web host at [www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org).

### New Spam-free NCAS Share Email Exchange List

NCAS members may subscribe to the low-volume, members-only, spam-free *NCAS SHARE* email exchange mail list at [www.ncas.org/emailssubscribe.html](http://www.ncas.org/emailssubscribe.html). On that same page, anyone may subscribe to receive the monthly NCAS *Shadow of a Doubt* free by email, as well as other, occasional announcements from NCAS.

### Monthly Meeting Times and Places

The Board has decided to resume holding monthly NCAS events in Virginia as well as Maryland, true

to the "Capital Area" part of our name and mission. In the coming 2006-2007 lecture season, talks will be held at the Tysons-Pimmit Library in Virginia from 2:30 to 4:45 pm on September 9, November 11, December 9, and February 10 (2007). Dates for NCAS talks at the Bethesda Library in 2007 are January 13, March 10, April 14, and May 12 from 2 to 4:30 pm. ☒

## New Board Members Elected

Two new board members were elected in the recent voting: **Bing Garthright** and **Ron Levin**. Re-elected and incumbent board members are: Chip Denman, Sharlene Deskins, Herb M. Federhen, Jim Giglio, Neil Inglis, Curtis Haymore, Brian Morton, Eugene W. Ossa, Walter F. Rowe, and Jamy Ian Swiss. Officers are: Gary Stone, president; Scott Snell, vice president; Marv Zelkowitz, secretary; and Grace Denman, treasurer. ☒

## NCAS 20th Anniversary

Join us in celebrating the National Capital Area Skeptics' 20th birthday. We will look back at our achievements since NCAS was founded on March 29, 1987, and look forward to plans to promote critical thinking and scientific understanding. On the members-only email list, we will exchange our past experiences as skeptics and NCAS members, and will have focused discussions on how NCAS can best achieve its goals in the future.

Free reproduction issues of the first *Skeptical Eye* newsletter (vol. 1, no. 1), will be given away at the September 9 lecture. ☒

NCAS...for good reason

