

# Objectivism & Skepticism: A Good Match?

## Edward Hudgins, Ph.D.

Edward Hudgins will show how Objectivism is founded on rational principles recognized by Skeptics. The Objectivist philosophy complements Skepticism by offering those who value reason, science and freedom a complete and coherent morality of rational, responsible self-interested individualism -- from which overall societal good emerges inherently. Hudgins will explain how self-interest is essential for a rational culture fit for humans at their best -- a society that avoids pre-modern mysticism and post-modern relativism and rejection of reality. He will also address misconceptions about the Objectivist philosophy, including the concern of some that Objectivism is a cult.

Dr. Hudgins is executive director of The Objectivist Center and its Atlas Society. He was editor of *Regulation* magazine and director of regulatory studies at the Cato Institute, where he pushed books on trade, the Postal Service and space policy. He also

worked for the Joint Economic Committee of Congress and was director of the Center for International Economic Growth at the Heritage Foundation. Hudgins has a BA in government and politics from the University of Maryland, an MA in political theory and history from American University and a Ph.D. in political philosophy and international relations at Catholic University of America.

2:30 - 4:30 pm,  
Saturday, Nov 11, 2006

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**

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# Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

NOVEMBER  
2006

## Smithsonian Resident Associates Program Presents:

*The Creative Brain: The Science of Genius*  
Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Shakespeare's tragic plays, Mozart's sublime symphonies, Einstein's revolutionary theories—how did these geniuses create such magnificent and highly original works? Drawing on neuroscience and citing first-person accounts of famed figures associated with creative breakthroughs, brain scientist Nancy Andreasen examines the sources of extraordinary creativity.

Andreasen holds the Andrew H. Woods Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Clinton in 2000.

*FBI Code Breakers vs. Criminal Code Makers*  
Saturday, December 2, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This fast-paced seminar offers a 1-day behind-the-scenes peek at the ongoing high-stakes battle of wits between criminal code makers and FBI code breakers. It begins by submerging the class into the mysterious world of criminal codes. Next, they study ciphers from high profile court cases over the last 3 years. The final portion involves learning the tools of the trade the FBI uses to break codes and ciphers. Participants test their skills on actual criminal ciphers.

Instructor Daniel Olson is the unit chief of the FBI Laboratory Division's Cryptanalysis and Racketeering Records Unit in Quantico, Virginia.

**Location for both programs:** S. Dillon Ripley Education Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr., SW, Washington, DC.

**Telephone:** 202-252-0012 **Website:** <http://residentassociates.org/start.asp> **Cost:** Call for prices. ☒

## NCAS Board Notes

On October 1, 2006, the NCAS Board held a day-long strategy session, to review the past 20 years and plan for the future, taking into consideration the recent NCAS member survey.

We reaffirmed the *meaning and importance* of the *NCAS Purpose*:

### *Purpose:*

- Promote critical thinking and scientific understanding
- Serve as an information resource on extraordinary claims
- Provide extraordinary evidence that skeptics are cool

### *Importance:*

- Show that, properly applied, skepticism improves the human condition.

We established and prioritized *four main goals* to accomplish *NCAS's Purpose*:

- Expand and prioritize the demographic groups reached by NCAS
- Increase community and networking among NCAS members
- Increase collaboration between NCAS and external organizations
- Expand and prioritize the topics addressed by NCAS relevant to our purpose.

We are considering all NCAS activities in light of these goals, and how to measure progress objectively, and will seek suggestions from NCAS members for activities that will promote these goals. More about these NCAS goals will be in the next *Skeptical Eye*. ☒