

# Announcements

IRAS  
The Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

**Purpose**—IRAS is an independent society of scientists, philosophers, religion scholars, theologians, and others who want to understand the role of religion in our dynamic scientific world.

**Activities**—each year IRAS holds a week-long conference on Star Island, ten miles off the coast of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Topics are selected to be relevant to current scientific thinking and to fundamental religious questions. (IRAS members pay a reduced rate for conference registration.)

IRAS organizes events at the annual meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). IRAS has sponsored more than two hundred fifty meetings at universities, colleges, and theological schools.

**Publications**—*Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* and *IRAS Newsletter*. IRAS members receive subscriptions to these publications free of additional charge.

**Special Relationships**—Affiliated Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Member, Council of Societies for the Study of Religion (CSSR).

## Membership Dues

\$60.00 Individual Member

\$65.00 Joint Member (two memberships but one set of publications)

\$40.00 Student Member (requires copy of student ID)

\$110.00 Institutional Member (supports IRAS's work: \$54.00 is tax deductible)

Overseas members are assessed a surcharge to cover mailing costs.

**Invitation to Join**—If you are in accord with the purposes of IRAS and would like to become a member, please submit an application to the IRAS Council, which reviews and votes on applications at biannual meetings in February and July. For an application write to:

Nancy Anschutz, 26 Turning Mill Road, Lexington, MA 02173

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## Institute on Religion in an Age of Science

The Forty-Seventh Annual Star Island Conference  
Saturday, July 29, to Saturday, August 5, 2000

### Nurturing Human Nature

Children are our most tangible hope for the future. Extensive scientific evidence indicates that nurturing environments are crucial for the development of healthy adults. However, what constitutes a nurturing environment can vary among societies and even from one family to the next. Given the anticipated worldwide changes in the physical and social environments as we enter the new millennium, there is a critical need to sort out the roles and responsibilities of the scientific, religious, and secular communities in providing adequate nurturance for our children. This conference will bring together the collective expertise and experience of a variety of sciences, religions, and cultures to explore this topic and attempt to provide new levels of integration by focusing on the following series of questions.

- To what extent are there universals of child development?
- What do cross-cultural comparisons of child-rearing teach us about nurturing environments?
- What do the bio-psycho-social sciences tell us about child temperament? What role do differences in temperament play in the interaction between parents and children in the process of creating a more nurturing environment?
- What do we know about how to recognize and help children with special needs and disabilities? What happens to a child whose specialized needs are not met? How can the process of helping these children nourish and enrich our lives?
- How can we identify and help those parents who, for a variety of socioeconomic and psycho-social reasons, cannot provide nurturing environments for their children?
- Can damage to the development of attachment due to childhood trauma or loss of a parent be reversed? If so, how and when?
- How have religious communities contributed traditionally to the development of children? How is that role changing?
- How can we encourage the scientific and religious communities to work collaboratively to create better environments for nurturing all the world's children?

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS: **Sharon Stein McNamara**, psychologist, **William Falla**, minister, and **Solomon Katz**, anthropologist.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS TO DATE: **Terrence Deacon**, evolutionary biology & neurobiology, Boston University & Harvard Medical School; **Don Browning**, theology and psychology, University of Chicago Divinity School; **John Fryer**, psychiatry, Temple University; **Diane Baker**, attorney; **Rita Nakashima Brock**, theology, Director, Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College; and **Colwyn Trevarthen**, child psychology & psychobiology, University of Edinburgh.

PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH: There will be a professionally designed and led program for children and youth, ages 3–17.

COST: Conference fees are \$100/person including children's program, maximum/family \$500. Children under 3 are free, but parents are responsible for their care at all times. Room and board are payable on the island and range from \$320 to \$385 per adult and from \$65 to \$245 per child.

For further information and registration, contact:  
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Telephone (610) 432-8711