

SPOTLIGHT ON “HIDDEN PHYSICISTS”

NINA P. AZARI, PSYCHOLOGY
DEPT., UNIV. OF HAWAII AT
HILO, HI

“Dr. Nina P. Azari earned her *first* PhD degree in human cognitive experimental psychology, and completed several years of postdoctoral training and research in human brain imaging at the National Institutes of Health. More recently she also has completed a *second* PhD in Religious & Theological Studies, the dissertation for which was on philosophical-theological implications of neuroscientific study of religious experience—most specifically her own collaborative work on the subject (a brain imaging study of a Christian religious experience). Consequent to being awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, Dr. Azari initiated an international collaboration with the departments of Neurology and Philosophy at the University of Dusseldorf in Germany, a collaboration that she has maintained and further developed over the past 10 years. Since 2004, Dr. Azari has been Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Hawaii-Hilo, HI, USA.”

ELLY BROSIUS, NOVA CFS/FMS
SUPPORT GROUP, VIRGINIA

“For two years after graduate school, I worked as a physicist in underwater acoustics. Now, I facilitate three support groups involving Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Fibromyalgia, Mitral Valve Prolapse Syndrome/Dysautonomia and Postural Tachycardia. I made the transition kicking and screaming, forced by my own failing health. My training helped me to better understand medical research and to design experiments for evaluating my treatment successes. I broke down complex phenomena for myself and others, making it easier for us to cope with prolonged illness. Being exposed early to science’s shortcomings moved me faster than most past the unrealistic expectation that a magic pill would be discovered at any moment. The pill hasn’t been discovered,

but I did find something magical. I am deeply fulfilled in my new role in service to the exhausted who are in pain and panic. I refer to classical and quantum physics daily for my own personal evolution and to engage others in conversations about energy, body physics and chemistry, and non-physical mysteries for healing the mind/body/spirit.”

HERBERT W. GREYDANUS,
BOOKMAN-EDMONSTON, DIV. OF
GEI CONSULTANTS, CA

“BS Engineering Physics, Univ. of Redlands, 1948; MS Civil Engineering, Stanford Univ., 1950. Four years with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 25 years with the California State Department of Water Resources; 26 years with Bookman-Edmonston, all in water resources planning and development.”

MELISSA LEWIS, MATH TEACHER,
DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL, TX

“I graduated from Seattle University with a BS in Physics and a BA in Mathematics. My goal had been to attain a PhD in Nuclear Physics, but as the cold war ended I was afraid I would be jobless by the time I got that far. I then accepted a position as a Materials Engineer for The Boeing Company and loved learning about Metallurgy. I worked there for two years using x-ray spectrometers and electron analysis equipment. I then moved on to the Los Alamos National Laboratory as a graduate Research Assistant in metallurgy. A short year later I found myself moving to rural Texas where there was no call for a Metallurgist. I decided to get a Teaching Certificate and teach at the secondary level. I have now been teaching math and science for 10 years.

“In 2003, I applied to become an Educator Astronaut. Although I was not chosen as one of the final three Astronaut Candidates, I was one of the top 197 applicants by creating a group called the Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers (NEAT) program. As a member of the

NEAT program, I integrate NASA’s objectives into my curriculum. I also present NASA’s objectives to other teachers, schools and community organizations. A wonderful benefit to being a member of the NEAT program is that I have had the opportunity to visit Space Camp, the Kansas Cosmosphere, and the Kennedy Space Center for behind-the-scenes tours.

“Every day in my classroom I look forward to inspiring the next generation of explorers.”

GEORGE SANDERSON, SR.
RESEARCH SECTION HEAD,
UNISYS, NEW YORK (RETIRED)

“Tracking hidden physicists is an interesting project. In my case, the facts are simple enough. I had a BS and MS in Electrical Engineering from Worcester, MA (‘52, ‘54), and was working at Sperry Gyroscope Co. on Long Island, NY. I noticed that Adelphi College (now University) was giving a course on Solid State Theory. This seemed as though it would be a good thing to know, so I signed up to take it, but discovered that there were required preliminary courses for the solid state course. However, they looked interesting in themselves, so I started working my way through them. As I was taking the last required course, Quantum Electrodynamics I believe, the instructor, a Dr. Linnquist, an old acquaintance from Worcester, remarked that I only had two courses left before I got my degree (MS Physics). What degree, I brilliantly remarked. So he told me off for my short-sighted attitude, and convinced me to take the remaining courses. Thus I got the MS Physics, essentially by mistake. By the way, I never took the solid state theory course. My current interests are in particle physics and Cosmology, as they seem rather related. This, of course, is just a ‘hobby’.

“Still, a knowledge of the physics basics has been helpful in my work—Digital systems design/Design automation software and systems.” ♦