



Welcome to the New and Improved ISAS Forum:

Thank you for your patience. Welcome to our first newsletter.

Over the past several months, we have updated the website, with the assistance of Ivan Jungé of Bison Design Group, and added some significant new content. In the next few days I will also be issuing personal invitations to a number of potentially interested individuals, with the goal of adding new subscribers and increasing participation in the Forum.

Please take a few minutes to review the Forum and its new features, and join in the conversation. The Forum includes the more extended Discussion articles with which you are familiar, but now also contains a News and Announcement feature for shorter and more timely material.

You may want to start at the revised ISAS Forum **Welcome** post.

Thanks for your interest and participation.

-George Gantz

New Discussions:

[The Puzzle of Entropy in Physics and Intelligence](#)

May 9th, 2013

Entropy, the measurement of disorder in a physical system, is one of the most profound puzzles in physics. The Second Law of Thermodynamics, formulated in the 19th century, states that entropy always increases as physical systems naturally progress from order to disorder. However, modern physics has never been able to explain why the universe has this directionality. While we intuitively understand the “arrow of time,” it is absent in the

News and Announcements:

[In the Image of God ...](#)

May 8th, 2013

The account in Genesis 1:27 – “So God created mankind in his own image.” – is one of the most cherished concepts in the Judeo-Christian religious traditions. It has been one of the most common points of attack for critics, as well, for being anthropocentric (arrogantly putting humanity at the center of the universe) and anthropomorphic (attributing human qualities to something which arguably must be far beyond human). One of the

formulations of classical and quantum physics. In recent decades, the concept of entropy and its related mathematics has also found applications in information theory. A recent study has linked entropy with the emergence of intelligence. Why is there such an unusual connection?

[Science and Theology – Super Cooperators](#)

April 11th, 2013

Two great scientific minds spoke at the plenary session of the Templeton Foundation's 2012 Science and Religion Dialogue (<http://www.science-religion-dialogue.com>) at Heidelberg University on October 25, 2012: Martin Nowak and John Polkinghorne. Both offered a hopeful and encouraging view of the cooperative possibilities between science and theology.

[E.O. Wilson – The Social Conquest of Earth](#)

November 4th, 2012

The Social Conquest of Earth (2012) by preeminent entomologist Edward O. Wilson is a marvelous and deep work by a master scientist and storyteller that documents the evolution and advancement of humankind through the intertwined processes of individual and group selection. However, for me the work is marred by a dogmatic anti-religious bias that belies Wilson's own commitment to dispassionate inquiry. Wilson moreover fails to acknowledge the hard limits to scientific knowledge and understanding – limits that can only be crossed by transcendent forms of understanding which empirical study cannot provide.

[More Discussions →](#)

problems may be due to the tendency we have to confuse form with purpose.

[Why Do Children Believe in God?](#)

April 17th, 2013

April 17, 2013. Justin Barrett posed an interesting hypothesis in the Templeton Foundations "Big Questions Online" forum in March 2013 – that children are born with a propensity to believe in a transcendent intentional being (God).

[Science and Religion Should Enlighten Each Other](#)

April 11th, 2013

April 11, 2013: We recently had dinner with a friend who mentioned that he had met a child of Professor Charles Townes. Professor Townes is now in his nineties. Remarkably, he is the only scientist to receive both a Nobel Prize (Physics-1964) and the Templeton Prize (2005).

[Life Beyond Death](#)

April 11th, 2013

March 22, 2013: I recently had the privilege of hearing Dr. Eben Alexander speak about his experiences, which he recounts in his NYTimes Best Seller, Proof of Heaven. I was profoundly moved.

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