

For Immediate Release

**Leading Authority on Noetic Sciences
Hails Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* as Eye-Opening
for Mainstream Audiences**

Institute launches teleseminar series on Noetic Science: A field guide to understanding the science behind the novel's clues

Petaluma, Calif., September 29, 2009 – Author Dan Brown may have had the Vatican fuming over *The Da Vinci Code*, but his newest book, *The Lost Symbol*, is being welcomed by one of the world's leading authorities on Noetic Sciences, who also happens to head the [Institute of Noetic Sciences](#) – identified by Brown as one of the real organizations in the novel that actually exist.

To field the overwhelming number of requests by *The Lost Symbol* readers for information about Noetic Sciences, the Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS) announced it will launch a teleseminar series on the subject in October.

"We are immensely grateful to Mr. Brown for virtually catapulting the little-known field of Noetic Sciences into mainstream conversation surrounding his book," said CEO of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, [Dr. Marilyn Mandala Schlitz](#), who coincidentally shares striking similarities with the book's heroine, "Katherine Solomon," also a noetic scientist. "Suddenly we've been flooded by requests to know just what this 'frontier science' is all about," she added.

Brown's novel, which sold two million copies of the English language edition in its first two weeks of release, features the fictional, mystery-solving Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, with the story taking place over a 12-hour period in Washington. Unbeknownst to booksellers, the media, or fans waiting on the edge of their seats for it to hit on September 15, Brown employs the theme of *noetic science* to untangle the web of clues that resolve the conflict between good and evil.

The Institute of Noetic Science has been applying the lens of science to the multidisciplinary study of the mysteries of consciousness since the early 70s, when IONS was founded by Apollo 14 astronaut Edgar Mitchell – the sixth man to walk on the moon. The Institute conducts evidence-based research, publishes papers in peer-reviewed journals, and offers books, videos, and educational

resources for everyone from the general public to the most seasoned scientists. "But it took a thrilling piece of art and entertainment to increase our website traffic by ten-fold and to get the phones ringing off the hook," Dr. Schlitz added.

A multi-part teleseminar series will launch on-location in Washington D.C., where Brown's novel takes readers on a tour of the symbols and legends of ancient wisdoms and spiritual traditions hidden among the country's national monuments. In this segment, Dr. Schlitz will guide listeners on a similar tour, offering a broader understanding of noetic sciences to help deepen their appreciation for Brown's connections between science and mysteries of the consciousness. The air date will be announced in October.

Like "Katherine Solomon," Dr. Schlitz started her studies with ancient Egyptian texts as well as modern scientific views of consciousness. Both women's father and brother were Masons. Moreover, Dr. Schlitz' laboratory at IONS includes a 2000-pound, electromagnetically shielded room (now affectionately referred to as ["The Cube"](#)), where she and her colleagues conduct experiments that, according to Dr. Schlitz, have been so thoroughly researched and presented by Brown as to come close to the history of her work as a noetic scientist.

Dr. Schlitz, who never has met Brown or hosted him at the Institute of Noetic Sciences, considers Brown's research "eerily exacting" in many ways. "I sometimes wonder if he, like his characters sleuthing all over the nation's capitol, was a frequent visitor doing the same here at the Institute," she said.

About Marilyn Mandala Schlitz: For three decades, Noetics Scientist and anthropologist [Marilyn Mandala Schlitz](#), PhD, has pioneered clinical and field-based research in the area of human consciousness, transformation, and healing. She is a thought leader on matters of individual and social change whose respected voice offers new insights into the most pressing challenges of our time. A researcher, speaker, change consultant, and writer, Marilyn's books include co-author of *Living Deeply: The Art and Science of Transformation in Everyday Life* and co-editor of *Consciousness and Healing: Integral Approaches to Mind Body Medicine*. Dr. Schlitz serves as the CEO and President of the [Institute of Noetic Sciences](#) (IONS), where she has worked for 15 years. She is also Senior Scientist at California Pacific Medical Center.

About Noetic Science

The word "noetic" comes from the ancient Greek *nous*, for which there is no exact equivalent in English. It refers to "inner knowing" or "intuitive consciousness"—direct and immediate access to knowledge beyond what is available to our normal senses and power of reason. Noetic sciences apply the lens of science, its rigors and standards of evidence-based research, to the multidisciplinary study of the mysteries of consciousness.

Noetic sciences explore the "inner cosmos" of the mind (consciousness, soul, spirit) and how it relates to the "outer cosmos" of the physical world.

About IONS

The Institute of Noetic Sciences is a nonprofit membership organization located in Northern California that conducts and sponsors leading-edge research into the multidisciplinary study of the mysteries of the consciousness. The Institute maintains a commitment to scientific rigor while exploring phenomena that have been largely overlooked by mainstream science. It is located on a 200-acre property that houses research facilities, offices, and a retreat center with meals, a community building, an indoor amphitheater, meeting spaces, and overnight accommodations for up to 120 people.

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Other resources

[Links to books, video, info here](#)

["What are Noetic Sciences?"](#) Willis Harman, *Noetic Sciences Review* # 47, page 32.