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In Context

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Dear Friends,

If we were to name a theme for this issue, it might be “Conversation.” This relates in particular to the feature article, which is almost three times as long as any article we have published in *In Context*. As an expansion of a talk Craig was invited to give to a special interest group of the New York Academy of Sciences last October, it represents a significant engagement with the larger scientific community. The Academy member who invited Craig wrote back after the event:

Thanks for one of the most interesting, quietly charming, and fulfilling lectures that I attended in 40 years as a member of NYAS.

You clearly had your audience fully engaged in a new way of seeing the full scientific process, and were able to sustain that for quite a long period so they got the complete story in the right way. It was very enlightening for both me and my colleague.

I (Steve) have read many summations of the Goethean approach to science, but was so impressed with this particular article that I felt we really must present it here in its entirety, and so bring it to a larger audience. You might want to pass the article along to any scientist friends who are open to new (or should I say “older”) ways of thinking.

The theme of conversation seems appropriate for our work in more ways than one. With our new building now well inhabited and “worn in,” we are expanding our offerings to people near and far in the form of lectures, workshops, and courses. This is conversation on a very personal level. But there is also engagement with other constituencies on other levels. For example, Henrike is collaborating with Prof. Dr. Kornelia Möller, the director of a teacher training institute at the University of Münster, Germany, and John Gouldthorpe of the Creative Compound in Point Reyes Station, California, to investigate methods of science instruction. Together they have just recently spent a few days at the world-famous Exploratorium in San Francisco, observing how the young visitors interact with and (at least one would like to hope) learn from the various exhibits.

On yet another and entirely different front, Steve has entered into conversation with representatives of the intelligent design movement. This movement is now one of the major cultural currents in American society, and many have wondered how our own work relates to it. There has so far been some published back-and-forth — constructive in nature, we would like to think — and we hope to be able to offer a report in a future issue of *In Context*.

Craig Holdrege

Steve Talbott