

From the Desk of Rick Doblin, Ph.D.



Rick Doblin, Ph.D.

AS I WRITE THIS INTRODUCTION to our special theme edition *Bulletin* on Psychedelics and Education, it's been 28 years since I founded the Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies (MAPS) in April 1986. Over that period of time, most of our communications with MAPS members and the general public have been about the struggles of the day. We primarily report on the progress—or in our early years, lack of progress—that we are making towards our mission of mainstreaming the medical and other beneficial uses of psychedelics and marijuana and creating a post-prohibition world. These essential, dramatic, and time-bound dispatches from MAPS' front lines tell a remarkable and gradually unfolding story of social transformation. Like the daily newspaper, however, the bulk of MAPS' communications will rarely ever be read again, save perhaps by future historians trying to better understand how we managed to obtain FDA approval for the therapeutic uses of psychedelics and marijuana in the midst of global prohibition.

As a counterpoint to the ephemeral nature of most of our communications, we've developed these special theme issues of the *MAPS Bulletin* focusing on the contributions of psychedelics and marijuana to various broad areas of modern life including science, art, sexuality, creativity, psychology, ecology, and now education. In January 2014, we also released the anthology *Manifesting Minds*, in which we've collected some of the best articles from our theme issues that we've published over the years.

It is with pride and pleasure that we now present for your

thoughtful and leisurely consideration this special theme issue of the *MAPS Bulletin* on Psychedelics and Education. While the word “psychedelic” generally brings to mind a certain type of unusual experience of transitory nature, the word “education” implies learning that persists over longer periods of time. Education can be the consequence and outcome of psychedelic experiences, just as lasting personality growth and transformation can be the outcome of psychedelic-assisted psychotherapy.

MAPS' challenge is to help our culture appreciate psychedelics' immense potential. We encourage society to permit psychedelics to emerge from the underground by demonstrating in multiple ways that their unique acute effects are only part of the story—and in many ways the smaller part of the story—and that their educational and therapeutic benefits can persist over time. This special theme issue is one of the many communication tools we're using to focus attention on how benefits linger after psychedelic experiences fade, rather than on how psychedelics can dazzle, frighten, soothe, and mystify.

This special theme edition of the *MAPS Bulletin* contains articles about how we teach future psychedelic psychotherapists, which educational paths to take when embarking on a career in psychedelic science or medicine, and how students and new community organizations are working to end the global war on drugs. We've also included updates on our psychedelic harm reduction program, an overview of psychedelic education on the Web and social media, intimate personal reflections on psy-

chedelics as educational tools from both a police cadet and a former prisoner, and more.

Preparing these special issues about enduring themes is a refreshing contrast to MAPS' primary focus on strategy and tactics in both scientific and political contexts. We hope you enjoy pondering the deeper issues raised by the authors of the articles in this *Bulletin*. We also hope that you are inspired to engage with renewed energy in our shared struggle to mainstream psychedelics and marijuana at this time of great need and opportunity. With your continued support of MAPS, we'll work together to build a healthier, more spiritual world.

Rick Doblin

Rick Doblin, Ph.D.
MAPS Founder and Executive Director



Geneva Shanti
 photo credit: Kyer Wiltshire

COVER ARTISTS

Front cover: Dr. Alexander "Sasha" Shulgin's Home Laboratory by Geneva Shanti
Black-and-White Digital Photograph

Geneva Bumb Shanti has been dedicated to the art and science of photography for over 20 years. Visual ethnography and the psychology of intrapersonal relationships are her two main sources of inspiration.

Shanti is motivated by a desire to engage and inspire her audience into personal action. She has gained a strong reputation as a professional and fine art photographer during the last 18 years, specializing in documentary and environmental portraiture.

Shanti has received numerous awards and her photographs have been recognized, published, and collected throughout the world. Geneva is currently working on a new multi-platform project documenting the professionals legitimizing medical advances of psychedelics. She resides in Sonoma County. More on her current project *Sublime Visions: Explorers of the Edge of Consciousness* can be found at sublime-visions.org.



Jonathan Carmichael

Back cover: *Night Garden* by Jonathan Carmichael
 24" x 16"
 Inkjet on BFK Rives

Jonathan Carmichael has been working professionally as a commercial, event and fine art photographer for many years. Jonathan's fine art photography generally focuses on low light landscapes and melancholy portrait-based images.

Jonathan gained his BA from Monash University in 1999, and is currently studying at PSC (Photographic Studies College). If there were a theme to his fine art work it would be a space where technological development has come to a point of decline where the environment has initiated to reclaim its space once again.

The *Night Garden* images take a voyage through the wonder of a master garden lit by moonlight. Gardens are magical spaces with a profound sense of serenity that can enhance our perception and remind us of who we are. We all know as the seasons change, so does the garden; but it changes even more radically in the illumination of moonlight. *Night Garden* explores a side of the garden less familiar to most of us but with a "pinch of the psychedelic." Additional work and sales information at darkspaces.com.au.



Help Sasha and Ann Shulgin pay their bills! In 2014, Sasha's caregiving expenses alone will approach \$132,000. A donation of any amount is a meaningful way to acknowledge the contributions that the Shulgins have made.

To donate, visit shulginresearch.org/home/donate. Thank you for your generous support.