

Art Forms, Spiritual Forms and Digital Forms: Paths to the Creative Process.

WWW.pauelsner.com

**Presented by Paul Elsner
President and Founder
The Sedona Conference & Conversations**

Continuing the theme:
"The Convergence of Art, Media, Technology and Education"

"The Sedona Conference & Conversations that were held in Barcelona, Dublin, and Sedona have always pushed the convergence of art, media, technology and learning," according to Paul Elsner. "How these forms intersect or how they don't bears heavily on whether we have engaged learners in our schools or whether youth and young adults will cast their life chances outside of traditional educational paths."

Leading designers of game and simulation technology assert that their business markets divide along predictable lines. Those of us over 40 seek our information **passively** through watching film, newscasts and entertainment. Maintaining our knowledge currency drives us to continuing education, but we prefer **passive** participation, usually sitting and listening. If you are below 21, you prefer full **interactive** engagement with media, games, and learning. If you are between 20 and 40, you go both ways: high demand for interactive plus passive (listening, viewing) information sources.

This demography is dynamite! For schools, it means making the learning interactive or "Adios." For the mid 20-40s, it means mixing the methodologies of teaching and learning ever more skillfully. The over-40s are about to be eclipsed by new learning forms, demands for interactivity, and activist engagement.

A leading game designer who promotes Sony Play Station and Madden NFL explains it this way: **"Over 40 participants lean back on the couch; below 20 interactive participants move up to the edge of the couch."** If the next two decades sees the interactive below 20s growing toward forty, we have a massive learning revolution to confront.

John Seely Brown, a pioneering software designer, science advisor and research scholar long affiliated with the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) and the Xerox design and development efforts makes several important points in a recent speech. He affirms what we have been discussing at the Sedona Conference & Conversations: Our youth and future learner generations are transforming their

cognitive processes because of the way that they transact the web and the Internet by simultaneously learning, contributing, and creating knowledge through multi-sensory, digitized interactions. (www.ntlf.com/html/sf/aahe.pdf and www.ntlf.com/html/sf/jsbrown.pdf)

We often say there are 800 million teenagers in the world who have been born into the highest audio and visual standards the world has ever known. What does that mean to policy leaders, thinkers and planners, teachers and instructional designers, and innovators like you?

Up to now, the Sedona Conference & Conversations have not talked about the intuitive and spiritual dimensions of the new technology, the new learning, or the related creative processes--- nor have we really developed the presence of art as a factor in our learning. This conference will reach for the connections that we have flirted with in the past. This Sedona Conference & Conversations will branch to newer foundations. Hopefully we will see new connections.

**Pre-Conference Workshop
(Requires Separate Registration)
June 18, 2003
1:00p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Creative Visualization Workshop: Practical Techniques
for Enhancing Your Art, Your Life and You
Presented by Debra Katz**

This workshop will teach people how to access their creative ideas and increase their visualization abilities in order to enhance the quality and efficiency of any type of visual media arts project. The workshop will use lecture, visualization exercises, music, art and group activities/discussion. Participants can generate ideas and a vision for a specific project or create a new one. These techniques can apply to participant's daily life and could result in greater self-awareness, confidence, and a more optimistic and peaceful approach to life's challenges.

The techniques can be adapted to a variety of formats and can be taught to any number of people. The techniques will appear in her soon to be published book, [You are Clairvoyant! The Art and Practice of Clairvoyant Reading.](#)

Debra Katz has a Masters Degree in Social Work, a B.A. in Psychology, is a recent graduate of the Zaki Gordon Institute for Independent Filmmaking and is a graduate of the Berkeley Psychic Institute's Clairvoyant Training Program. She is a professional Clairvoyant, Healer, teacher and author. She is the former Host, Director and Producer of one of Sedona's most popular television shows that aired on two local stations from 1999-2001. Debra has written, directed and produced an award winning 30-minute film, "The Maiden and the Mime." She was the Director of Photography for two short films. She is currently writing her first full-length screenplay.

The following will be presented on selected mornings and late afternoons:

Experiencing a spiritual study and way for exploring and awakening our inner spirit and voice.

Naomi Story, an early founder of the Maricopa Alliance for Asian Pacific Americans, faculty member and Director of Mesa Community College's Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), will read passages from Zen, Tao, and far eastern philosophical and literary heritages. Donna Gaudet, instructional technologist at the Center for Teaching and Learning and yoga and T'ai Chi teaching assistant and Naomi will lead us in exercises that emphasize our inner harmony and the balancing of mind-body spirit. They also describe their spiritual journey and meditative practice.

"Art Forms, Spiritual Forms and Digital Forms: Paths to the Creative Process".

Wednesday, June 18, 2003

**1:00-6:00 p.m. Sedona Conference & Conversations
Registration**

Thursday, June 19, 2003

**8:00 a.m. Opening keynote and Anchor Presentation:
Jason Ohler, Professor of Technology Assessment,
The University of Alaska**

"The Four Rs "As in the Fourth "R" in A "R" T"

Author of *"Taming the Beast: Choice and Control in the Electronic Jungle"* and more recently, *"Then What?"* a mythical journey as apprentice in the techno-culture of our times. Jason Ohler has been a pioneer in the field of Digital Age living and learning for two decades. His unique voice comes from the integration of many areas such as professional development, restructuring and assessment, innovative program development, teaching, art, music, writing and speaking. Some call him a futurist; he calls himself a "nowist." He believes that with enough fortitude and imagination we can take back the future and create the kinds of educational systems and lifestyles we really want – and that we can do so today. Jason Ohler is a musician and a playwright. His compositions and productions have been heard and seen all over the world.

"Of all the books now appearing on what to do about media in the education of our youth, Jason Ohler's (Taming the Beast) is, in my opinion, the best."

-Neil Postman, 1999.

9:30 a.m. Robert Galloway, Coordinator for the Arts, The Maricopa Community Colleges and Professor of Photography, Mesa Community College

"Catalysts of Arts as Organizational Strategy: Liking Digital Age Intensity to the Arts"

Under the leadership of such arts advocates as Robert Galloway and the late Janet Sessions, Maricopa has formulated numerous programs from the **"Year of the Vibrant Arts"** to the **"Arts Connections"** Programs.

Arts Coordinators like Robert Galloway have laid extensive foundations with major Phoenix arts organizations, performance arts groups and arts advocacy bodies. College construction of four Performing Arts Centers in recent months marks the commitments of the arts at Maricopa. Arts faculty have participated in major art productions and arts renovation with **art in public places** for which the district encouraged construction monies to be set aside to celebrate public place art and display it as part of the continuing arts themes. Robert Galloway lives arts advocacy every day having organized exhibits, showings, and special arts events both within the district and in the larger communities that the ten Maricopa Colleges serve. Robert will speak not only to art as a refuge and respite in a high charged digital age, but also to how art translates the **enigmas of our times**.

**10:15 a.m. Break for Conversational Coffee
Jason Ohler and Bob Galloway**

"What I thought I heard my brain say and what I wanted to say, but didn't."

Group breaks into roundtable discussion with Jason and Robert driving the pump of conversation – audience **"offers what I wanted to say and now I am going to say it!"**

11:00 a.m. Dennis Wilson, Instructor of Life Sciences and Peripatetic Commentator

"Looking at Life Beyond an Extremely Overheated Radiator"

Some heroes are born; others sit back and watch other's heroic actions. Dennis Wilson decided to purchase a rather worn but "heroic" 1974 British Land Rover and to drive it from Capetown, South Africa to London, England. This required some artistic renovation like portable sleeping compartments that pop up on his Land Rover roof so that when he crosses into the Sudan, with its low lying swamp terrain famously infested with the world most poisonous snakes, Dennis had to test his innovations as he proved to be ingenious in crossing at least 23 international checkpoints, avoiding coup d'état militia types or just falling back on his charm. What's this got to do with Art? What's this got to do with learning? Maybe Dennis will tell us!

**12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Poco Diablo Resort Terrace.
Dr. Paul A. Elsner**

Elsner will engage us in a conversation about his work and preoccupation with his spiritual side and what it means to him as a professional, to his adult developmental stages and to his search for well-being. He will also discuss the SPIRITIN Group that was formed from the Fetzer Institute's Advisory Committee on Higher Education. Members of the SPIRITIN Group have evolved to a group now called the Initiative for Authenticity and Spirituality in Higher Education, (IASHE) This more lately formed group has put out a position paper which is included in your registration packet. It is signed by national thinkers and leaders ranging from Alexander (Sandy) Astin, Helen Astin, Arthur W. Chickering, Donna Shavlik, Laura Rendon, Gene Rice, Tony and Lisa Chambers, Jim Keen, Cheryl Keen, Cynthia Johnson, M Stuart Hunter, John Gardner, Jenny Lee, and Paul Elsner. Arthur W. Chickering, who worked on the draft of the IASHE, which he had termed a "manifesto," accepted our invitation to come to Sedona. Having secured him for joining our conversation, we have included his article in Change magazine in your packets.

"Finding Your Spiritual Bearing as a step to greater creative processes."

Roundtable – Open Discussion with Paul Elsner and Dr. Arthur W. Chickering, Visiting Distinguished Professor, and Special Assistant to the President, Vermont College, The Union Institute and University, Montpelier, Vt., and Donna Shavlik, formerly with The American Council of Education's extensive program direction in leadership in higher education, particularly in the identification, preparation and placement of women in positions of leadership in universities and colleges in the United States.

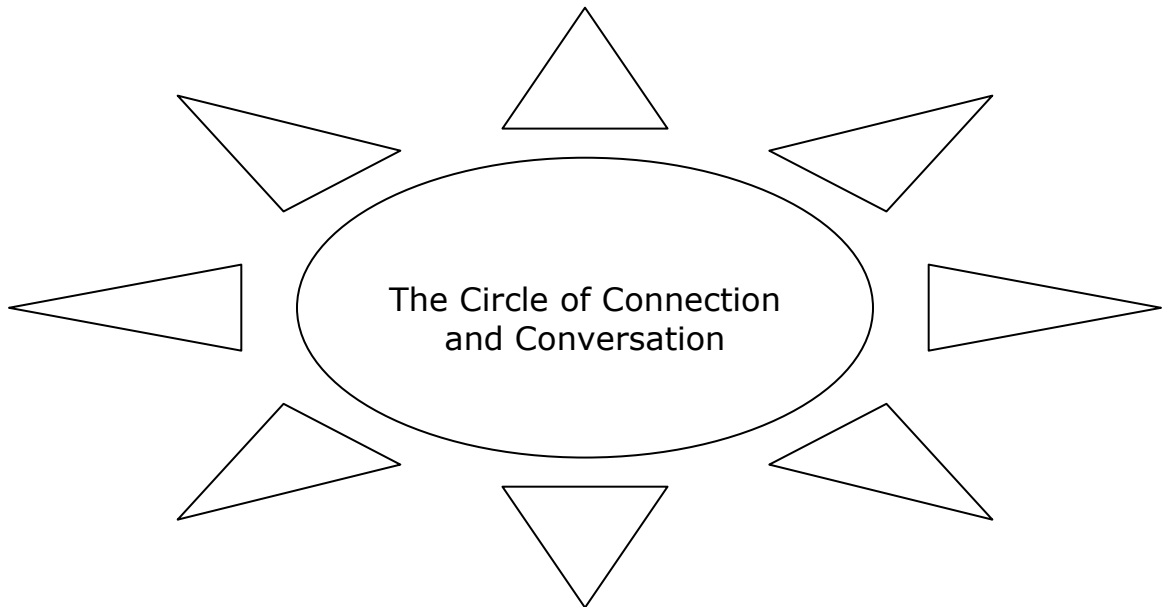
Sandra DeBresser, Pre-Conference Conversationalist and Impresario presides.

Dr. Chickering is a respected writer and thinker about higher education and in the above mentioned article, about our times, he offers in his introduction a quote from Yeats' "The Second Coming."

Things fall apart; the center cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Dr. Shavlik formed many collaboratives and alliances in exciting programs in her distinguished career as a writer, thinker, and an organizing force for identifying leadership talent from groups not well represented as presidential potential. Countless CEOs and higher education leaders owe their entry and continuous development to Donna's programs. She now resides in Estes Park Colorado where she is involved with community based projects including the development of a charter school. She says that she also finds more time to savor life and living and to form her spiritual side.

Dr. Chickering believes that we must reclaim our institutional soul, whether we are a community college or a research 1 university. He feels that we have lost our animating principle to market forces, to some technology, and to operational and political pragmatism. In such an environment which, for higher education probably means three decades, we have begun to drift from our students, from our core beliefs about learning and life's formations.



- 4:00 p.m.** **Buses depart for Los Vientos, Prescott, Arizona.**
- 5:30 p.m.** **Arrive at Los Vientos**
- 6:15 p.m.** **Dinner Buffet for all attendees at Paul & Joyce
Elsner's adobe home. Prepare for music,
entertainment, lectures, and talking and
walking. *Dress very comfortably; wear
walking shoes – terrain is very uneven.***
- 9:00 p.m.** **Buses return to Sedona.**

Friday, June 20, 2003

8:00 a.m. Paul Elsner, Founder and President of The Sedona Conference and Conversations

“Sustainable Housing in Arid and Moderate Temperate Zones”

Village Economic Systems, Leveraging Technology and Building Community through Building Houses of Adobe – Finding Earth’s scalability in Adobe Production

Paul Elsner will discuss adobe construction as embracing both aesthetic qualities and the lowest possible economic unit of costs. Food, shelter, and water play out as major determinants of world poverty. The world produces enough food to feed everyone healthfully, but it has not figured out a way to get it to everyone or finding an efficient distribution system. Available drinking water for everyone is an agreed upon goal by most all aid and poverty organizations. Rock star Bono confirms that forty percent of peoples in Africa do not have available safe drinking water. Most experts agree that there are solutions if the political and policy communities have the will to achieve clean drinking water for everyone.

Housing and shelter may be the most elusive of all. That is why Elsner will discuss his handbook that he is writing. He will describe the engineering, staging and design and construction strategies of adobe building. He will take you to such concepts as the angle of repose, as well as structural engineering concepts of adobe workmanship, and introduce what one of Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, Wallace Stegner, had in mind when he chose *Angle of Repose* for one of his most widely read novels.

9:00 a.m. Roman Reyes, Art Department Chair. Phoenix College, Phoenix, Arizona.

“Animation, Media and Design on the New Zealand Set Location of “Lord of the Rings” and the Production of a Mural at the international site of the E-ducation Without Borders, Abu Dhabi, The United Arab Emirates commemerating peace and world understanding using muralist medium and rear digital projection.

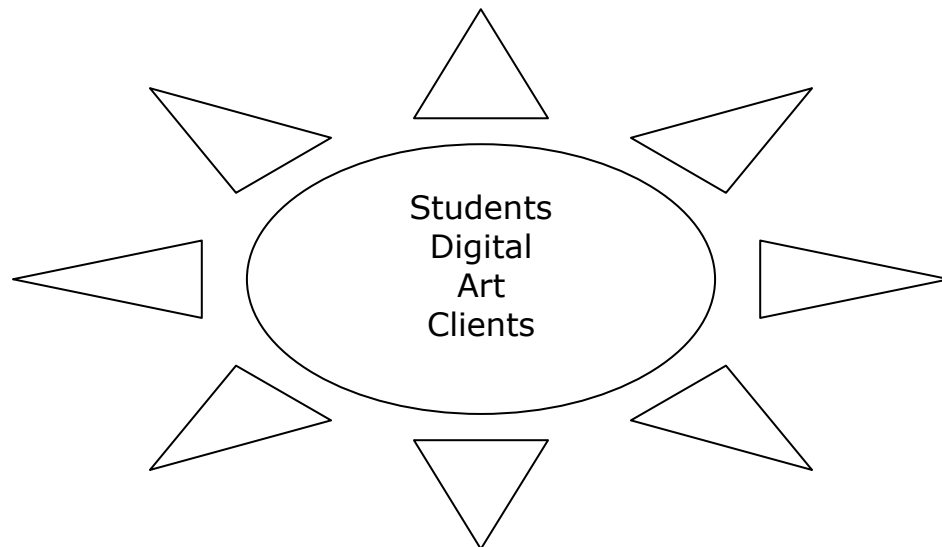
Roman Reyes accepted an invitation from his Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, President of The United Arab Emirates and his Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak al Nahayan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research to do a commemorating Mural consisting of fifty digitally created panels spanning three 20 by 40 foot wall surfaces concurrent with a 500 student conference to celebrate world diversity and greater world understanding. Roman will describe the organizational thinking and creative processes for this monolithic production, which involved several digital artists, painters, student apprentices, technicians and logistics across half the distance of the globe with Islamic and world representatives in Abu Dhabi in this project to commemorate the 500 students from over 60 countries who attended the “e-education Without Borders” Conference in Abu Dhabi.

Roman Reyes also worked on costume and set design on location in New Zealand for the Lord of the Rings trilogy of films. He has also contributed to public art, most notably a 100 foot long mural depicting the one year anniversary of 9-11 events.

He also teamed up

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Roundtable Conversation on Media and Graphic Design led by Mark Derro, Coordinator of the Center for Media and Graphic Design, Abu Dhabi Men's College.



11:30 a.m. Megan McShane, Cultural Critic and Art Historian, Emory University, Atlanta, GA.

"Art and Techno-Culture at the Fresh Kills Land Fill, New York City"

Megan McShane comments on such topics as the commodification of culture, ephemeral consumption, the implications of materialism, and waste management. She has written about the Art and Ecology movement and the effects of globalism as western hegemony. She lectures and presents around the world and teaches both at Emory University and at the Atlanta College of Art.

Megan McShane specializes in art and technology. She has lectured at universities and to diverse audiences including toxicologists, ecologists, and earthwork artists. She lectured on the role of the environment in the public sphere at the Rockefeller Foundation's Center for the Critical Analysis of Contemporary Culture. Her other projects include cultural critiques of land reclamation projects such as the former slaughter-houses of the Park La Villette in Paris, France now known as the City of

Science and Industry. She has lectured at the Sorbonne on early 1900 surrealist movements and has taught in France this past semester and has accepted an art/history appointment at Zayed University, United Arab Emirates.

12:30 p.m. Lunch at the Poco Diablo Resort Terrace

**Coen Free, Principal and CEO,
Koning Willem I College**

“The Development and Placement of Art Amidst the Technologically-Inspired College of the Future” at Koning Willem I College, Hertenbosch, Netherlands.

Coen Free will discuss why art and creativity dominate his campus environment and intellectual climate. Coen has studied creativity and the creative process in past years to reshape his college’s entire learning strategy. Coen is regarded as one of the most interesting and innovative college leaders in Europe. He is active in policy leadership at the Hague, and has lead a restoration of a 14th century cathedral in Den Bosch, home of the wily, eccentric and creative Hermione Bosch. Coen has also written music and liturgical script for pageants presented around commemorative events of his restored and beloved cathedral.

Adjourn for the Day – Dinner on Your Own.

This time is offered for self-organizing discussions, debate, analysis and sleep or rest. Hiking and Red Rocks Jeep tours are available. Please see the hotel concierge in advance. Shopping and schlepping excursions are encouraged.

A volunteer refreshment interlude starting toward sundown down by the nearest willow tree on the resort greens will feature Raul Monreal’s romantic ballads which he writes for the Mexican and now world wide music industry. Raul’s ballads are consistently ranked as the number one and leading songs on Mexico’s music ratings. Raul will probably bring his favorite soloist friend and play the most popular of his cassettes for a sunset reprieve before you all head out to dinner. Bring your own refreshments and your favorite drink and room chair.

9:00 p.m. Midnight Cinema hosted by Paul Elsner

Continuing this cult sidebar, we offer the optional Midnight Cinema program. Films available include *Brazil*, *Metropolis*, *Bladerunner*, and *Japanese Anime by Osamu Tezuka*. Kurosawa’s *Ran* to the *Seven Samurai* and the Wachowski Bros *Matrix*. Faculty who teach film will lead discussion, but viewers get in on the dynamics of these discussions that often go past midnight.

Saturday, June 21, 2003

8:15 A.M. Dr. Bernard Luskin, Fielding Graduate Institute

A Special Conversation

Dr. Luskin has just started a doctoral media studies program at the Fielding Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara, California. Initial development of the program began at the Sedona Conference & Conversations. Several new media, digital media and media studies and media psychology programs have now begun around the world, from NYU to MIT, to the British Open University, and the University of Sussex. Many practitioners in media wish to advance their degree work and the Sedona Conference & Conversations hope to bring about a synergy with the Fielding group and the various programs in other universities worldwide. Bernie is exploring whether a special interest group of national and international scholars are interested in using the annual Sedona and its international meeting locations for this group to organize themselves and meet with us to explore the developing of the various knowledge and research strands of the new digital media areas. Dr Luskin will present his taxonomy of how these studies are taking shape and how digital media may eclipse older preoccupations with technology. If you want to participate in thinking and casting the more unifying aspects of this multi-faceted area of work and study, you will want to attend and participate in this discussion -----one of the better ways to project where digital media is going.

**9:00 a.m. Dudley Stewart, Principal and Paul Elsner,
partner and concept advisor to the Charleville
project**

"Quest College and the Restoration of its Campus – The Charleville Castle, Sixty miles north of Dublin, Ireland"

Dudley Stewart comes from a long line of innovators in Ireland. His grandfather was Aide de camp to Arthur Griffith, founder of the original Sinn Fein (a self-help organization which succeeded in gaining Irish independence). He also was a contemporary and close friend and special advisor to the catalyst and revolutionary leader, Michael Collins.

Dudley has training and background in African Area Policy where he served in several capacities in both East and Central Africa. He served some twenty other countries that were in situations of development crisis, including Bangladesh in the seventies and many central and eastern European countries prior to the dismantling of the Berlin wall. Dudley says that he is not big on hereditary history, but he offers, "after centuries of mismanagement, exploitation and revolt, Ireland settled into a steady growth toward economic prosperity - because we nurtured the belief that we could - Ireland now one of the most peace loving countries has a lot to offer new countries seeking to achieve economic sustainability."

He has proposed and operated in recent months, Quest College, on the 2000-acre baronial grounds of Charleville Castle, which with student cooperatives and exchanges is being renovated as a university and symposia venue for world issues ranging from creative leadership, sustainable development, youth parliaments and mediation and conflict resolution studies and practicum. He has special interests in tolerance and world strife resolution. He will discuss why artistic settings lend force to high performance and thinking outside of boundary norms.

9:30 a.m. Participants brainstorm on how Quest could be integrated with represented college and faculty leadership projects back home.

10:00 a.m. Dr. Steve Meredith, Founder and Director of the Maricopa Institute of Arts and Entertainment Technology.

“From the Spiritual to the Technological”

Steve Meredith talks about his production and creative processes and why he has integrated digital media, theater, film, dance, and his own music depth into productions he has brought to Sedona and many other venues. Steve says the computer “blurs the lines between art and entertainment.” He explains “many students now have access to the technologies of adding sound and editing and now can and do become filmmakers.” He adds, “the MIAET is a program that interrelates an array of the arts—animation, graphic design, web design, television production, music production, film, dance and theatre.”

10:45 a.m. Break

11:00 a.m. Tony Henry, Birmingham City College, United Kingdom

“Tolerance Institute Development and Storytelling as Foundation”

City College is the largest Further Education institution in Europe. Its Principal, Chris Webb, and Tony Henry, its catalyst and thinker, have formed a Tolerance Institute. Tony, a long standing Sedona contributor, has found inspiration in both Dana Atchley’s presentation *Next Exit*, performed at the Second Sedona and interpreted by Denise Atchley at the Fifth Sedona. Tony will explain these two initiatives at Birmingham City College.

BCC serves an incredibly diverse group of world-based populations, many of whom came to Birmingham during its glory years of the industrial Victorian Age right through the post WWII years. Huge communities of Pakistani, Indian, Afghani, Caribbean, Middle and South Central Balkan peoples arrived and stayed in Birmingham after WWII. Tony translates all of this in BCC’s program development innovations.

**11:40 a.m. Dr. Mary Aldridge, Mesa Community College
Sedona in Dublin attendee and a PhD in Irish
literature, and
Terrence Verity, IT Director at Seneca College
in Toronto**

Special Conversation

Mary Aldridge is a PhD in Irish literature and attended Sedona in Dublin last fall. Terrence Verity is the IT Director at Seneca College in Toronto and a past Sedona participant as well. Mary and Terrence will discuss the connections between James Joyce and Marshall McLuhan, the latter of whom was much influenced by James' modernist thinking and assisted McLuhan's construction of much of his avant garde theory of modern communication.

12:40 P.M. Lunch on the Poco Diablo Resort Terrace

Closing Address: Paul Elsner

**"LIFE AS A BINARY SYSTEM OR WHAT IF THE UNIVERSE WERE
A COMPUTER?"**

Elsner will review readings from Frank Tipler's The Physics of Immortality and recent speculations of Kevin Kelly, editor of Wired.

A preview of the next Sedona