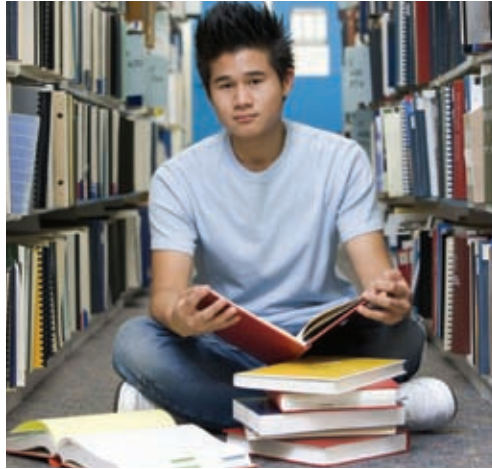


News and resources to inspire concerned citizens to work together in building a healthier, stronger society that benefits all.

## Vital Signs

### Lifetime Educational Achievement is Up Worldwide

Worldwatch Institute reports that people all over the world are completing more years of schooling than ever before, according to the latest data out of Austria. Just over 3 billion, or 61 percent of the global population 15 years or older, had finished at least some secondary schooling during their lifetime as of 2010. That's up from 36 percent in 1970 and 50 percent in 1990, and includes those who went on to even higher education. Having advanced to secondary school or beyond indicates that individuals are better prepared for the future.



Sources: *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and Vienna Institute of Demography*



## Survey Says

### Most Scientists Don't See Science and Spirituality at Odds

Research for a new book, *Science vs. Religion: What Scientists Really Think*, reports that a significant number of scientists from elite universities do not see much of a conflict between their work and their faith. (Those who do see such conflict tend to be atheists or agnostics.) Author Elaine Howard Ecklund, a Rice University sociologist, also learned

that the younger scientists, who are more likely to be religious, feel less of a sense of conflict than their older counterparts.

While believing scientists, who comprised 70 percent of the nearly 1,500 survey participants, may feel beleaguered by their non-believing colleagues, Ecklund found that the strongly anti-religious views found among "new atheists," such as Oxford University Biologist Richard Dawkins, are in the minority. "What religious scientists fail to realize, however, is that a significant proportion of their colleagues, [even if] not religious themselves, are open to talking and thinking about matters of faith," she comments.

Scientists who say they are "spiritual, but not religious" range from those who find their secular spirituality in nature or teaching science, to those engaged in such practices as yoga and meditation. Ecklund writes that such spiritual entrepreneurs may help in bridging the perceived gulf between science and religion, because they see their practice of spirituality as flowing into their scientific discipline, yet they tend to avoid politicized science-religion conflicts.

Source: *Religion Watch*



## Nature's Cure

### Monarch Butterfly Behavior Hints of Self-Medication

As with many species, Monarch butterflies' bright coloring warns predators of the insects' potential toxicity, which in many cases is true. Biologists have now discovered that female Monarchs infected with a particularly noxious parasite will choose to lay their eggs on a more toxic version of milkweed, their basic food foliage, which works to reduce pass-along parasite infection in their offspring and is harmless to the larvae.

"These experiments provide the best evidence to date that animals use medication," says Jaap de Roode, the biologist who led the Emory University study. Some scientists theorize that animals' practice of self-doctoring by using nature's medicine cabinet may be more widespread than we realize.

**Our attitude toward  
life determines life's  
attitude towards us.**

~ Earl Nightingale

