

Steven R. Van Hook, PhD

*Welcome to
The Science Circle!*

Saturday December 27, 2025 / 10:00 AM PT SLT

**Untethered Aspirations:
A Wish for 2035**

Abstract & Bio

- **ABSTRACT / UNTETHERED ASPIRATIONS:** Stop fighting the “shoulds” of 2025 and step into the radiant “coulds” of 2035. This is not a forecast; it is a Homing Beacon broadcast from a destination already reached. By anchoring in the certainty of our future – the Warp Anchor – we allow the chaos of the present to reorganize around our intent. We are moving beyond friction into the continuity of a world where scarcity is legacy and the door to 2035 is already open. The future isn't coming; it is calling us home.
- **BIO:** Steven R. Van Hook is a retired sea captain who has taught communication and culture courses for universities in the USA and abroad for 25 years. He's been a newspaper columnist, radio reporter, TV news anchor, and podcast host. He was a television producer and bureau chief in Russia; and directed public education media programs in Ukraine through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). He has a PhD specializing in transcultural learning, and is published in scholarly journals including UNESCO's Prospects, and Sage. Research website: <http://wwmr.us>



Courses Designed / Developed / Taught

BA & MA On-Ground, Online, & Mixed

Steven R. Van Hook, PhD
<http://wwmr.us>
steven@wwmr.us

UCLA / UCSB Extension

- EmpowerEd Course Designer
- Writing for Marketing & Advertising
- Working with the Media
- Marketing Principles & Practice
- Writing for Public Relations
- Integrated Marketing Communications
- Global Communication Management
- Fundamentals of Global Management & Marketing
- Principles of Business Administration & Management
- Global Economies & Issues
- Speaking Skills for the Global Marketplace
- Communications Skills for the Business Professional
- Fundamentals of International Advertising

California Lutheran University

- Principles of Marketing
- International Marketing
- Cross-Cultural Marketing Communications
- Global Issues

UCLA Extension



California Lutheran
UNIVERSITY



National University

- Campaign & Program Management
- Campaign & Program Evaluation
- Legal & Ethical Issues
- Integrated Marketing Communications
- Strategic Writing
- Mediated Messaging
- Communication Technologies
- Persuasion
- Art of Public Speaking

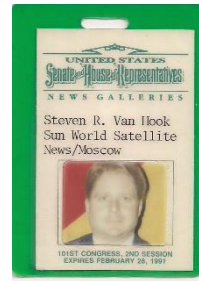
[Link](#)

Steve Van Hook

:: Media Samples ::



TV Anchor
Circa 1987



Russia TV Bureau Chief
Circa 1990



Radio Reporter
Circa 1985



Newspaper Writer
1980s –



Nonprofit / Government Work

- VISTA
- USAID
- UNESCO
- Head Start
- IREX
- Educare Research
- Crisis Counselor
- Saylor Foundation
- Corrections Intake



Articles on Transcultural Learning

Journal of Distance Learning Administration **(University of West Georgia)**

Van Hook, S.R. (2018, Spring)
The future revisited: Can global learning still save the world?

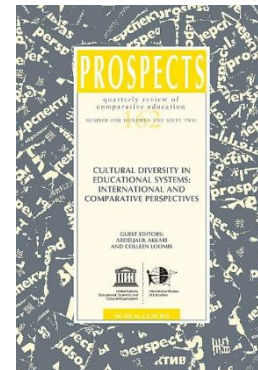


[Article](#)

[Local File](#)

UNESCO Journal “Prospects”

Van Hook, S.R. (2012, June)
Hopes and hazards of transculturalism



[Article](#)

[Local File](#)

Journal of Research in International Education (Sage)

Van Hook, S.R. (2011, April)
Modes and models for transcending cultural differences in international classrooms.



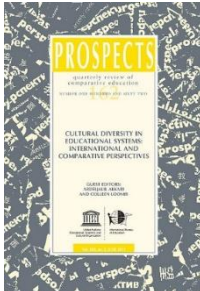
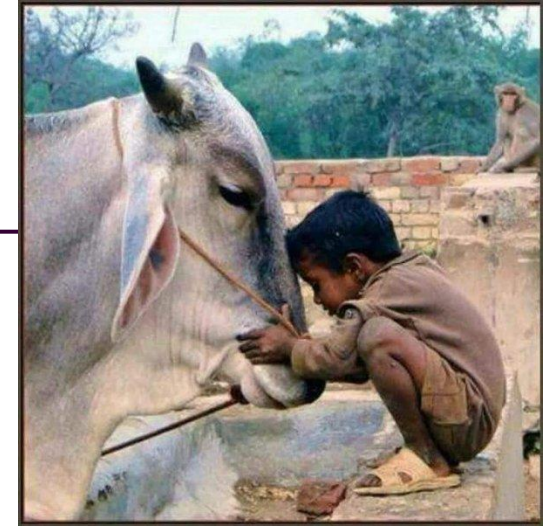
[Article](#)

[Local File](#)

Transcultural Themes & Images



- Babies & Children
- Pets & Animals
- Sports
- Love, Marriage, Relationship Conflicts
- Self-image
- The Birth-Life-Death Cycle
- Water



UNESCO Journal “Prospects”

Van Hook, S.R. (2012, June)

Hopes and hazards of transculturalism

[Article](#)

[Transcultural Research](#)

Rules of Sea



Capt. Van Hook

US Coast Guard Licensed Master Captain (retired)
ASA Certified Sailing Instructor
Credentialed Chaplain



- *Keep one hand on the boat*
- *Keep one hand on yourself*
- *Keep your head in the crises*
- *Keep a weather-eye on the horizon*
- *Keep hope alive*

Island Weddings & Memorials



*"It never occurred
to me to think of
space as the
thing that was
moving." - Scotty*

Star Trek
2009

Alcubierre Logic

Space-Time Tethered to Us

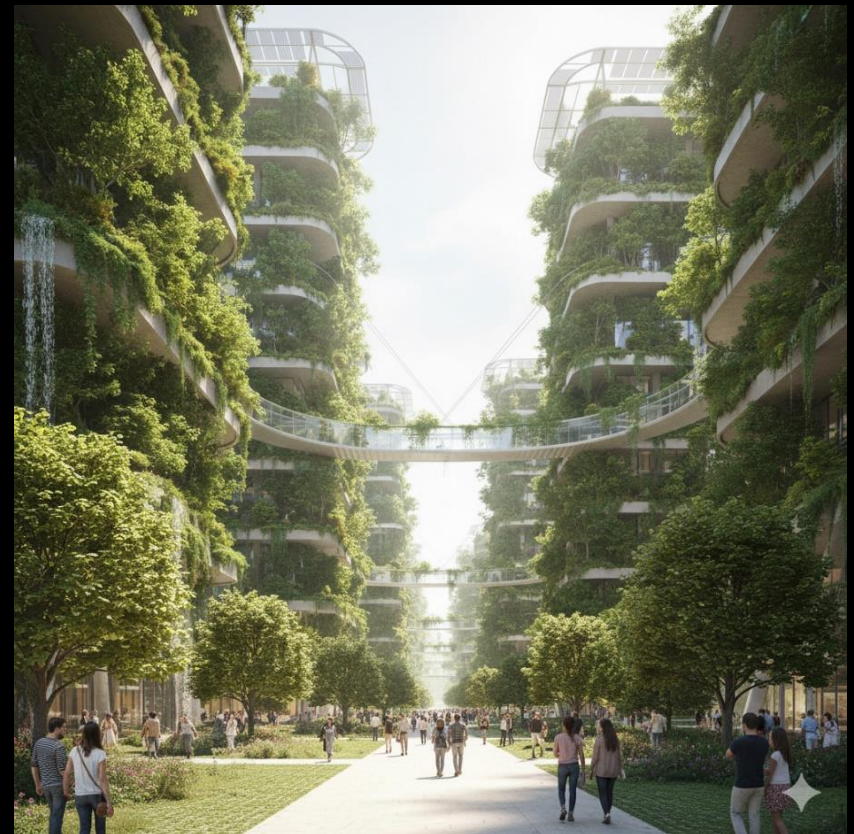




UNTETHERED ASPIRATIONS: 2035

Core Reconfiguration

Enriched Cosmetics





Transitions & Upheavals as Change Evolutions



"Ahh, change is good."

- Rafiki



Agricultural Evolution:

<> Nomadic to communities
<> *Learning to walk*



Industrial Evolution:

<> From fields to cities
<> *Puberty and finding new roles*



Digital Evolution:

<> From defined roles to exploration and interconnection
<> *Young independent adults*



AI Evolution:

<> From work to reflection
<> *Older and wiser holistic minds*

Mythic Dreams / Manifested Days



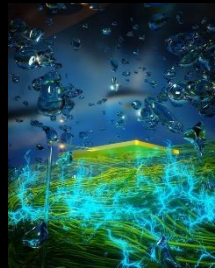
*Oracle of Delphi
to Oracle Cloud*



*Akashic Record to
Facebook*



*Merlin to
Nanowires
Generating
Power from
the Air*



*Cornucopia of Plenty
to 3D Printing*

Brain's Negative Bias



Our Brain's Negative Bias

- Brain built more attentive and sensitive to unpleasant news, keeping us out of harm's way
- Negative bias exploited by news, politics, interpersonal relations
- Small positive acts to counter negative in life spheres: 'Magic' ratio of 5-to-1

From **Psychology Today**
by Hara Estroff Marano

Don't Be So Hard on Yourself

- Negative bias self-criticism harms self, interfering with productivity

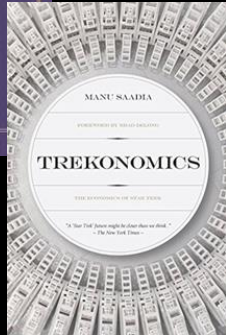
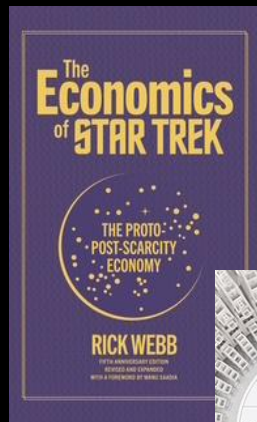
Negative bias hacks:

1. Practice self-compassion
2. Meet your self-criticism with same kindness offered others
3. Reduce ratio to x and y:
Make immediate contrast between *feelings of self-criticism* and *letting it go*. Brain will choose the less painful.

From **New York Times**
by Charolette Lieberman

Article: The Right Way to Respond to Negative Feedback

Post-Scarcity World



‘The right work can be satisfying for other reasons besides compensation ... this is still the part that newcomers always have the hardest time adapting to. It was thought if you don’t have a job, you starve ... it used to be that way on Earth until the invention of the matter synthesizer. It was the single most transformative moment in our history.

“When all your material needs are provided for at no cost, it changes the entire game. So why don’t people just lay around all day and do nothing? Well ... it’s sort of frowned upon socially. But more important than that, it’s no fun.

“On your planet, the currency is money. In the Union, it’s reputation. So if you do something, anything, that befits our society, and you work hard at it, you’re rich. And that could be anything from being a great scientist, or a great doctor, a great chef, or a great waiter. It’s all valued. Or maybe you want to study a field of research.

“Learn all you can about history, physics, literature, or art. Just for your own pleasure. That’s a respected life too. The only life considered poor is one that’s wasted on apathy.”

– Kelly, *The Orville*

Our New Purpose

FASTCOMPANY



‘Instead of taking our jobs, what if AI just lets us give our lives more purpose?’

Fast Company

Emerging technology offers the real potential for humans to achieve a post-professional era where we are not defined by our jobs, but a new purpose to enhance the human condition and the world.

The focus today should be what we can do now to make sure the path is set towards an optimistic future.’

‘In a future where machines could replace our need to contribute to the labor market, there is potential for us not to be defined by our jobs, but by a newer purpose to enhance humanity and the planet.

The more “productive” we become in a shorter period of time, the more time we can dedicate to purpose-driven endeavors that prioritize planet and people over profit.’

BY CORMAC Ó CONAIRE

They Know Social Change is Coming

‘... a shift in worldview from the autonomous individual of hyper-capitalism and social Darwinism to a recognition of both the natural and social worlds as orchestras of interdependence, of survival as an essentially collaborative and cooperative business.’

‘Disciplines from neuropsychology to economics have shifted their sense of who we are, what works, and what matters.’



Rebecca Solnit

**The
Guardian**

A ‘love ethic’ includes ‘a global vision wherein we see our lives and our fate as intimately connected to those of everyone else on the planet’
- bell hooks

[Article](#)

End Poverty with Electricity



The New York Times

Access to electricity determines fundamental aspects of individuals' lives, like whether they are healthy or have a job.

And that means the world needs to focus investment and effort on getting reliable, clean electricity to the nearly 700 million people who don't have any — and the 3.1 billion more who don't have enough.

[Article](#)

The Ocean Has Massive Energy Reserves

‘Scientists Just Learned How to Take Advantage of Them’

‘If this can scale up, it's a game-changer’

Although hydrogen is a great source of green energy, extracting it from the world’s largest reservoir of the stuff—the ocean—has proven to difficult to do at gigaton scales.

Now, a new electrode can safely extract oxygen and hydrogen from seawater while leaving the salt, which usually produces deadly chlorine gas.

As a bonus, this method uses direct air capture to remove carbon from the atmosphere.

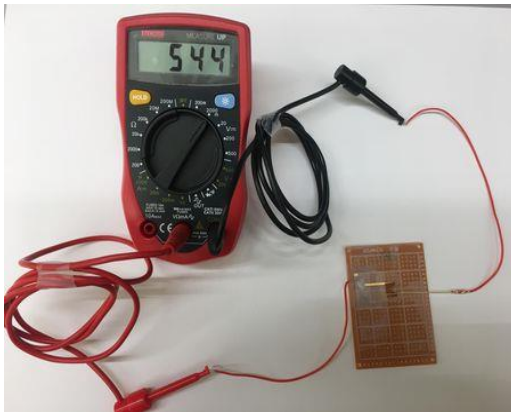
**POPULAR
MECHANICS**



[Article](#)

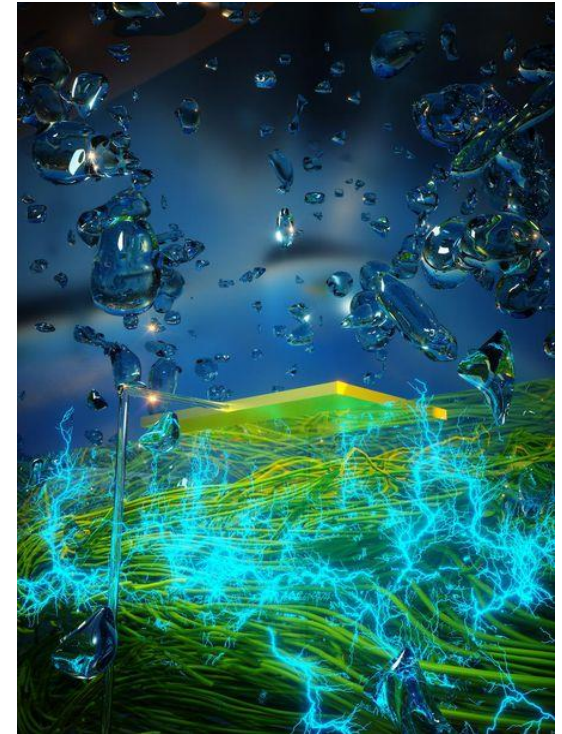
‘Electricity Out of Thin Air’

Scientists in Amherst, MA are developing a new technology that will use the moisture from the air to create a charge.



The current Air-gen device can power small devices. Photos courtesy: UMass Amherst / Yao and Lovley labs.

Article



Graphic image of a thin film of protein nanowires generating electricity from atmospheric humidity.

Transformative Changes

Food Security Innovations: Vertical farming and lab-grown meat technologies are advancing, which could revolutionize how we produce food. These innovations have the potential to reduce land use and carbon emissions while providing sustainable food sources for a growing population.

Biodiversity Restoration: Numerous rewilding projects are successfully restoring natural habitats and biodiversity. For instance, efforts to bring back native species and promote ecosystem balance in areas like the Scottish Highlands and the Great Plains show promising results.

Financial Inclusion: Digital banking and mobile money services are reaching millions of unbanked people in developing regions, empowering them with financial tools and opportunities for economic growth and stability.

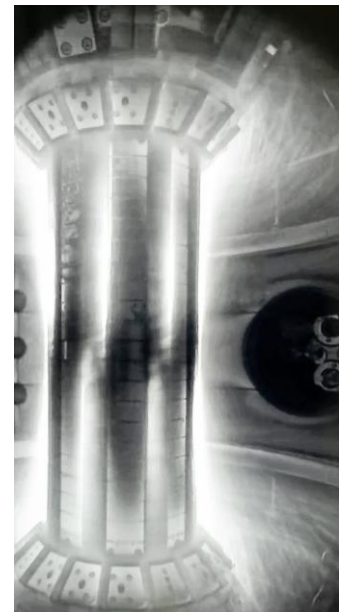
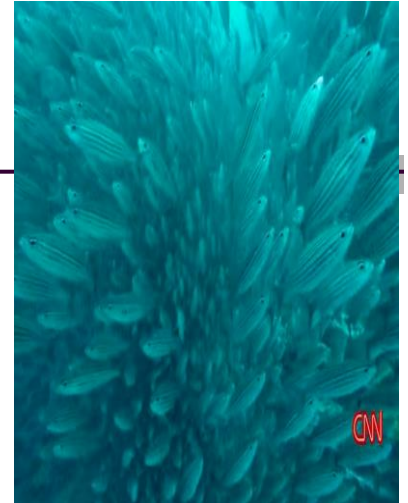
Breakthroughs in Cancer Research: New treatments, such as personalized cancer vaccines and advanced immunotherapies, are showing great promise in clinical trials, offering hope for more effective and less invasive cancer treatment options.

Technological Accessibility: Initiatives to provide low-cost or free internet access in rural and underserved areas are expanding. This increased connectivity enables more people to access information, education, and economic opportunities.

Water Purification Technologies: Innovations like solar desalination and advanced filtration systems are making clean water more accessible in areas affected by scarcity, improving public health and reducing the burden of waterborne diseases.

Disability Inclusion: There is growing momentum behind efforts to create more inclusive environments for people with disabilities. This includes advancements in assistive technology, accessible infrastructure, and inclusive policies, fostering greater participation and independence.

Peace-building Efforts: Grassroots organizations and international collaborations are working to build peace and resolve long-standing conflicts. These efforts are fostering dialogue, reconciliation, and stability in regions like Colombia and Northern Ireland.



Transformative Changes



Medical Advancements: Researchers are making incredible progress in the field of gene editing, particularly with technologies like CRISPR. These advances offer the potential to treat and possibly cure genetic disorders like sickle cell anemia and muscular dystrophy.

Renewable Energy Breakthroughs: Solar power technology is becoming more efficient and affordable, with innovations like perovskite solar cells showing great promise. This could lead to wider adoption of clean energy and a significant reduction in carbon emissions.

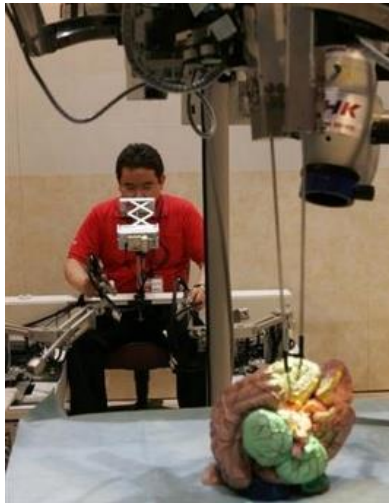
Ocean Cleanup Efforts: Initiatives like The Ocean Cleanup project are scaling up efforts to remove plastic waste from our oceans. Their latest technologies are showing progress in capturing tons of ocean debris, helping to protect marine life and coastal ecosystems.

Conservation Success Stories: Species that were once on the brink of extinction are making a comeback due to conservation efforts. For instance, the population of the California condor and the Amur leopard has been gradually increasing.

Education Access: Digital education platforms are reaching remote areas, giving more children and adults access to quality learning resources. This can lead to greater opportunities, empowerment, and economic development in underserved communities.

Mental Health Awareness: There's a growing global recognition of the importance of mental health. More countries and organizations are working to reduce the stigma and improve access to mental health services, offering support to millions who need it.

Global Cooperation on Health: The development and distribution of vaccines for various diseases continue to save countless lives worldwide, showcasing the power of international collaboration in addressing global health challenges.



ISRU Printed Homes

- Printed on site using local clay
- Zero waste product
- WASP 3D printers create homes 21'x10'
- Several homes build at once using multiple crane printers



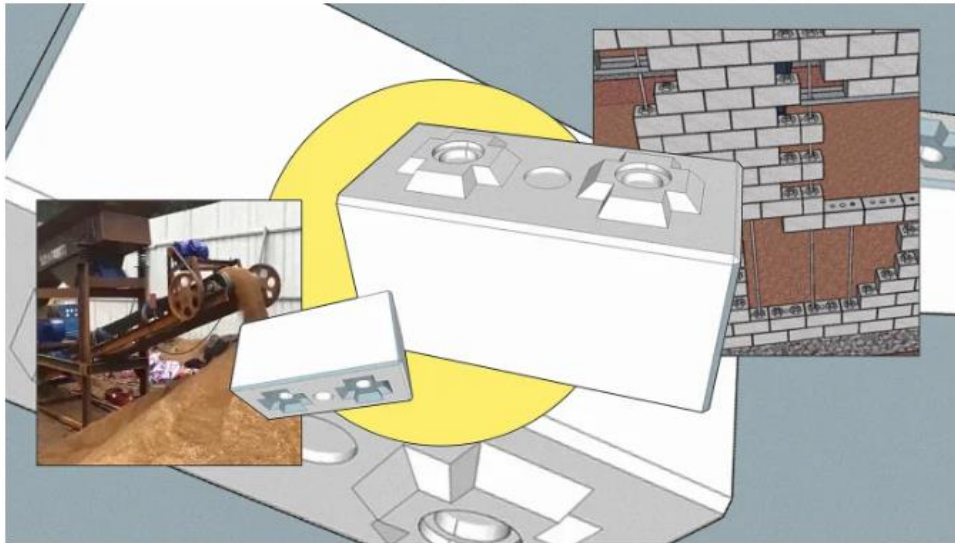
Lego Blocks from Rubble

FASTCOMPANY

08-22-2024 | IMPACT

This machine turns rubble from bombed Ukrainian buildings into Lego-like blocks that can make new homes

A new brick factory in a shipping container uses debris to make construction material.



[Images: Crisis Construction]

In the 30 months since Russia invaded Ukraine, hundreds of thousands of buildings have been destroyed. A new machine will soon begin using some of the rubble to make Lego-like blocks for building new homes.

The interlocking shape of the blocks means that they can be stacked together without traditional mortar.

[Article](#)

We Are (mostly) Good People

People Are More Generous Than You May Think *by David Brooks*

- In seven nations of study, 200 participants on average secretly spend free \$10,000 more on other than themselves (family, friends, strangers, charity)
- About 30% of people do behave selfishly
- Self-Fulfilling Prophecy: By telling people that they are innately selfish and surrounded by others who are innately selfish, we have encouraged one another to magnify the selfish side of our natures.
- We build inhumane systems in which material incentives blot out social and moral incentives. And we've made ourselves miserable along the way.
- A lot of our public thinkers have vastly underestimated the importance of the moral and social motivations woven into human nature.

The New York Times



[Article](#)

Channel Your Anger

The New York Times

‘Don’t Shut Down Your Anger. Channel It’

According to research published this week in the “Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,” anger is more helpful at motivating people to overcome obstacles and meet their goals than a neutral emotional state.

The researchers found that anger helped the students solve more puzzles. When they were asked to play a challenging computer game and it was rigged to be nearly impossible to win, this angered the students. But in those moments, they moved faster and their reaction time decreased. The other experiments also showed that anger could be beneficial.

“For a long time, there was this idea that being positive all the time was a life well lived, and that’s what we should strive for,” Dr. Lench said. “But there’s more and more evidence that it’s actually a life that’s balanced by a mix of emotions that seems to be more satisfying and positive long-term.”

Many of us have been taught to push away our so-called negative emotions and focus on the positive. But experts say that being relentlessly positive and leaning on happy platitudes, also known as “toxic positivity,” can harm us.

Venting can feel good, but it doesn’t generally produce solutions, Dr. Kross said. Try to get social support from people who are objective and can help reframe your circumstances.

[Article](#)



Righteous Anger



Righteous indignation, also called righteous anger, is anger that is primarily motivated by a perception of injustice or other profound moral lapse. It is distinguished from anger that is prompted by something more personal, like an insult.

Aristotle considered righteous indignation as a virtue

In some Christian doctrines, it is considered the only form of anger which is not sinful.

[Article](#)



‘Anger Has Benefits’

Across studies, anger compared to a neutral condition resulted in behavior that facilitated greater goal attainment on tasks that involved challenges.

[Article](#)

Sad Ash Isn't All Bad

'It's Okay to Feel Sad'

- Everyone's situational sadness is *not* chronic clinical depression
- Sadness is a normal part of everyone's ups and downs
- We can learn to manage sadness
- Acknowledge your sadness and the cause
- Sadness can prompt choices for improvement

Better Health Channel



Inside Out

Joy / Sadness / Fear / Anger / Disgust
Pixar / 2015

FROM THE ASH, A NEW DAWN



Message from Future Me



My gray patio horizon
12/25/25



Encouragement from me to me
12/25/35

Go Share Your Good Words



Contact

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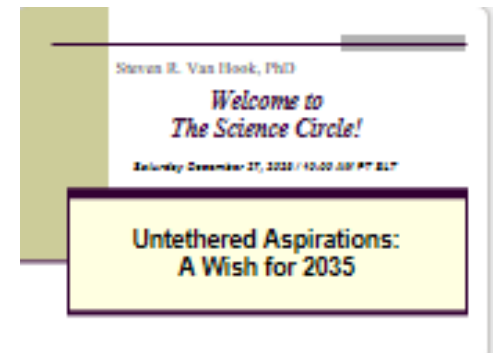


EduCare VW Access Primer:

<http://wwmr.us/support/Educare-SL-Primer.pdf>

Presentation Slides:

<https://wwmr.us/support/Future-2026-Untethered.pdf>



EduCare VW Island

- Nonprofit educational NGO
- Simplified experience
- Orientation for educators
- Introduction to VW teaching



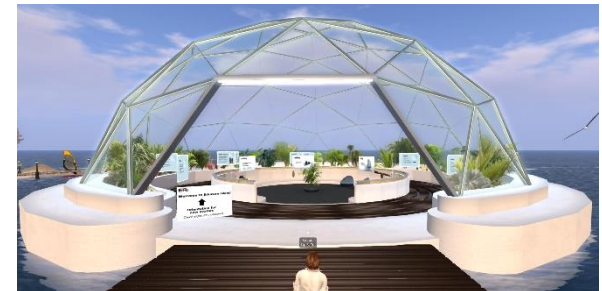
Landmark



Presentations

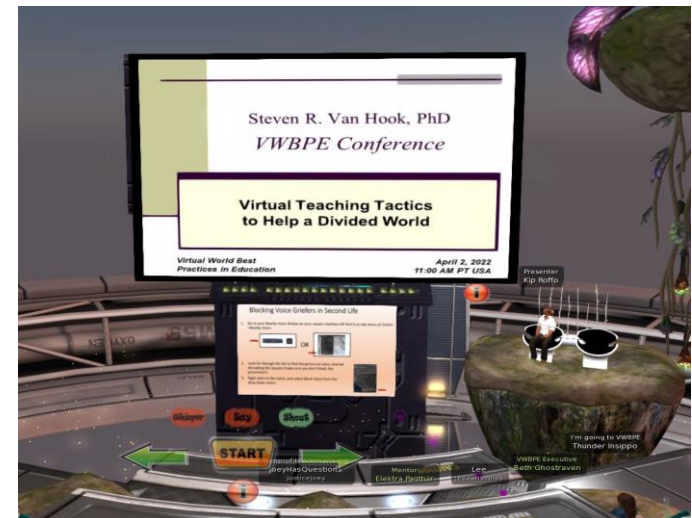


EduCare Research inc
Non-profit 501(c)(3)
Free Access



VW Presentation / Seminar Topics

- VW Teaching Tactics & Trends
- Transcultural Course Design
- Primers & Prompts for Enticing Lectures
- Handling Difficult Students
- Global Trends for World Solutions in Education
- More Topic Abstracts ...



Key EduCare Landmarks

EDUCARE LANDMARKS

A Nonprofit Program for International Educators & Students

Steven R. Van Hook, PhD / Kip Roffo in SL

<http://wwmr.us>

Welcome to Educare

First steps for a new avatar

Educare Tour

Guided flight of the island

Main Hall

Our large-group meeting space

Workspace

Smaller gatherings and conferences

Treehouse Meet Spot

Chill and chat by the beach

Educare Sandbox

Rez and build your own stuff

Sunset Cove

Campfire chat, tai chi, healing hypnosis, touch the Buddha



Access

























Resources & Rides



:: Region-long water tunnel with video & music ::

JOIN THE EDUCARE GROUP FOR ALL-RIDE ACCESS

-  [Educare Tour](#) (relax and see)
-  [Yellow Submarine Ride](#) (underwater world)
-  [Board Games](#) (chess and checkers)
-  [Air Balloon](#) (guided and self-guided tours)
-  [Sail-Surfer](#) (ride the waves)
-  [TED Talks](#) (videos: be a better you)
-  [Treehouse](#) (chill and chat by the beach)
-  [Tai Chi](#) (short-form)
-  [Healing Hypnosis](#) (hypnotherapy video)
-  [Dealing with Self-Doubt](#) (video)
-  [Storytime: Annie](#) (audio / read along)
-  [Storytime: The Dwarf](#) (audio / read along)
-  [Storytime: Seal Woman](#) (audio / read along)
-  [Watermelon Drinks & Dancing](#) (Educare Radio stream)
-  [X Marks the Spot](#) (undersea tour)
-  [Sea of Monsters](#) (surround video)
-  [Sea of Holes](#) (surround video)
-  [Seagull Flight](#) (surround video)
-  [Must Be An Angel](#) (surround audio)
-  [Sea World](#) (surround audio)
-  [Lectures & Podcasts](#) (audio and video)
-  [Educare Sandbox](#) (group use)



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*Welcome to
The Science Circle!*

Saturday December 27, 2025 / 10:00 AM PT SLT

**Untethered Aspirations:
A Wish for 2035**