



The University of Oklahoma

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Dr. Nathan O. Hatch
Wake Forest University
Office of the President
1834 Wake Forest Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Dr. Rogan Kersh
Wake Forest University
Office of the Provost
1834 Wake Forest Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Dear President Hatch and Provost Kersh,

On the Wake Forest University Events website, I read that Dr. Vandana Shiva will be delivering a lecture on November 4, 2014. In announcing the lecture, the website states that “Before becoming an activist, Shiva was one of India’s leading physicists. She holds a master’s degree in philosophy of science and a PhD in particle physics.”

Dr. Shiva earned her PhD from the Department of Philosophy, not the Department of Physics, at the University of Western Ontario in 1978. Her PhD is more properly characterized as a doctorate in the Philosophy of Science.

Her dissertation title is “Hidden Variables and Locality in Quantum Theory.” More particularly about her dissertation, Dr. Shiva (quoting from the abstract) states, “ ... It has been taken for granted that Bell’s result [Bell’s theorem] is based on a locality condition which is physically motivated, and thus his proof therefore falls into a class by itself. We show that both the above claims are mistaken.” [bracketed words added]

Since the date of her philosophy dissertation, Bell’s theorem has been proven scientifically correct through experimental data. No credible physicist has any doubts about the correctness of Bell’s theorem. As Dr. Camille Ryan wrote about Dr. Shiva, “The main thesis of quantum mechanics that she challenged has since been confirmed by experimental physics, meaning that her thesis stands at odds with factual reality.” <http://www.geneticliteracyproject/2014/01/28/who-is-vandana-shiva-and-why-is-she-saying-such-awful-things-about-gmos/#.UugoZfYo7sE>

As Shiva does not have a Ph.D. in particle physics, the press release claim that she was one of India’s leading physicists is also false.

Moreover, having known about Dr. Shiva for many years, I do not know of information, aside from her self-promotional materials, that she has been engaged professionally in any activity other than political activism, extending back to her inaccurate philosophical musings against Bell’s theorem.

In addition, I learned yesterday from her speaker's agency that her common fee for an American university appearance is \$ 40,000 plus a business class round-trip ticket from New Delhi. From this information, I would infer that Wake Forest is probably paying Dr. Shiva close to \$ 50,000 for her presentation.

Wake Forest University properly prides itself for the Honor System – e.g., “...not to deceive (lie to) any member of the community, not to steal from one another ...” It appears that Dr. Shiva violates the Honor System of Wake Forest University by obtaining an invitation under false credentials by which she also extracts substantial speaker fees and travel expenses from University resources.

Sincerely yours,

Drew L. Kershen
Earl Sneed Centennial Professor of Law (Emeritus)

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