

Synopsis: SOL Symposium, November 22 and 23, 2024  
Prepared by John Shartle on behalf of Now Creations

## **Background of the SOL Foundation:**

On August 25, 2023, the SOL Foundation (SOL) was founded by two esteemed scholars and a technology entrepreneur: Dr. Garry Nolan, a world-renowned Stanford University immunologist and microbiologist, Dr. Peter Skafish, a socio-cultural anthropologist working at the intersection of anthropology and philosophy, and technology entrepreneur Jonathan Berthe, founder, chairman, and driving force behind Robivision, a leading Artificial Intelligence solution provider, as well as a regular lecturer at institutions including the London School of Economics, Vlerick Business School, and Ghent University.

SOL's mission is threefold, as indicated on their website:  
[thesolfoundation.org](https://thesolfoundation.org)

1. **Funding and Directing UAP Research:** To support and guide the first 25 years of public research into Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), nonhuman intelligences, and their implications for human understanding of nature, society, technology, and politics. The Foundation aims to be the leading source of scientific, intellectual, and policy research on these issues.
2. **Providing Advisory Research:** To deliver reliable, cutting-edge advisory research to the United States and other national governments, as well as corporate clients, establishing itself as the foremost think tank on UAP and offering the most informed and insightful policy recommendations available.
3. **Public Education:** To offer insights and guidance to the public on the cosmological and political implications of UAP, helping humanity understand and creatively respond to the potential existence of other intelligences in the Universe.

Additionally, the Foundation is committed to fostering democratic oversight of governmental UAP engagements, promoting transparency, and ensuring that UAP-related research is conducted in a commercially and ecologically responsible manner.

SOL held its inaugural symposium, the "SOL Foundation Initiative for UAP Research and Policy," November 17-18, 2023, at Stanford University. Sponsored by the Nolan Laboratory and the Stanford School of Medicine, the event convened leading academics, government officials, and industry experts to address the scientific, philosophical, and policy challenges posed by UAP. The symposium aimed to propose tangible government policies, research programs, and investment strategies to advance the understanding of UAP and to elevate public discourse on the subject. Notable speakers included Harvard astronomer Avi Loeb, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Christopher Mellon, and author and Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, Dr. Diana Walsh Pasulka, among others. The event underscored the Foundation's commitment to fostering serious, well financed inquiry into UAP and their broader implications.

Building upon the success of its inaugural event, SOL hosted its second annual symposium on November 22-23, 2024, at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. This gathering again brought together prominent figures from government, academia, and industry to delve deeper into the scientific, technological, and policy dimensions of UAP. The second symposium featured several returning speakers from the inaugural event while also introducing new voices to broaden the scope of discussion and perspectives on UAP research and policy. The symposium featured presentations on recent scientific discoveries, proposals for governmental reforms, and explorations of technological innovations related to UAP.

## **Now Creations and SOL:**

In 2021, Vince Lisi created the Cosmic Citizens Committee (CCC) within Now Creations, to provide an educational forum for the larger membership regarding the Phenomenon, UAP, Cosmic Consciousness, Cosmology, and associated subjects. The CCC meets biannually to discuss these and other emergent issues, and provide the membership with periodic reports. Though many of the topics discussed within the CCC may be new to the larger Now Creations membership, they align well with the organization's vision of inspiring conscious spiritual growth through meditation practices, study of spiritual materials, and ongoing connection with each other.

In late September 2024, Vince and I had a conversation about the upcoming SOL Symposium. Vince conveyed his strong belief that SOL was doing important work for the advancement of humanity and extended the very generous offer for Now Creations to sponsor my attendance at the symposium. Grateful for this opportunity, I attended the symposium, held on November 22-23, 2024, at the Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. It was an extraordinary gathering that brought together leading experts from government, academia, and technology to delve into the multifaceted subject of UAP.

## The Event:

The symposium's structure was nicely organized into four thematic sessions, each addressing critical aspects of UAP studies:

1. **The Challenge to Government of UAP:** Featured discussions on aviation safety and governmental policies, including a conversation between Ryan Graves, Executive Director of Americans for Safe Aerospace, and journalist Leslie Kean, as well as an "All of Government" policy proposal by Rear Admiral (ret.) Dr. Tim Gallaudet. Dr. Eric Davis (physicist), and retired U.S. Senate staffer Kirk McConnell among others, also made powerful presentations.
2. **Understanding the Enigma: The Role of Philosophical Investigation:** Explored the cultural and existential dimensions of UAP with contributions from Dr. Peter Skafish and Dr. Alexander Wendt of Ohio State University, as well as professors, Dr. Jeff Kripal of Rice University and Dr. Stephen Finley of Louisiana State University.
3. **Toward a Science of UAP:** Highlighted cutting-edge scientific approaches, with insights from Dr. Garry Nolan and Dr. Avi Loeb, Dr. Beatriz Villaroel, and others.
4. **At the Threshold of a New Future? UAP-related Technology and Investment:** Examined the technological and economic potential in this evolving field, featuring compelling perspectives from technology executives Eric Schrock, Rizwan Virk, SOL co-founder Jonathan Berte, Col. Karl Nell (ret.), and others.

The brilliance of the speakers, combined with the symposium's interdisciplinary focus, highlighted the importance of collaboration across science, philosophy, theology, policy, and technology. This experience

reinforced my belief in the important role SOL plays, now and into the future, in advancing a deeper understanding of UAP and their implications for humanity's future.

In addition to the impressive lineup of speakers, the diversity among the 400 conference attendees was remarkable. The audience represented a broad spectrum of backgrounds, including academics, scientists, artists, filmmakers, clerics, entrepreneurs, medical and financial professionals, and ordinary individuals like me. There wasn't "one type" of person present; rather, each attendee brought a unique perspective, interest, and life experience to the rich and fascinating networking discussions which occurred during breaks and mealtimes. Many attendees were also "experiencers," individuals who have had direct, often profound encounters with UAP phenomena. This mix of voices enriched the dialogue, fostering a sense of shared curiosity and mutual respect that transcended disciplines and personal histories. It was deeply inspiring to experience this variety of perspectives, which contributed to a holistic exploration of this complex and mysterious subject.

## **My Takeaways from the SOL Symposium**

The wealth of insights from the SOL symposium is difficult to convey, but several key themes emerged, for me, that are worth sharing. While this list is by no means exhaustive, it highlights some of the main themes I took from the symposium.

1. The study of UAPs, or what is often called "the Phenomenon," extends far beyond the traditional "nuts and bolts" perspective of UFOs piloted by extraterrestrial beings. This topic touches on nearly every aspect of human existence, inviting us to consider what it means to be human, how we connect with the world and the Universe, our purpose, and the path forward. The Phenomenon is undeniably real, even though its nature and significance remain mysterious. It carries profound implications for every individual, every culture, and the whole of humanity. Perhaps the most noteworthy expression of this sentiment was conveyed in Admiral Tim Gallaudet's presentation, where he stressed the need for development of an "All of Government" approach to policy related to the subject of UAP. His argument being that this topic should not be reserved for study by one branch of government, e.g., the military or

intelligence agencies, but rather should be embraced and explored by every area, including science, medicine, diplomacy, economics, etc. Truly, a noble aspiration

2. What was once considered a fringe subject has now fully entered the mainstream. UAP and the Phenomenon are being seriously examined by academics, scientists, theologians, philosophers, anthropologists, and many others. One notable example is a history professor from the University of Illinois, Springfield, who attended the symposium. He has developed and is now teaching a four-credit course titled "*UFOs and National Security History*". Ten years ago, the idea of such a course being offered at a mainstream university would have been almost unthinkable. This shift demonstrates just how far the conversation has come in a relatively short time.

3. The symposium sessions were structured with a sincere sense of cultural urgency. This is no longer a fringe or trivial topic—it is real, relevant, and carries significant implications for our near future. A confirmation of Non-Human Intelligence (NHI) whether interplanetary, interdimensional, or something entirely different, by a government or a theological entity like the Vatican, would have revolutionary and world-altering consequences. The presenters clearly understood the weight of this reality, and treated both the subject matter and the audience with the respect such profound implications require.

4. The diversity of participants at the symposium was striking. Esteemed presenters and attendees alike represented a wide spectrum of backgrounds and perspectives, reflecting the range of human experience and knowledge. The growing realization that UAPs and the Phenomenon are important subjects, worthy of serious study was evident in this range of viewpoints.

5. The work of the SOL Foundation in advancing the study of UAPs cannot be overstated. The gathering itself was truly excellent, with every session thoughtfully designed and delivered, ensuring no time was wasted and every presentation was impactful. Having engaged deeply in self-study on UAPs and the Phenomenon, I can confidently say that I have never been as impressed by the quality of content, structure, and discourse as I was at the SOL symposium. I believe the future of this field of study lies not in government initiatives or legislation, but in the cutting edge work of organizations like the SOL Foundation. Their efforts, and hopefully those of others who follow their lead, will drive the continued exploration and understanding of this vitally important topic.

## **Conclusion:**

The SOL Symposium proved to be an extraordinary gathering, offering a unique and comprehensive exploration of the UAP phenomenon. From the insightfulness and expertise of the speakers to the diversity of attendees, the event underscored the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in addressing one of humanity's most compelling mysteries. Each session provided valuable insights, sparking conversations that extended beyond the symposium itself and into the broader community of thinkers, researchers, and everyday individuals curious about UAP and their implications.

My attendance at SOL, generously sponsored by Vince and Now Creations, offered much more than a deep dive into the subject of UAP and the Phenomenon. It served as an invitation to step beyond the boundaries of daily life and confront questions that reach into the deepest parts of our existence. This gathering reminded everyone in attendance that the mystery of UAP is not merely about what lies beyond our understanding but also about what it means within us—our sense of wonder, purpose, and connection to the vast Universe of all that is.

For those who seek to engage further with these ideas, the videos from the symposium will be available on YouTube by the end of December, 2024. I encourage everyone to explore them, not only to learn more about UAP but also to join in this shared journey of discovery, reflection, and evolution.

Additional information regarding the SOL videos will be provided as it becomes available.