



Mensa Education & Research Foundation Launches *Conversations with Mensa*



Mensa members are well-known for their intriguing conversations. Now, those conversations are going high tech! *Conversations with Mensa* is a new series of podcasts that puts listeners in touch with new information, fresh insights and timely research. The podcasts are available at no charge to the public and Mensa members.

Conversations with Mensa is sponsored by the Mensa Education & Research Foundation and is available at www.mensafoundation.org/conversations. The two initial podcasts feature notable Mensans Alan Rachins, formerly of *Dharma and Greg* and *L.A. Law*; and Tarek Saab, former contestant on *The Apprentice*.

In *The Art of the Bluff*, Rachins interviewed professional poker player Howard Lederer.
See "Conversations" on P.2 for the story.

Foundation Hosts Genealogy Discussions in Salt Lake City this September



Colloquium 2008: *Tracking Granny's Granny* is quickly approaching and we hope that you are ready to take a journey through your past.

Genealogy, a complex process that uses historical records and sometimes genetic analysis to identify family lineages and history, is considered by many to be the fastest-growing hobby in North America. So, on

September 12-14, plan to join other enthusiasts in Salt Lake City for a hot-topic weekend of speakers and high-level discussion. Confirmed sessions include: "If Our Ancestors Had Email" presented by James W. Warren, "A Different Kind of DNA" presented by Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D., "Deep Linking and Deeper Linking" presented by Stephen P. Morse, Ph.D., and more.

The Foundation is pleased to announce National Geographic and IBM's participation in the Colloquium through The Genographic Project. The Project welcomes you to become part of this landmark research study and discover your own ancient journey.

See "Genealogy" on P.3 for the rest of the story.

Donor Spotlight *Dr. Mary Dwyer Wolfe*



When Dr. Mary Dwyer Wolfe joined Mensa in 1985, she had no idea that through her membership, she would play a key role in the education of more than 800 college students.

Just one year after joining Mensa, Wolfe took on the role of Local Scholarship Chair for Mensa in Georgia. "When I joined Mensa," Wolfe recalls, "I began working with the Foundation to assist aspiring students with their school expenses."

Wolfe's commitment to educating students has continued to grow through the years. She served as both Local Scholarship Chair

See "Mary Dwyer Wolfe" on P.2
for the rest of the story

What's New in the *Mensa Research Journal*?

ON SALE NOW: Vol. 39, No. 2 – "Gifted in the Workplace"

ON SALE in November: Vol. 39, No. 3 – "Artistic Intelligence"

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and Regional Scholarship Chair, and, since 2003, she has co-chaired the National Scholarship Program with her husband Steve.

“My husband and I put ourselves through undergraduate school with few resources, so we know how important scholarship aid is for bright and worthy students,” said Wolfe. “I have a responsibility to promote intelligence and provide others with opportunities that were not available to me.” Through her work with the Foundation, Wolfe has certainly provided those opportunities - to almost a thousand students.

In 2006, Wolfe and her husband both won the President’s Call to Service Lifetime Achievement Award for their work with the Foundation. Presented on behalf of President George W. Bush, the award recognizes individuals who have completed a minimum of 4,000 hours of community service.

“We appreciated the award recognition for our many hours of hard work in making the Foundation Scholarship run smoothly,” said Wolfe. “However, the greater joy has been seeing the reactions on the faces of winners and reading the thank you notes from the winners of the Foundation awards.”

In addition to her work with the Foundation, Wolfe is active in her local Mensa group, serving as a Member-at-Large on the board of her Local Group and as that group’s Webmaster. She is also the 2008 Regional Gathering Coordinator, Mensa in Georgia’s Forum Moderator and on the 2008 Colloquium Planning Committee.

The Mensa Foundation awards more than 150 scholarships each year to college students in the U.S. and internationally. Many opportunities are available for assisting with this program, from volunteering to judge local scholarship essays to hosting a creative fundraising event. For more information, visit www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships or contact Jill Beckham at jillb@americanmensa.org.

The site consists of educational and challenging games, and useful learning and teaching resources for gifted kids and parents.

Each month, children have the opportunity to explore a new topic in Mensa for Kid’s Feature of the Month. Past features have

See “Congratulations” on P.3 for the rest of the story

Conversations cont’d.

Lederer’s total live tournament winnings have exceeded \$3.4 million, and he has won two World Series of Poker bracelets and two World Poker Tour titles. Rachins and Lederer discuss the “human” part of the brain, understanding the different types of motivations behind your poker game, attitudes, game style and picking the right game to play.

Saab’s podcast features Mensa Education & Research Foundation 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Dr. Jane Piirto. The guest editor of last winter’s *Mensa Research Journal*, she has an extensive publishing background and one of her books, *Understanding Those Who Create*, was awarded the Parents’ Choice Award in 1998. In *Women and Creativity*, Saab and Piirto explore her work, including several notable articles she contributed to the *Journal*, and her thoughts on the creative process.

Honor Someone Special With the Walk of Minds

Take a moment to make your mark by commemorating an event or honoring someone special. For only \$200, you can purchase a brick on the Walk of the Minds with up to 6 lines of text. Your brick will display your message and will be placed in the sidewalk leading to the national headquarters building of American Mensa in Arlington, Texas. You will also receive a deed to your part of the Walk of the Minds.



Congratulations! Mensaforkids.org is an award-winning Web site!



The Foundation is proud to announce that www.mensaforkids.org has received the 2008 Bronze EXCEL Award for Web Site Design Excellence from the Society of National Association Publications. The EXCEL Awards recognize the exemplary work of association publishers, judging more than 1,200 magazines, newsletters, scholarly journals, electronic publications and Web sites each year.

The Foundation makes an ongoing contribution to the fulfillment and education of youth by sponsoring the www.MensaForKids.org.

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Congratulations cont'd.

included investigations of ice cream, diamonds, nature and many additional topics of interest. Appropriately timed, the most recent Feature of the Month examines some of the weird sports from past Olympics. Logon to www.mensaforkids.org to read more.

More than 35,000 unique users have benefited from Mensa for Kids. Funding for the site is made possible by the Foundation's generous donors.

Genealogy cont'd

This non-profit project is gathering and analyzing the world's largest collection of anthropological DNA samples to capture an invaluable genetic snapshot of humanity before modern-day influences erase it forever. Net proceeds go to the Genographic Legacy Fund, which supports indigenous cultural and revitalization projects, as well as funding future field research.

The Project is offering Mensa members a \$10 discount on the Public Participation Kit, which includes a simple, painless cheek swab to collect your DNA and reveal your direct paternal or maternal deep ancestry. Enter MNSA as your special savings code when you purchase your kit at www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic; offer is only valid through September 30, 2008. Once you check to receive your anonymous and confidential results online, you may also choose to switch over to Family Tree DNA to participate in more recent genealogy searches at no additional cost.

If you haven't already done so, make your arrangements today to join us in September at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org. You can also find an outline of session topics, speakers, recommended readings, and a pre-event primer online.

Calendar Dates

AVAILABLE NOW: Annual Report. Download a copy at www.mensafoundation.org/annualreport.

Colloquium 2008 – September 12-14, 2008

Colloquium 2009 – February 27-March 1, 2009. Register at www.colloq09.us.mensa.org.

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation fosters the best and brightest through scholarships and awards, and encourages research and intellectual inquiry through the *Mensa Research Journal* and various Colloquia. Governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, the Mensa Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and is funded by support from American Mensa, Mensa members and other charitable donations. For more information, visit www.mensafoundation.org or call 817-607-0060 ext 5577.

Awards

2008 Distinguished Teacher Award: Judy L. Scruggs

- Ms. Scruggs taught at Venable Elementary in Charlottesville, Virginia. Mensa member Stephanie Elzy nominated her.



2008 Copper Black Award For Creative Achievement: Ian Cheong

- Mr. Cheong is receiving the award for his invention of a "cancer bullet" that can strike and destroy malignant tumors without toxicity to outlying tissue.

2008 International Award for Intellectual Benefits to Society: Nicole Schuster

- Ms. Schuster, now 23, was diagnosed with Aspergers, a form of autism, at the age of 20. Since that diagnosis, she has written two books on living with Aspergers, one book being a subject best seller in her home country. Shocked by what society thinks about autistic persons, Ms. Schuster has become a bridge between two worlds. She gives a voice to autistic people in Germany, where she is heard on radio and appears on television. She is dedicated to providing a better understanding of this greatly misunderstood condition.

2008 Awards for Excellence in Research:

- *Tracy L. Cross, Ball State University, IN, "The Psychology of Gifted Adolescents as Measured by MMPI-A"* (senior researcher)
- *Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, College of William and Mary, VA, "The Development and Use of a Structured Teacher Observation Scale to Assess Differentiated Best Practice"* (senior researcher)
- *Rose Mary Webb, Appalachian State University, NC, "Spatial Ability: A Neglected Dimension in Talent Searches for Intellectually Precocious Youth"* (junior researcher)
- *Stephen T. Schroth, Knox College, IL, "Urban School Districts' Enrichment Programs: Who Should be Served"* (junior researcher)
- *Thomas Rammsayer, University of Bern, Switzerland, "Processing of Temporal and Nontemporal Information as Predictors of Psychometric Intelligence: A Structural-Equation Modeling Approach"* (junior researcher)
- *Mary K. Hoard, University of Missouri-Columbia, MO, "Mathematical Cognition in Intellectually Precocious Children"* (junior researcher)

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