



MENSA[®] Education & Research FOUNDATION

2007–2008 Report

Supporting and Encouraging Intelligence

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501c(3) organization committed to the pursuit of excellence in the areas of intelligence. Its mission and strategic programs focus on **Scholarships** encouraging intelligence, **Research** supporting intelligence, **Education** communicating intelligence, and **Awards** recognizing intelligence.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who are volunteers elected by members of the American Mensa Committee (AMC), the voting members of the Foundation. Funding support comes from American Mensa, Ltd.; Mensa International, Ltd.; and other charitable donations.

Donations to the Mensa Foundation are deductible for income tax purposes.

A Year of Successes

by President Greg Timmers

Many of us bring incredible intellectual value to society by honing our professional expertise in a given field—what could be typified as “vertical intelligence”. Mensa affords the opportunity to expand the breadth of our social intelligence by offering a multitude of programs, projects, and educational venues, thus enhancing “intelligence horizontally”.

Mensa member **Carol Raymond** of Richland Hills, TX (a 2008 Mensa Member scholarship winner) notes in her essay, “My passion lies in decreasing the amount of wasted time and increasing the productivity and engagement for our gifted scholars. ... Our nation desperately needs an influx of bright, inspired minds; the fields are ripe, but many are rotting past their prime. Once this ‘rotten attitude’ permeates a gifted mind, the entire world may miss the chance to witness brilliance.”

The *Mensa Research Journal* (MRJ) offers “extreme thinking” to an expanding subscription base. Silver winner of the 2007 Association Trends All Media Contest for Scholarly/Technical/Scientific Journals, recent issues of the MRJ have focused on gifted intelligence, the story of g, spatial intelligence, and gifted in the workplace.

Colloquiums gather members and others interested in focused discussions of topics that have recently covered humor, cosmology, and fueling the earth. Colloquiums during the coming year include **Tracking Granny’s Granny: The Genealogy Quest** (Salt Lake City) and **Weather or Not** (Atlanta) on climate change.

“Conversations with Mensa”, a series of podcasts, are now available on the website. Visit www.mensafoundation.org to hear the initial conversations: “Women and Creativity”, with entrepreneur, writer, and Mensan **Tarek Saab** talking with the Mensa Foundation’s 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, **Dr. Jane Piirto**, about the ramifications of her life’s work in creativity and giftedness; and “The Art of the Bluff” with actor and Mensan **Alan Rachins** discussing the area where psychology and poker intersect, with internationally recognized poker professional **Howard Lederer**.

The boards of the Mensa Foundation and American Mensa, Ltd., thank the Mensa membership for their support to recognize, encourage, and enhance the value of professional and personal intelligence to society.



Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

■ *Teaching*

"Who is this guy?" was the first thing Mensa member Angela Miller thought upon entering **Professor Patrick Pauken's** Law, Ethics and Negotiations class at Bowling Green State University. Five years later, Dr. Pauken received the 2007 **Distinguished Teacher Award** based on the strength of her nominating essay.

Dr. Pauken is an associate professor in the School of Leadership and Policy Studies at BGSU, where he serves as graduate program coordinator of the doctoral program in Leadership Studies.

In her nominating essay, Angela Miller wrote, "Over the course of the semester, Dr. Pauken challenged me more than any other educator and helped fuel my passion for knowledge, reinvigorate my interest in law, and strengthen my intellectual confidence... Not only was his intellect unparalleled, so were his expectations. I gave what I thought was my best, and he would demand more. Because of his persistence, I produced work of a quality I didn't realize I possessed. The end of the semester came, but it was only the beginning of his tremendous influence."

The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes a teacher, professor, or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member. The educators can impact the Mensa member directly or as a result of their influence on the education of a dependent.

The teacher selected for the award is presented with a monetary award from the Mensa Foundation; the school receives a commemorative plaque.



Paul Rouda (left) of Maumee Valley Mensa presented the award to Dr. Patrick Pauken. Angela Miller (right) nominated her teacher.

■ *Communication*

San Antonio journalist **Karen Adler** has been honored with the 2007 Mensa Press Award. Karen won the \$1,000 award based on her article "Minority Gifted Kids Left Behind" published in the May 27, 2006, *San Antonio Express-News*.

This national award is presented to one individual each year who shows excellence in writing about intelligence and human giftedness in media designed for lay audiences.

"Karen's article spotlighted an issue that is prevalent all over the United States: gifted children of all races and backgrounds not receiving the proper education and challenges they need because their talents haven't yet been identified," said Greg Timmers, president of the Mensa Foundation.

"'Minority Gifted Kids Left Behind' was enlightening, encouraging, and it spread the word about the importance of gifted and talented programs. Because of that, we are proud to honor her with the Mensa Press Award."

Karen left the newspaper in 2006 to become a communications specialist for a school district in the San Antonio area, where she is an advocate for public education. Karen was also named the Texas Association of the Gifted and Talented (TAGT) Advocate of the Year for 2007.

"It's really thrilling to have my work honored by the Mensa Education & Research Foundation," Karen said.

"I stumbled upon this story when I attended a conference for the Texas Association for the Gifted & Talented in San Antonio. I thought, well, now there's an issue that should be everybody's problem. To receive an award for a story that I gave so much time, effort, and passion to is truly special."



Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Lifetime Achievement

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Dr. Jane M. Piirto** of Ashland, OH. With this award for research in the area of human intelligence, especially giftedness, Dr. Piirto received a \$1,000 honorarium and a commemorative plaque and medal. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented every other year.

"When deciding who should be honored with the Mensa Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, we look for someone who has had an incredible impact on the intellectual community through his or her work in research, theory, or other scholarly areas," Foundation president Greg Timmers said.

"Over the years, Dr. Piirto has educated the public through a long list of publications related to the gifted. Her dedication has extended beyond teaching to investigating how talented individuals learn and, placing such individuals with appropriate experts, effectively translating research into practical benefits for society. We are honored to present Dr. Piirto with this award."

A faculty member at Ashland University since 1988, Dr. Piirto directs AU's Talent Development Education (TDE) program. She teaches graduate courses in the Master of Education (M.Ed.) course of study, qualitative research in the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) course of study, and undergraduate courses in educational psychology and creativity. She is a consultant and speaker throughout the United States and abroad and has been a teacher and school administrator. Dr. Piirto has written more than 100 published scholarly articles, poems, short stories, and essays.



Dr. Piirto's award was presented to her by Greg Timmers (right) and Dr. Frank Pettigrew, Ashland University provost, at the annual faculty meeting.

Intellectual Benefits

The Intellectual Benefits Award for 2007 went to Minneapolis resident **Dr. Deborah Ruf**. The annual award recognizes a Mensa member for the application of intellectual abilities that result in a tangible benefit to society. Dr. Ruf won the award based on her extensive work with gifted children and adults.

Founder of Educational Options, Dr. Ruf offers a number of comprehensive services to her clients including assessment of intelligence, family/school guidance, college planning, and public speaking. Her goal when she founded the business in 1999 was to help the families of gifted children, particularly highly and profoundly gifted children, to know where to begin their search for answers related to gifted issues.

She has written extensively about gifted children and adults, including her book "Losing Our Minds: Gifted Children Left Behind", and was the guest editor of the fall 2007 issue of the *Mensa Research Journal*, which was devoted to the topic of homeschooling.

The Mensa Intellectual Benefits Award was created in 2006 to honor Mensa members who show innovation in activities including education programs for employees, client or business associate education programs, programs designed to educate the public, and intellectual research and development. These activities may be paid or unpaid with consideration given to the number of individuals impacted by the nominee's contributions.



Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Creativity

Dr. Harry I. Ringermacher is the 2007 recipient of the **Copper Black Award** for his invention of a flexible imager. The award includes a plaque and \$500 cash. This is Dr. Ringermacher's second time winning the Copper Black Award.

The judges were very impressed with Dr. Ringermacher's invention of a flexible imager. It uses flexible organic transistors to make a plastic, flexible, digital X-ray panel sensor. Greg Timmers notes, "This was an excellent example of the creativity that we wanted to spotlight with the Copper Black Award for Creativity."

Dr. Ringermacher received his bachelor's degree and Ph.D. in physics at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Later, he did a post-doctoral fellowship at NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia.

As a long-time employee of General Electric (GE), Dr. Ringermacher continues his research in the field of non-destructive evaluation as it relates to aircraft engines and turbine blades. In his spare time he pursues his passion for physics.

After co-hosting the 2006 Mensa Colloquium "Revolution in Cosmology" in October 2006, he also added astrophotography to his list of hobbies.

The Copper Black Award was named after the late Ms. Copper Black, a Mensa member who greatly valued creativity. In her will she left a legacy funding a special annual award to recognize an outstanding creative achievement by a member of American Mensa.

Dr. Ringermacher is the sixth Mensa member to receive this award and the only person to receive it twice.



Research

The **Awards for Excellence in Research** are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields. Eligible research is that first published in or accepted by a peer-reviewed journal, or presented at a peer-reviewed professional conference. Entry categories include senior and junior investigators.

Senior Researchers

Tracy L. Cross, Ball State University, IN, "The Psychology of Gifted Adolescents as Measured by MMPI-A"

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"

Junior Researchers

Rose Mary Webb, Appalachian State University, NC, "Spatial Ability: A Neglected Dimension in Talent Searches for Intellectually Precocious Youth"

Stephen T. Schroth, Knox College, IL, "Urban School Districts' Enrichments Programs: Who Should be Served"

Thomas Rammsayer, University of Bern, Switzerland, "Processing of Temporal and Nontemporal Information as Predictors of Psychometric Intelligence: A Structural-Equation-Modeling Approach"

Mary K. Hoard, University of Missouri-Columbia, MO, "Mathematical Cognition in Intellectually Precocious Children"

Appreciation is a wonderful thing: It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.

— Voltaire

Scholarships

Opening Doors of Opportunity

Scholarships are awarded at the local, regional, national, and international level. This year's national winners are listed here.

Unrestricted National Award (\$600)

- *Jerry Salny Memorial Scholarship*: **William Hutchison**, Warwick, NY.

Restricted National Awards (\$600)

- *Rita Levine Memorial Scholarship*: **Mary Meador**, Lehigh Acres, FL. (For a female returning to school after an absence of seven or more years)
- *The Sylvia Scholarship*: **Nadia Liyanage-Don**, Augusta, ME. (Study or career in education)
- *Harper Fowley-Isolated M Award*: **Maggie Tillquist**, Boulder, CO. (Study for an undergraduate liberal arts degree)
- *Margie Mandelblatt Award*: **Stephanie Jaw**, Villa Park, CA (Study in journalism)
- *Grace Harrington Wilson Scholarship*: **Delaney E. McKee**, Albuquerque, NM. (For a female student with a focus in journalism)
- *Lester London Award*: **Yvonne Morfitt**, Maffatt, CO. (Must be enrolled as a graduate student in history when applying)

- *Rosemary Greathouse Scholarship*: **Jacqueline Zopf**, Beacon, NY. (For a student pursuing a degree in the Arts, including creative writing and journalism)
- *Helen Kupper Scholarship*: **Ben Sargent**, West Des Moines, IA. (For a student pursuing a degree in the Fine Arts)

Restricted National Awards (\$1,000)

- *J.F. Schirmer Scholarships*: **Stephaney Cox**, Trabuco Canyon, CA; **Jessica Lien**, Phoenix, OR; **Vladimir Rosenhaus**, Chico, CA.
- *Margot Seitelman Memorial Scholarship*: **Audra K. Roach**, Austin, TX. (Graduate student who plans a career in professional writing or teaching English grammar and/or writing)
- *David Mann Scholarship*: **Jeffrey Spraker**, Honolulu, HI. (Study of aeronautical engineering or an aerospace field)

Mensa Member Awards (\$1,000)

- *Francis Cartier Scholarship*: **Jeanette De Richemond**, Doylestown, PA.
- *Darlene Criss Scholarship*: **Carol M. Raymond**, Richland Hills, TX.
- *Henry Noble Scholarship*: **Emily Stieren**, Galveston, TX.

Who's Who in Scholarships

Darlene Criss, for whom one of this year's Mensa Member scholarships is named, held nearly every office in American Mensa during her more than 30 years as a member, including that of AMC Chairman. In 2001, she was honored with the Margot Award, the most prestigious award given for service to Mensa. Sadly, Darlene passed away in April 2008.

Jerry Salny was a long-time member of the Northern New Jersey Mensa chapter where he first met his wife-to-be Dr. Abbie Salny. Abbie served as American and International Mensa's Supervisory Psychologist for many years. Jerry gave countless hours as

the Mensa Foundation's financial advisor and was a major donor. After Jerry's death in 2005, Abbie endowed an unrestricted national scholarship in his name.

Numbers for 2007-08

- 150** Total number of scholarships awarded by the Mensa Foundation this year.
- 57** Age of oldest scholarship winner.
- 41** Number of states represented by winners.
- 12** Age of the youngest scholarship winner; she is going from eighth grade to college in a special program for the highly gifted.

Colloquiums

Stimulating Thinking

Colloquiums examine contemporary issues in depth with authoritative speakers and discussions.

■ *Tracking Granny's Granny: The Genealogy Quest*

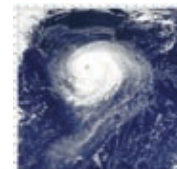
Genealogy is considered by many to be the fastest-growing hobby in North America. **Colloquium 2008**, to be held September 12–14 in Salt Lake City, UT, will present a number of knowledgeable speakers in the genealogical community. Attendees will also be

able to take advantage of time at the Family History Library, with special assistance just for them.

This American Mensa, Ltd., event is sponsored by the Mensa Education & Research Foundation, and is chaired by Eldon Romney.

■ *Weather or Not*

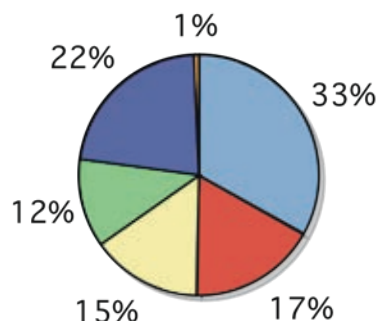
A 2009 colloquium will examine the past, present, and future of climate change on February 27–March 1 in Atlanta, Georgia.



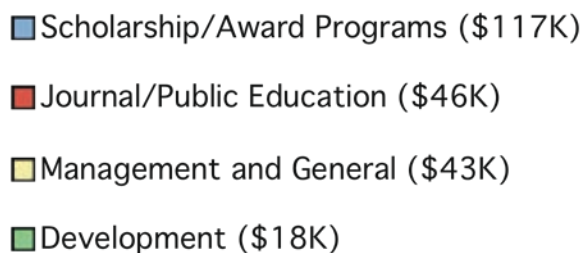
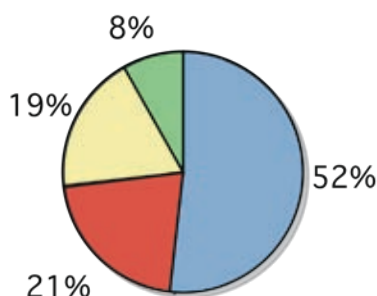
Financials in Brief

April 1, 2007–March 31, 2008

Revenue Sources



Expenditures



Items of Interest

- Scholarships and awards to individuals increased by 11 percent.
- Donor-restricted assets for future scholarships, awards, and programs totaled 63 percent, allowing current program funding for 20 years.
- The \$2.4 million in assets is managed by one full-time-equivalent (FTE) paid staff and thousands of volunteer hours.
- Administrative expenses are covered primarily by a grant from American Mensa, Ltd. Donations are used for program expenditures.

Mensa Research Journal

Understanding Our Community

The *Mensa Research Journal* (MRJ) publishes articles on recent findings in intelligence research from nationally and internationally esteemed scholars.

Themes for 2007–2008 included “Spatial Intelligence”, “The Measurement of Intelligence: The Story of g”, and an issue highlighting the career of Jane Piirto, Ph.D., recipient of the Mensa Foundation’s 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. Upcoming themes include artistic intelligence and giftedness

in the workplace.

The MRJ’s mission is to seek and publish current research that addresses the development, measurement, education, preservation, enhancement, or loss of intelligence. Tangential issues or concerns related to cognition or intelligence are also explored.

The *Mensa Research Journal* won the Silver Award in the 2007 Association Trends All-Media Contest.

Thank You to Our Donors

April 2007–March 2008

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors. They are truly the base of the Mensa Foundation that allows us to continue and enhance our programs. In addition to those listed here, many others have contributed support for the year’s successes. Our thanks . . . we couldn’t do it without you.

Platinum Level **(\$2500+)**

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Around the Globe

International Activities

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation and Mensa International, Ltd., work together to oversee several programs open to Mensa members around the world.

Copper Black International Award for Creative Achievement—This award recognizes a Mensan who has produced an innovative, practical idea and successfully implemented it.

International Award for Intellectual Benefits to Society—This is a new international award, with the first recipient to be named in the 2008–09 program year, recognizing a specific accomplishment that benefits society.

International Lifetime Achievement Award—An additional new award for the 2008–09 program year, this award is given in recognition of a lifetime of

contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects.

International Scholarship Program—This program provides scholarships for foreign students enrolled at colleges or universities in the United States.

Awards for Excellence in Research—These annual awards are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields.

Mensa Research Journal (MRJ)—Several articles published in the MRJ are authored by members of the international community as are guest columns. To assist in world-wide distribution, postage costs for international subscribers are subsidized so that the yearly subscription rate is the same as for U.S. subscribers.

Leadership

Trustees and Staff 2007–2008



Left to right:

Michael Jacobson, Treasurer and Trustee

David Felt, Secretary and Trustee

Gregory Timmers, President and Trustee

M. Russell Bakke, Ex-Officio Trustee, AMC Chair

Joanna Soper, Trustee

Phyllis Miller, Vice President and Trustee

Jill Beckham, Foundation Director (back row)

Marie Mayer, Trustee (front row)

Dave Remine, Trustee

Francis Cartier, Trustee

Credits: “Weather or Not” colloquium photo (page 6) courtesy of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA-GSFC).