



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2016



The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to the pursuit of excellence in the areas of intelligence. Funding support comes from American Mensa, Ltd., Mensa International, and other charitable donations.

Donations are deductible in the United States for income tax purposes.

Information on all the Foundation's programs and activities can be found at [mensafoundation.org](http://mensafoundation.org).

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## 5 years of fulfilling growth

This, my fifth and final year as President, is an ideal time to review my service to, and the growth of, the Foundation. First, I want to make very clear none of the accomplishments of the last five years were achieved solely by me alone. They all came about as a result of many dedicated Trustees aided by the National Office staff and hundreds of volunteers working together to fulfill our mission statement: "Benefit society by inspiring and empowering intellectually gifted people." Out of all the many offices I've held during 47 years in Mensa, this has been the most rewarding. Working with all the many talented people who help make the Foundation programs run smoothly, people who disagree without being the slightest bit disagreeable, has been a real pleasure. Receiving so many expressions of "Thanks" from those who have benefited from programs such as Scholarships, Mensa for Kids, Gifted Youth, Colloquium, Spark!, *Mensa Research Journal*, Reading Excellence, Conversations with Mensa, and our many award programs has been the most rewarding "paycheck" I ever received. Yes, the President gets most of the recognition for successes (and the blame for failures, too), but definitely the real credit for the successes is shared by many, and likely any failures were mine.

During the last five years our total assets have grown from \$2,730,675 to well over \$4 million and our investment portfolio has grown from \$2,251,882 to over \$4 million. This money is all from members' donations and bequests. This generosity has allowed us to fund new awards and programs and to improve existing ones.

The number of scholarship applications has seen a dramatic increase, especially since the entire program went online. This has made more work for the 450-plus



DAVE REMINE

volunteers who judge all these essays, but for a good cause. We were happy to end the "orphan areas," where people could not apply for scholarships because the local group did not participate; now everyone in the United States can apply. This year we doubled the size of what were the smallest scholarships from \$300 to \$600 and created some new ones as large as \$2,500, whereas before the largest was \$1,000. All of this is the result of fellow Mensa members' donations and bequests. Helping deserving students pursue their education goals is not only a "feel good" move but an investment in society, so please remember to donate to your Foundation and enable us to continue the work.

This year we continued our partnership with the Library of Congress in support of its yearly Festival of the Book, for which we provide guides to the event. Thousands of children and adults crowd the Mall in Washington, D.C., each September for this event.

In order to ensure that the Foundation Board does not become stagnant, we submitted bylaw changes, which were approved by the American Mensa Committee, limiting a Trustee's time on the Board to 12 years (formerly unlimited) and a maximum of two two-year terms in any one office (also formerly unlimited). This forced turnover will open up service on the Board to more people and bring fresh ideas and talent to the Foundation.

We have expanded our work with Mensa International and look forward to doing more on that level. New awards recognizing advances and research in the field of intelligence have been created thanks to bequests from members, and you'll soon hear more about them.

In all, I personally feel that the last five years have seen the Foundation enjoy great growth and serious strides toward fulfilling our mission. I've greatly enjoyed being a small part of it and urge all Mensa members to support your Foundation. My Mensa, My Foundation!

## COLLOQUIUM

The San Diego Zoo is rated as one of the top zoological gardens in the world; and the Mensa Foundation is absolutely the top organization for the nurture and encouragement of human intelligence in the world. What happens when they get together? The 2016 Colloquium, The Nature Of Genetics: Flora, Fauna and the Future. Joining with the famed San Diego Zoo, the Mensa Foundation presents a program exploring the current and future states of genetics, including research on and rescue of the Northern White Rhino, plus discussions on behavioral biology and conservation. The Colloquium annually provides Mensans and the public alike with the opportunity to gather with industry experts, noted authors and scientists to take an intense look at socially relevant topics. There is always something to make you think and you will take home more knowledge than you came with.

Visit the Colloquium section at [ag.us.mensa.org](http://ag.us.mensa.org)

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

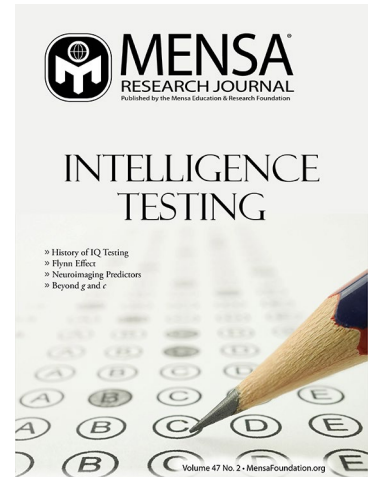
The Foundation's website, MensaForKids.org, offers a wealth of resources for gifted youth and the families and teachers who love them. On Examiner.com, homeschooling writer Alicia Bayer describes how the resources on MensaForKids.org can be used as free curriculum for gifted homeschoolers, particularly the Excellence in Reading program. She calls the program "a wonderful way to give kids a challenge that the whole family can get into together, either working through the books at lower reading levels together or as independent goals." You can read more about our Excellence in Reading Program at [goo.gl/7KIHT0](http://goo.gl/7KIHT0).

Visit [MensaForKids.org](http://MensaForKids.org)

## MENSA RESEARCH JOURNAL

Testing! Testing! 1, 2, 3!  
You're in Mensa; that means you took a test. What kind of test? And what did it actually prove? The summer 2016 issue of the *Mensa Research Journal* takes a look at intelligence testing and how and why it has changed over the years. Looking ahead, the fall issue will examine the effects of drugs on intelligence.

For only seven cents a day, you can get a three-year subscription to the *Mensa Research Journal*. Or, you can go online to the Foundation website and look over the MRJ index to find a topic that really interests you and purchase a single copy. Either way, you'll be doing your brain a favor.



Check out the list of back issues, order a copy or subscribe at [mensafoundation.org/mrj](http://mensafoundation.org/mrj)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

When Zack was applying to colleges in the spring of 2012, the average student debt at graduation was \$25,000. When he collected his diploma in May, the average student owed \$37,000, an increase of 48 percent over the course of his undergraduate career. He's lucky, because most students don't graduate in four years. For those who spend five, six or even more years in college, their debt continues to balloon. The Mensa Foundation is doing something about it.

The Foundation has doubled the amount of the Karen Cooper and Diana Mossip scholarships from \$300 to \$600 each beginning with the 2016-17 program year. These scholarships touch every local group that participates in the Foundation's scholarship program, bringing the total giving for just these two scholarships to

\$57,000 for 95 participating groups.

Not only are the amounts of the awards growing, the number of scholarships continues to increase. New scholarships in 2015-2016 included: the Bob and Mary Ann Cox Scholar-

ship for a student who has been out of formal education for six or more years; the Don and Virginia Prince Scholarship for a military veteran or spouse of a veteran; and the Mark J. Glancey and John G. Gray LGBT Scholarship for applicants who openly identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

More new scholarships are coming in 2016-17:

- \$2,000 STEM scholarship for students in the applied sciences, mathematics or engineering fields, funded by a group of Foundation trustees.

- Two named scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each, honoring longtime scholarship coordinator Jane Gmur and trustee Phyllis Miller.

- The \$2,500 Carol Martinez Scholarship for students in information technology, created as a way to recognize her generous bequest to the Foundation.

**CREATING A SCHOLARSHIP** or remembering the Foundation in your will is a wonderful way to honor someone important to you as well as support students in their quest to better their lives. You can help the Foundation make a difference in the lives of aspiring graduates. This note from a 2015 scholarship recipient says it all:

*Dear Dave Remine,*

*This is Carlos Quispe; I want to thank you for awarding me the Karen Cooper Memorial Scholarship. This award helped me to support my book expenses and parking fee. My family and I were very happy since the first moment when the Mensa letter arrived at my door; our life changed a bit because we realized that out there are great people helping people in need.*

*Thank you again for your humanity and contribution for a better world, and happy 2016!*

**Carlos Quispe**  
**Graduate Student CSUS**

Learn more at [mensafoundation.org/scholarships](http://mensafoundation.org/scholarships)



THANK YOU, DONORS!

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, who have enabled the Mensa Foundation to continue its work and enhance its 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!

ONE DONOR'S STORY

The Mensa Foundation is probably best known for its scholarship program. Certainly it is the program that has touched the most people, either as recipients, volunteers, or donors. But there would be no recipients, and no need for volunteers, if it weren't for the donors. We asked one of them, J. Gail McGrew, to tell us why she has been so generous throughout many years. Here's her story:

*I joined Mensa in 1983. In 1982, I had taken a Reader's Digest quiz and missed only one question. When I finally got around to taking the proctored test, I scored enough for both Mensa and Intertel.*

*In 1986, John Freucht came to a First Friday as a prospective member. We had a long chat in the parking lot after it and established that we both grew up in the Pittsburgh area, 15 miles from each other. I asked about his SAT scores, and when I found that he qualified with them, he joined using his scores. We married in 1988. Our "Marriage made in Mensa" was wonderful and lasted 12 years and one month until John got the call from God and passed from a massive heart attack.*

*John and I liked the idea of a scholarship as a way to be remembered since we did not have children. Both of us liked the idea of MERF since we had been readers for the scholarships. We have very personal reasons for funding these scholarships.*

*Number 1 is for physics, chemistry, or a person returning to school. John's major was physics, then chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University. I returned to college after a break of six years. Number 2 is English education, special ed/ gifted ed, and reading. I had an English teaching certificate and we both loved to read. John's cousin had Down's Syndrome, and obviously both of us would have benefitted from gifted ed if it had existed in our schools. Number 3 is for veterans. My uncle and aunt, Walt and Mary McGrew, met in World War II. He was a pilot/bombardier; she was a WAC and ended up working in the Pentagon. They never had children. Since I liked the way our names would live on beyond us with the scholarships, I decided to do that for Walt and Mary after both of them passed away. I used some of my inheritance from them to pay for the scholarship.*

*The scholarships started at \$500 and two of them are now \$1,000. I added money to each endowment until it was possible to raise the scholarship amount. I am currently working on raising the amount of the Walt and Mary Scholarship.*

*A financial advisor said something to me that makes a lot of sense: "You take your money and divide it three ways: save some, donate some, and use some." It has worked for me.*

TITANIUM  
(\$100,000+)

Carol W. Martinez

RHODIUM  
(\$10,000-99,999)

American Mensa, Ltd.  
Linda Stewart Camp  
Laura G. Joyner  
J. Gail McGrew

PLATINUM  
(\$2,500-9,999)

Mary Ann & Robert Cox  
C. Jerome Galiley  
North Texas Mensa  
Ruth Ann Parvin  
J. Howard Prince  
Abbie Salny

GOLD  
(\$1,000-2,499)

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Julia Marie Ashley  
LaRae Bakerink  
Bertie & James Clarke  
Desiree E. Elliott  
Steve Frasheur  
Greater Los Angeles Mensa  
Jon W. Gruebele  
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Craig A. Nordstrom  
North Florida Mensa  
Oregon Mensa  
Lansford W. Perry  
Dave & Elizabeth Remine  
Eldon C. Romney  
Lawrence Scherrer  
Jason A. Seiler  
Gregory L. Sutliff  
Deborah V. Traskell  
Eunice "Bunny" D. Warsh  
Western Michigan Mensa  
Roy Williams

SILVER  
(\$500-999)

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Aviva L. Andreen  
Peter D. Austin  
Sallie Banko  
Borderline Mensa  
Broward Mensa  
Central Iowa Mensa  
Eastern Oklahoma Mensa  
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(\$250-499)

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David Felt  
Michael J. Franke  
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Gregory Dale Hahn  
Cynthia M. Hamilton  
Hell's M's  
Naomi Mandel Horovitz  
Ben-Hwa Hu  
Clark Jones

GIVING IS EASY AT [MENSAFUNDATION.ORG/DONATE](http://MENSAFUNDATION.ORG/DONATE)

**BRONZE**  
(cont. from pg. 4)

Dr. Kishor M. Kulkarni  
Mark Nathan Lystig  
Maryland Mensa  
Sean McCormick  
Martin S. Merado

Phyllis Kaden Miller  
Northwest Florida Mensa  
Frank Richard Parth  
Karen Lee Plourde  
Redwood Empire Mensa  
Rhode Island Mensa  
Henry W. Seitz

Alice Lois Silver  
Cam E. Smart  
Mary Jane Tala  
Christine A. Taylor  
Scott D. Tyler  
Beth Weiss  
Nancy Zanca

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(\$100-249)

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**EXCELLENCE  
IN RESEARCH**

The Awards for Excellence in Research are given each year for outstanding research on aspects of human intelligence and giftedness.

**SENIOR RESEARCHERS**

**John H. Kranzler**, University of Florida: *Are the General Factors From Different Child and Adolescent Intelligence Tests the Same? Results From a Five-Sample, Six-Test Analysis*

**Jonathan Wai**, Duke University: *Investigating America's Elite: Cognitive Ability, Education and Sex Differences*

**David Lubinski**, Vanderbilt College: *Life Paths and Accomplishments of Mathematically Precocious Males Females Four Decades Later*

**JUNIOR RESEARCHERS**

**Enyi Jen**, Purdue University: *Retrospective Perceptions of Graduates of a Self-Contained Program in Taiwan for High School Students Talented in STEM*

**Drew H. Bailey**, University of California: *State and Trait Effects on Individual Differences in Children's Mathematical Development*

**Nielsen Pereira**, Purdue University: *A Qualitative Inquiry Into the Experiences of High-Potential Hispanic English Language Learners in Midwestern Schools*

**Harrison J. Kell**, Vanderbilt College: *Creativity and Technical Innovation: Spatial Ability's Unique Role*



## FOUNDATION AWARDS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 Foundation awards, which recognize research in and the use of intelligence, both nationally and internationally.

**ANTONELLA D'ALESSANDRO** is the recipient of the **Copper Black International Award for Creative Achievement** awarded annually to a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem solving. Dr. D'Alessandro, a professor at the University of Perugia, Italy (and member of Mensa Italy), studies safety innovation, conducting research into the development of building materials that can detect structural issues. "In particular, smart cementitious materials have the potential to provide concrete structures with self-sensing abilities," said Dr. D'Alessandro. "This way it is possible to detect and localize the spread of cracks and damages into a monitored structure, especially after natural events such as earthquakes and typhoons."

**ROBERT LEISHEAR** of Aiken, S.C., is the national recipient of the **Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement** awarded annually to a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem solving. Watching news coverage of the Fukushima Daichi nuclear tragedy in Japan, Dr. Leishear gained an insight that led him to develop a theory that helps identify causes of industrial fires and explosions. Actions based on his theory can prevent these fires before catastrophe strikes. He is seeking to further his research to create safe working conditions for those employed in the oil, gas and nuclear industries.

**JOE BATES** of Tyler, Texas, is the national winner of the **Intellectual Benefits to Society Award** for developing a program to help improve treatment methods for those who live with conditions such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression. Dr. Bates's cognitive remediation training program for severe mental illness has resulted in a 64 percent improvement in executive function for these patients, as well as improved socialization and self-image. With a 50-year career in psychiatry, child psychiatry and pediatric medicine, Dr. Bates joined Mensa two years ago at age 72. "It is an honor to be affiliated with an organization that promotes knowledge, creativity, individualism and life-long learning on such a grand level," he said.

**MYRIELLE BADIO**, an advanced math teacher at Parkway Middle School in Lauderhill, Fla., is the recipient of the **Distinguished Teacher Award** after being nominated by one of her students for the positive impact she has had on his education. "Our school does not always

have all the things the teachers would like for us to have to help us learn," wrote the student in his nomination essay. "What makes Ms. B. amazing is she does something about it!" In his essay, he shared Ms. Badio's tenacity in raising funds for new laptops and other equipment. Ms. Badio also assists the Mathletes, the Math Circle, National Junior Mathematics Club, Chi Alpha Mu, three robotics teams and numerous other clubs.

**RANKO RAJOVIC**, winner of the **International Intellectual Benefits to Society Award**, authored a program that integrates play with learning for children with impulse-control issues, developmental disorders, and learning disabilities. The program can also identify gifted youth early in their development. "Too few scientific discoveries find their way to practical application," says Dr. Rajovic, who also lectures at six universities in four countries. A partnership with UNICEF has helped bring the program to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it is active in 15 European countries.



**THE HEUSER HEARING AND LANGUAGE ACADEMY (HHLA)** in Louisville, Ky., is honored as the **Laura Joyner Award** for outstanding work in the area of human intelligence. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, 37 percent

of children with only minimal hearing loss fail at least one grade. Since 1948, HHLA has provided education options, therapy options and other support to students with hearing loss. From speech therapy to music and play therapy, a child with hearing loss is immersed in programs that help emphasize language with the goal of integration into their neighborhood schools by first grade.

**DAVID LUBINSKI**, co-director of the **Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth (SMPY)** at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College, is the recipient of the **national Lifetime Achievement Award** for his work focusing on the identification of different types of intellectually precocious youth and the conditions for enhancing their learning, work performance and creativity. Dr. Lubinski co-directs SMPY with his wife, Dr. Camilla Person Benbow, who was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004. Both are protégés of Dr. Julian Stanley, the late professor emeritus at Johns Hopkins University, winner of the first Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000 and the man who pioneered how gifted middle-schoolers are educated. After establishing SMPY in 1971, Dr. Stanley piloted a variety of research-based program models and advocated acceleration, not just enrichment, for gifted students. Dr. Lubinski has carried on that rich research tradition at Vanderbilt, where he is Professor of Psychology and Human Development.

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