

This report of the **2010–2011** activities of the Mensa Education & Research Foundation has been prepared for distribution in the September 2011 *Mensa Bulletin*. Additional information can be found on the website at www.mensafoundation.org.

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. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who are volunteers elected by the voting members of the Foundation.

Funding support comes from American Mensa, Ltd., Mensa International, and other charitable donations. Donations to the Mensa Foundation are deductible in the United States for income tax purposes.

40 Years of Successes

by President Greg Timmers



The Mensa Foundation reflected on its forty-year history during the Annual Gathering this summer, hearing from early leaders Sander Rubin and Stu Friedman in a video presentation at the Saturday evening banquet. The sustainability of the initial programs and relevance today is amazing.

The present vision of the Mensa Foundation—to **recognize, encourage, and communicate excellence in intelligence**—is evident in the earliest programs. The scholarship program was initiated in 1973; the *Mensa Research Journal* was first published in 1969; and the inaugural Colloquium was presented in 1982.

During the most recent decade, a goal has been to increase programs directly impacting Mensa members and their families. As part of that goal, the Mensa member scholarship program was initiated. The frequency of Colloquium programs has increased; speakers are now being funded through Mensa Foundation resources. Two Colloquiums will be presented in 2012; one of those will be prior to the Annual Gathering.

Members are also recognized for their contributions through named Mensa Member Scholarship and Trustee Awards, as well as their innovative ideas through the Copper Black and Intellectual Benefits Awards.

Another goal this decade has been to expand the population impacted by the Mensa Foundation.

Several Mensa Local Groups utilize the administrative capabilities to support their scholarship programs. Mensa International has requested that Mensa Foundation programs such as scholarships, Lifetime Achievement awards, and Intellectual Benefits awards be expanded worldwide, which we have done and continue to expand.

The Mensa Foundation retains its focus on core programs, continually evaluating them so that we remain relevant to a changing and expanding worldwide audience.

The Mensa reputation enables our web-based resources to be very credible. Particularly noteworthy this last year has been the growth of our gifted youth resources. The Web has allowed us to rapidly expand the availability of our resources to the public.

The success of the Mensa Foundation can be attributed in part to the generous contributions of members, specifically several endowments and bequests, allowing it to become a three-million-dollar resource to benefit society. These financial resources, as well as the passion of our volunteers, have made possible the growth in programs and allows us to utilize our intelligence to make a difference.

Happy 40th Anniversary to the Mensa Foundation.

Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Lifetime Achievement

The 2010 **International Lifetime Achievement Award** has been awarded to **Simon Baron-Cohen** for his extensive research and publications on autism. His research into autism has been on a psychological, diagnostic, and neuroscientific level.

Dr. Baron-Cohen is the Director of the Autism Research Centre (ARC) in Cambridge (UK), Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge, and Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge.

He is also Director of the Cambridge Lifespan Asperger Syndrome Service (CLASS)—a clinic for adults with suspected Asperger Syndrome (AS); he has written several books about AS and autism.

This award honors an individual's lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence, giftedness, or creativity.



Intellectual Benefits



British Mensa member **Melissa Sterry** received the 2010 **International Intellectual Benefits Award** for her development of *The Bionic City*. She is the founding director of the multi award-winning sustainable innovation think tank and laboratory Societas Ltd., which

has become internationally recognized for its work developing groundbreaking new sustainability initiatives in design, media, and the visual arts.

Catalyst for rapid innovation in sustainable design NEW FRONTIERS is Melissa's latest initiative. Focused on the built environment, it brings together sustainability leaders from a variety of areas to create interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and public discourse.

This award recognizes a member whose intellectual abilities have resulted in a tangible benefit to society.

Teaching

Heather Jenkins, an elementary and charter school teacher, has received the **Distinguished Teacher Award**. Ms. Jenkins teaches mathematics, social studies, language arts, and reading at Keystone Charter Academy in Belleville, Mich. She was nominated for the award by her fourth grade student, Nicholas Eller, a Mensan.

In his nomination essay, 10-year-old Nicholas wrote, "Ms. Jenkins gave me a math book that is two levels above my classroom level book because she saw in me that I love math and want to be challenged more. She pushed me out of my comfort zone into more difficult and challenging work to keep my brain working hard."

Ms. Jenkins earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wayne State University and a master's degree in the art of teaching from Nova Southeastern University.

The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes a teacher who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member.



Creativity

Jerry Martin, of Grass Valley, Calif., is the 2010 recipient of the **Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement** for his "Saluting New Readers" (SNR) reading program.

Martin's SNR program helps motivate elementary students to be excited about reading while raising self-esteem and having fun without competition. A former classroom teacher with a master's degree in television production, Martin has successfully implemented this program as a volunteer for 13 years, reaching approximately 1,600 children in 100 classes. In 2008, Martin won an award from the National Retired Teachers Association for SNR.

The Copper Black Award recognizes exceptional creativity and problem solving by a member of American Mensa.

Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

■ Research

The **Awards for Excellence in Research** are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields.

Senior Researchers

David Lubinski, Vanderbilt University, Tenn., "Cognitive epidemiology: With emphasis on untangling cognitive ability and socioeconomic status," *Intelligence*.

Anne Rinn, University of Houston–Downtown, Texas, "Gender differences in gifted adolescents' math/verbal self-concepts and math/verbal achievement: Implications for the STEM fields," *Journal for the Education of the Gifted*.

Dean Keith Simonton, University of California–Davis, "Eminence, IQ, physical and mental health and achievement domain: Cox's 282 geniuses revisited," *Psychological Science*.

Junior Researchers

Kimberley Ferriman, Vanderbilt University, Tenn., "Work preferences, life values and personal views of top math/science graduate students and the profoundly gifted: Developmental changes and gender differences during emerging adulthood

and parenthood," *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Stephen T. Schroth and **Jason Helfer**, Knox College, Ill., "Practitioners' conceptions of academic talent & giftedness: Essential factors in deciding classroom and school composition," *Journal of Advanced Academics*.

Jonathan Wai, Duke University, N.C., "Sex differences in the right tail of cognitive abilities: A 30-year examination," *Intelligence*.

■ Service

The Foundation is proud to recognize the following individuals as recipients of the 2010 **Trustee Awards**:

- **Kent Van Cleave**, for his past service as Editor of the *Mensa Bulletin*.
- **Kathy Spaltro**, for her past service as a Foundation Trustee.
- **Kathleen Campbell**, for her service as Chair of the Foundation's Awards for Excellence in Research Committee.
- **Julie Ashley**, for her years of service as a Local Group and Regional Scholarship Chair.

Conversations with Mensa

Discussions on Relevant Topics



Understanding and Appreciating Introverted Advantages is the newest podcast in which Dr. Marti Olsen Laney (left), a psychotherapist and practicing introvert, talks with Mensa Life Member John Sheehan (right). The Mensa membership is approximately 65 percent introverts and 35 percent extroverts. This interview helps us understand and appreciate introverts, and make sense of the frequently confusing and uneasy feelings that introverts experience.



The **Weather or Not** podcast features Mensa member, Weather Channel® meteorologist and "Hurricane Hunter" Warren Madden (left), discussing the future of our weather patterns with Dr. Josh Wurman (right), creator of the Doppler on Wheels program and founder of the Center for Severe Weather Research. Included are new findings in weather patterns, new technologies to track weather, and recommendations and resources for amateur storm chasers.



Scholarships

Opening Doors of Opportunity

Scholarships are awarded at the local, regional, national, and international level, ranging from \$300 to \$2,000 each. The international and national awards are listed here. A full list is on the Web site at www.mensafoundation.org under "Scholarships."

International Award (\$1,000)

- **Tomas Kubes**, Czech Republic

National Scholarship Awards (\$1,000)

- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Daniel R. Cleary**, Portland, Ore.
- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Sarah Courbis**, Portland, Ore.
- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Stephaney Cox**, Trabuco Canyon, Calif.
- *J.F. Schirmer*: **Loren Vaccaro Malenke**, Fort Collins, Colo.
- *Margot Seitelman Memorial Scholarship*: **Tara M. Delaney**, Belton, Mo.
- *David Mann Memorial Scholarship*: **Bisella Kakoti**, Spring Hill, Tenn.

Mensa Member Awards (\$1,000)

- *Michael Jacobson Scholarship*: **James F. Taylor**, Lombard, Ill.
- *Beverly Mandelblatt Scholarship*: **Robert Cordiak**, Chagrin Falls, Ohio.
- *Charles Rawlings Scholarship*: **Victoria M. Knight**, Farmington Hills, Mich.
- *Sander Rubin Scholarship*: **Sally Stenger**, Atlanta, Ga.
- *Roy Saper Scholarship*: **Emily Marinez-Lanza**, Coral Gables, Fla.

National Awards (\$600)

- *Jerry Salny Memorial Scholarship*: **Laura Elizabeth Wong**, Newport Beach, Calif.
- *Rita Levine Memorial Scholarship*: **Heather Long**, Beaverton, Ore. (For a female returning to school after an absence of seven or more years)
- *The Sylvia Scholarship*: **Kaitlin Foley**, Shawnee Mission, Kan. (Study or career in education)
- *Harper Fowley-Isolated M Award*: **Abigail Cain**, Austin, Texas. (Study for an undergraduate liberal arts degree)

- *Margie Mandelblatt Award*: **Melissa Jeanne Traskowsky**, Woobine, Kan. (Study in journalism)
- *Grace Harrington Wilson Scholarship*: **Sydney Altman**, Cooper City, Fla. (For a female student with a focus in journalism)
- *Lester London Award*: **Michal Beth Dinkler**, Dorchester, Mass. (Must be enrolled as a graduate student in history when applying)
- *Rosemary Greathouse Scholarship*: **Joel Aaron Kilgore**, Lino Lakes, Minn. (For a student pursuing a degree in the arts, including creative writing and journalism)
- *Helen Kupper Scholarship*: **Pricilla Chang**, Lake Forest, Calif. (For a student pursuing a degree in the fine arts)
- *Joe Zanca Scholarship*: **Kathy L. Lee**, Greenwood, S.C.
- *Walt and Mary McGrew Scholarship for Veterans*: **Kuba Wasowski**, San Diego, Calif.

Who's Who

Each year, the Mensa member scholarships are named for specific people. This year's scholarships were named for: **Michael Jacobson**, for his longtime service as a Foundation Trustee; **Beverly Mandleblatt**, for her support of the Foundation through donations and her endowment of a scholarship in her daughter's name; **Charles Rawlings**, for his past service as a Trustee and generous help with the *Mensa Research Journal*; **Sander Rubin**, as one of the founding members of the Foundation; and **Roy Saper**, for his role as an early Trustee and donor.

This Year's Numbers

- 77,800** Dollar value of awards this year
- 400** Approximate number of volunteers for scholarship program
- 170** Total number of scholarships awarded by the Mensa Foundation
- 91** Number of American Mensa local groups participating

Gifted Youth Programs

Nurturing the Future

The Mensa Foundation has a strong commitment to supporting educational outreach and social stimulation for gifted young people everywhere. Specifically, the Foundation provides funding for the following programs and services:

- Funding support for a **Gifted Youth Specialist**, Lisa Van Gemert. She coordinates gifted youth activities and resources for American Mensa and the Mensa Foundation. She is also responsible for providing programming and support for the young members of American Mensa as well as the gifted youth, educators and parents of the general public.
- The **award-winning Mensa for Kids Web site** (www.mensaforkids.org) with games, a monthly feature, activities, and information for youth and resources for parents and teachers.

The site has fourteen lesson plans for grades K–12; recent additions include “I Need a Hero” and “Probably Probability.” Upcoming topics include ecosystems and hurricanes. The nine educational activity plans include “Character Tea Party,” “Duct Tape Bonanza,” and “Pi Day Activities.”

- **Assistance to Mensa Local Groups** to help pay for gifted youth activities in their areas. A grant was given this last year to a group in Arizona for a presentation by a children’s author.
- Sponsorship of **speaking engagements at gifted education conferences** across the United States. There, Mensa’s Gifted Youth Specialist shares helpful resources and trains teachers on the best practices in the teaching of the gifted.
- **Resource guides** on accelerating high school and chemistry. (To request a resource guide, send an email to giftedyouth@mensafoundation.org.)
- **Youth programming at the AG**, with full days of activities planned and supervised by educational professionals for children as young as age 4.
- The **TeenSIG Room** and the **Tweens Room** at the Annual Gathering, so that young Mensans can meet, play games, and socialize.



Mensa Research Journal

Understanding Our Intelligence

In cooperation with Mensa International, Ltd., the *Mensa Research Journal* is published three times a year to recognize and highlight the latest and best research into all aspects of intelligence and giftedness.

Themes for 2010–2011 included “Best of the *Mensa Research Journal*,” highlighting the best articles and studies from the last 25 years; “Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder;” and “Awards for Excellence in Research.” The current issue is “Augmenting Human Cognition, Part 1: Non-Invasive Cognitive Training.”

A new feature for the MRJ is online summaries of articles along with the table of contents for each

issue, beginning with the Fall 2010 issue. Check them out at www.mensafoundation.org.

Of Note

The Mensa Foundation is saddened at the passing of Joe Zanca, an Honorary Trustee of the Foundation. A life member of Mensa, Joe was an active supporter and fundraiser for the Foundation. He became known as the man behind the innovative \$5 bill auctions, raising thousands of dollars for Foundation programs.



Happy Anniversary

40 Years of Making Dreams Come True

In March 2011, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation celebrated 40 years of pursuing excellence in the study and use of intelligence for the benefit of humanity. "The present vision of the Mensa Foundation—to recognize, encourage, and communicate excellence in intelligence—is evident in the earliest programs," notes Foundation President Greg Timmers.

Today, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, the Mensa Foundation has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people across the globe with its national and international awards, and programs created for members and non-members. A few highlights of the last 40 years are noted here.

- 1969** The first *Mensa Research Journal*, edited by Vernon K. Schumann, was published.
- 1971** The Mensa Education & Research Foundation was founded as a subsidiary corporation of American Mensa.
- 1973** The Mensa Foundation gained tax-exempt status as a charitable institution.
The scholarship program was initiated.
- 1982** The first Colloquium was held in Boston, with a topic of "Forecasting a Valid Tomorrow: Destination A.D. 2000."
- 1999** The Foundation's first Web site was launched at www.mensafoundation.org.
- 2000** The Mensa Press Award debuted; eleven awards have been given to date.
The first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Julian Stanley.
The first Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement was given to Ralph Rudolph.
- 2002** After a hiatus, Colloquiums were revived. In all, 14 colloquiums have been held with two planned for 2012.
- 2003** The Distinguished Teacher Award was presented for the first time.
- 2004** The first International Scholarship Award was given (for a foreign student enrolled at a college or university in the United States).

2006 The first Intellectual Benefits Award was given to Karl Albrecht.

2007 The Mensa For Kids Web site was launched (www.mensaforkids.org), featuring age-appropriate games and links for 6- to 10-year-olds, as well as study tips and resources for parents and teachers. The Foundation continues to provide funding for this venture.

An annual report on the work of the Mensa Foundation for each fiscal year began publication. Past reports are on the Foundation Web site (mensafoundation.org).

2008 Sponsorship of gifted youth activities at American Mensa's Annual Gathering became official; this now provides activities and guidance to youth from ages 4 to 19.

The first "Conversations with Mensa" podcast was released. Available through the Foundation website and iTunes, eight are now offered with more in the works.

Foundation News, an electronic quarterly publication with information on projects and people of the Mensa Foundation, was begun.

The first International Intellectual Benefits Award was presented to Nicole Schuster of Germany.

The first International Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Miraca Gross of Australia.

2011 The Mensa Foundation celebrates its 40th anniversary.

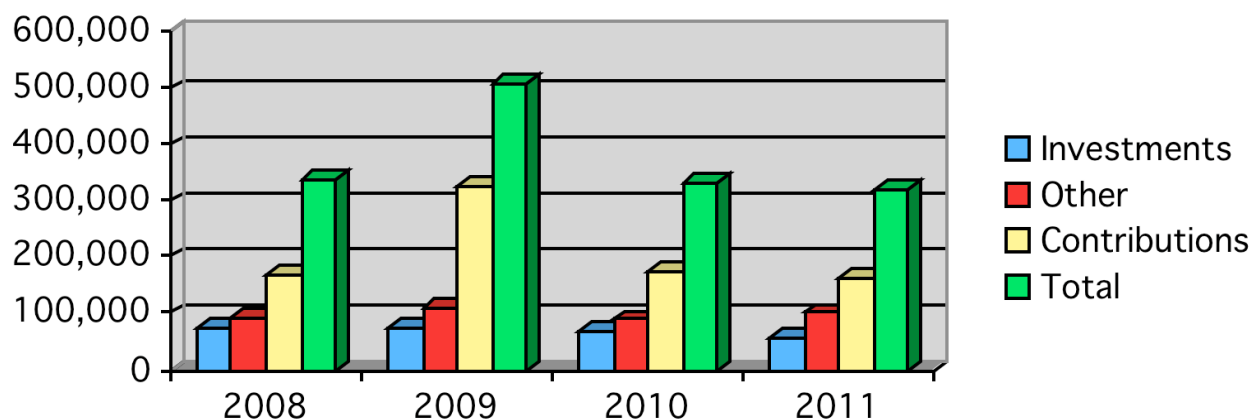
Foundation Presidents

Herb Jacobs	March 1971–November 1972
Sander Rubin	November 1972–September 1973
Stuart Friedman	October 1973–October 1984
L. Martin Miller	October 1984–November 1986
Henry Noble	November 1986–November 1992
Francis Cartier	November 1992–November 1995
Michael Jacobson	November 1995–August 2002
Greg Timmers	August 2002–present

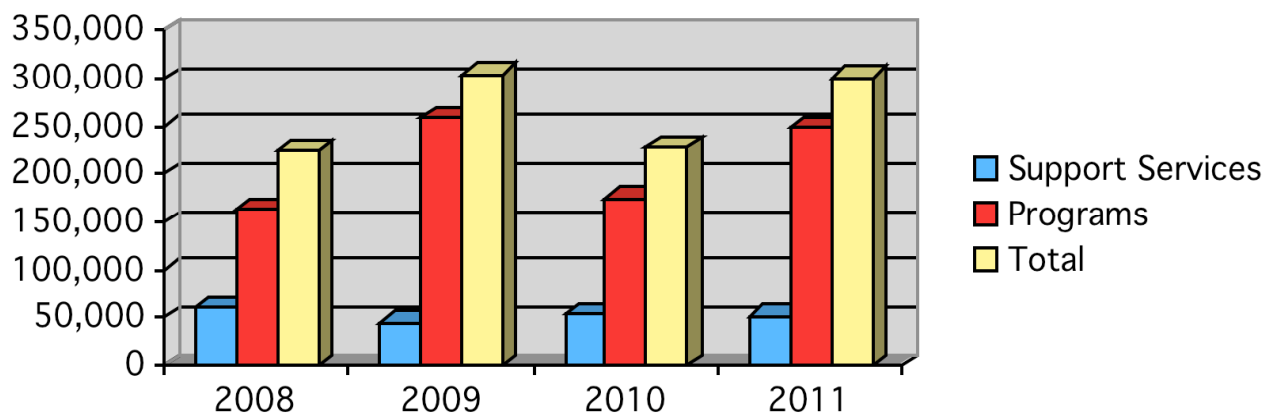
Financials in Brief

Four-Year Perspective

Revenue Sources (in dollars)



Expenditures (in dollars)



Items of Interest

- Assets of the Foundation totaled \$2.8 million as of March 31, 2011.
- Foundation assets represent 34 percent of consolidated assets of American Mensa.
- Net assets of the Foundation are designated as follows:
 - \$1,400,000 (54%) restricted for scholarship awards.
 - \$400,000 (15%) restricted for gifted youth.
 - \$800,000 (31%) unrestricted/board designated.
- Rate of return on conservative investment portfolio was 2.5 percent.
- 83 percent of total expenditures (\$249,000) were for Foundation programs.
- American Mensa grant of \$59,000 covered management/general and development expenses.
- Annual expenditures for programs totaled 9.5 percent of net assets, exceeding IRS target of 5 percent.
- Management/general and development expenses represented only 2 percent of net assets.

Thank You to Our Donors

Our Work Depends on You

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors, who have enabled the Mensa Foundation to continue its work and enhance its programs for more than 40 years. 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 (\$2,500+)

American Mensa, Ltd.
Dr. A. Patricia Humphrey
J. Gail McGrew
L. Edwin Rybak
San Diego Mensa
Gregory D. Timmers

Gold Level (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Stuart W. Friedman
Orange County Mensa
Dave Remine
Peter Ring
Dr. Abbie F. Salny
Dr. John Thomas Sheehan
Western Pennsylvania Mensa
Toba Winston

Silver Level (\$500–\$999)

Dr. Raejean "Red" F. Bellamy
Central Indiana Mensa
Kevin M. Cruce
Francesca Ann DeLuca

Silver Level (continued)

Denver Mensa
Carrie E. Freeland
Greater Los Angeles Mensa
Greater Phoenix Mensa
Beverly Mandelblatt
Northern Michigan Mensa
Maria Aprile Sawczuk
Paul B. and Joanna M. Soper

Bronze Level (\$250–\$499)

Anonymous
L. Michael Aschoff
Susan Palmer Bowers
William W. Buerschinger
Lynn Susan Hendricks
Shirley Jean Holland
Karen Kinkel
Marie Hope Mayer
Memphis Mensa
Phyllis Kaden Miller
John Murphy
Oregon Mensa
Rhode Island Mensa
Michael G. Riley
Wanda L. Shelton
Donald J. Strueber

Foundation Level (\$100–\$249)

Connie Ardin
Herbert Ashby
Sandeep K. Basu
Jill Beckham
Shannon Bergman
John M. Blinke
Vincent Bogan
James Andrew Catt
Cornerstone Family Office LLC
Samuel Michael Cushinery
Eric Dagobert
Delaware Valley Mensa
Cecile Dobson
Thomas J. Doherty
Christine Doyle
James Joel Drummond
Dr. Frank Eugene Eason
Ronald E. Edelstein
Frank L. Ettin
David D. Felt
Michael S. Francisco
Bart John Geraci
Robin D. Green
Elmer Hahn
SSgt. John R. Harshaw
Bradley Hawkins
Rick Hodges
Orenzo Perry Hollowell III
Reed E. Krisher
Dr. Kishor M. Kulkarni
Matthew Lattis

Foundation Level (cont.)

Molly Leban
Yihyoh Henry Lu
Edward Jeffrey Lyons
Charles Anthony Marciano
Rosalind Marcotte
Patricia L. Merk
John Mertes
Mark Meyer
Douglas L. Miller
Edward Ewart Leslie Mitchell
Robert L. Persons
Joe Frank Potter
Redwood Empire Mensa
Robert John Reinbolt
Lynda Rushing
Dr. John D. Schultz
Bruce Howard Seeds
Paul Allan Seid
Shahram A. Shams
Kenneth A. Silver
Victoria Ok Hee Sligar
Stacy Cheryl Smith
Paul A. Spiegel
Caren Stratz
Matthew Taylor
Frederick A. Teichert
Robert W. Templeton
Steven Loren Townsend
Frederic Vereecken
Waterfield Foundation Inc.
Iuliana Watson
Linda Wright

Leadership

Board and Staff 2010–2011



Gregory Timmers
President, Trustee



Phyllis Miller
Vice President, Trustee



Michael Jacobson
Treasurer, Trustee



Marie Mayer
Secretary, Trustee



David Felt
Trustee



Dave Remine
Trustee



John Sheehan
Trustee (to Feb 2011)



Joanna Soper
Trustee



Elissa Rudolph
AMC Chair



Willem Bouwens
MIL Chair



Jill Beckham
Foundation Director