



MENSA[®] Education & Research FOUNDATION

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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 on the website at mensafoundation.org.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Foundation is growing by leaps and bounds!

The past year was one of progress, change, and growth for the Mensa Foundation. Progress included updating policies and guidelines; clarifying processes; and recommending bylaw changes for the Voting Members (the AML Board) to consider at their July meeting.

Two new Trustees, Dr. Jane Hanson and Dr. Joan Hiller, joined the board with new perspectives, skills, and energy. With Mensa elections, Ex-Officio board members changed; Elissa Rudolph moved to the MIL Chair seat and AML Chair Dan Burg joined us at the table. Trustee Mike Jacobson is retiring from the board after many years of outstanding service.

The one-day Colloquium format before the AG (the brainstorm of our past President, the late Greg Timmers), has seen a huge increase in attendees. The July event sold out (at 460) and had a waiting list. Plans are to add space in 2015 to allow more people to attend.

Our Scholarship program expanded so that students who live in areas where local groups are not participating are eligible to apply for a subset of our scholarships. This was accomplished through hard work by Vice President Marie Mayer, staff and 450+ volunteers. A record 11,412 applications were received, including 997 from non-participating group areas.

This program by YOUR Foundation exists because of your donations and the volunteers at all levels in Mensa who make a difference. From an email: "I am a several-time Mensa scholarship recipient. I want to thank the Mensa Foundation once again for its support of my undergraduate education. I am now 17, will be graduating with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Washington in June 2014, and will be starting graduate school (also at the University of Washington School of Music) in the fall.



DAVE REMINE

Please share my sincere thanks with all those at Mensa who have helped fund my continued learning."

New TED Connection educational plans have been added at MensaForKids.org, plus new lesson plans. Our Pinterest boards continue to grow in topics and popularity. We started MensaGT on Twitter — the home of the BrainWorx question of the day. Gifted Youth Specialist Lisa Van

Gemert is sought as a presenter/speaker by other organizations serving the needs of the gifted. We partnered again with the Library of Congress on its National Book Festival, providing youth and adult guides to the festival with Mensa Foundation on the cover. Having YOUR foundation's name on the same page with the Library of Congress is SERIOUS recognition.

Our websites attract visitors in greater numbers from many corners of the world — Croatia, Ukraine, Vietnam, Iran, India, Brazil, Norway, and 50 other countries. Conversations with Mensa added podcasts on Futurism and on Gifted Education. Kudos go to Howard Prince and his staff for their outstanding work here, as well as to the National Office staff, without which the Foundation board would be lost.

The new Laura Joyner Award, funded from the very generous bequest of Mensan Laura Joyner, recognizes outstanding work in the area of human intelligence. The first was presented at the 2014 Colloquium. Donations and bequests to YOUR Foundation make possible the awards and programs that benefit Mensa, its members, and society.

Another new project we are working on is a new fund-raising effort, "My Mensa, My Foundation," the work of Trustee Dr. Joan Hiller and our wonderful staff, launched at the 2014 AG. We are also exploring more partnering opportunities to increase our impact on society and benefit Mensa's members.

It is pleasure to work with such a dedicated board and staff and a great honor to be the Mensa Foundation President.

NEWS

Some gifts to the Foundation come with clear instructions and restrictions; some have none at all. Some gifts come from long-time donors or participants; some come from people who've not previously shown an interest in our work. Laura Joyner was in the latter category, and her bequest of \$300,000 came with no restrictions.

Conversations with her brother Robert revealed that Laura was a Mensan with a deep interest in human intelligence. To honor her memory, the Foundation Board created the Laura Joyner Award in recognition of efforts that aid human intelligence. Annual award-winners will come from the region of each year's Colloquium.

The inaugural winner is Dr. Jessica Reyes for her work on lead poisoning and its effects on children's intelligence. An associate professor of economics at Amherst College, Dr. Reyes' research focuses on public health and social impacts of environmental pollution.

The Foundation is grateful to Dr. Reyes for her important work, and especially grateful to the late Laura Joyner, whose generosity made the award possible.

CONVERSATIONS WITH MENSA

In the latest episode of our podcast series, Conversations with Mensa, we welcome Mensan and retired FBI Special Agent/instructor Don Sheehan as he interviews Dr. Jeff Kieliszewski on forensic psychology, where psychology and the law intersect. Dr. Kieliszewski, a forensic psychologist and one of the speakers at this year's Colloquium, has worked as a prison psychologist, college professor, writer, and consultant and trainer to law enforcement, attorneys, judges, private corporations and social service agencies. This Conversation will help listeners delve into the numerous aspects of the forensic field, including legal principles, expert testimony and psychological assessment.

Download the podcasts from the Foundation website or iTunes.

COLLOQUIUM 2015

It's our most vital organ and thus deserves our full attention. The Mensa Foundation's 2015 Colloquium is titled Brain Health: Research, Challenges and Breakthroughs. Join us June 30 in Louisville, Ky., for an insightful day focusing on that mysterious gray matter that houses our intelligence and our amazing human potential.

Colloquiums, which encourage and expand learning, research and intelligence, are just one way the Foundation puts your donated dollars to work to fulfill the promise of Mensa.

TRUSTEES

The Foundation says goodbye to a long-time trustee and hello to two new members of the board.

Michael Jacobson is retiring from the Board of Trustees after more than 25 years of service. Mike was the Foundation's President and American Mensa's Director of Science and Education from 1995 to 2002, and Assistant Director of Science and Education for a year before that. After stepping down from the presidency, he served as Treasurer until his retirement, bringing the Foundation's financial records and reporting to its current high level of excellence. Among other Mensa honors, Mike earned the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to American Mensa in 2008 and the Distinguished Trustee Award in 2014.

Joining the board this year is **Jane Hanson**, someone who is passionate about the human connections and the empowerment for life that her membership in Mensa has provided. She is a Proctor and has been a past Editor and Scholarship Chair at the Local Group level and Hospitality Chair for two RGs. An alumna of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a doctorate in Foreign Lan-



Standing, from left: Trustee James Werdell, retiring Trustee/Treasurer Michael Jacobson, President Dave Remine, Trustee Eldon Romney, American Mensa Chair Dan Burg and Foundation Director Jill Beckham. **Seated, from left:** Trustee Phyllis Miller, Trustee Jane Hanson, Secretary Joanne Soper, Mensa International Chair Elissa Rudolph and Vice President Marie Mayer. **Inset:** Trustee Joan Hiller.

guage and ESL Education from the University of Iowa, Jane currently teaches linguistics, composition, and ESL in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Intensive English Program, and second language reading methods at UNL.

Another new member of the Board of Trustees is **Joan Hiller**. Through her work at Social Research Associates, Inc., Joan has guided a wide range of organizations in the educational, social service, medical and fine arts fields through periods of change. She has conducted organizational audits, reshaped business plans, facilitated strategic planning, created funding and financial plans, and written grants for organizations in all stages of growth and development. Joan has a Master of Science in Sociology from Texas A&M and a doctorate in Sociology from

Northwestern University, and is a Certified Sociological Practitioner, a Certified Fund Raising Executive and a Licensed Independent Social Worker.

Learn more about Jane and Joan at mensafoundation.org/leadership.

IN MEMORY: One of the founding members of the Mensa Education & Research Foundation, **Stuart Friedman**, died last year. Stu was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees and served as President. He was one of the first editors of the *Mensa Research Journal*, holding that position for many years. More than 40 years ago, people like Stu had a vision of how to help Mensa fulfill its mission of enhancing human intelligence. That vision ultimately resulted in the success of the Foundation today.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

See these T-shirts? Forty-six of them were folded and packed up and sent to an elementary school in Henderson, Colo. It wasn't that the students needed clothing — no, they earned the shirts by reading books. Not just any books: the entire class took part in the Mensa for Kids Excellence in Reading program, in which each child finished reading all the books on a list of age-appropriate titles developed by Mensa's Gifted Youth Specialist, Lisa Van Gemert, whose funding comes from the Foundation.

Lisa developed the program to encourage the joy of reading. Acknowledging the value of the National Endowment for the Humanities' appreciation of classic literature for young people, the program provides a year-round challenge to kids based on the NEH's Summertime Favorites reading list. [Find rules and more info at MensaForKids.org](http://MensaForKids.org).



SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to your generosity, the Foundation awarded more than \$85,000 to the next generation of great thinkers and doers. [See the winners at mensafoundation.org](http://mensafoundation.org).

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.

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Your donation means you give scholarships; you support the Library of Congress National Book Festival; you give researchers, innovators and other achievers recognition for their work on intelligence and intellectual giftedness; you have a website, Mensa For Kids, where you give children, parents and educators worldwide a place to have fun, learn and get help. You touch countless people in more than 25 different ways. You did all that with one dollar of your membership dues (although some of you so very generously gave extra). Imagine what you could do with just a few dollars more.

Joanne Soper, Mensa Foundation Secretary

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

The Awards for Excellence in Research are given each year for outstanding research on aspects of human intelligence and giftedness. This year's winners include scholars from Canada and the United Kingdom, as well as the United States. The winners are:

**Marc H. Bornstein, Cun-Shin Hahn
and Joan T. D. Suwalsky**

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver
National Institute of Child Health
and Human Development*

"Physically Developed and Exploratory Young Infants Contribute to Their Own Long-Term Academic Achievement"

Jean Peterson

Purdue University

"The Asset-Burden Paradox of Giftedness: A 15-Year Phenomenological Longitudinal Case Study"

Bruce M. Shore

and Dominique Morisano

McGill University

"Can Personal Goal Setting Tap the Potential of the Gifted Underachiever?"

Sophie von Stumm

Goldsmiths University of London

"The Hungry Mind: Intellectual Curiosity Is the Third Pillar of Academic Performance"

**Cheryl Walker
and Bruce M. Shore**

McGill University

"Theory of Mind and Giftedness: New Connections"



AWARDS

Congratulations to the winners of the 2013 Foundation awards, which recognize research in and support of intelligence both nationally and internationally.

KELLY CARTWRIGHT of Yorktown, Va., is the recipient of the Copper Black Award given to a Mensan for a specific creative innovation that has been implemented, at least in part, to the advantage of persons other than the nominee. Kelly received the award for her work developing and implementing an intervention for children suffering from Reading Comprehension Deficit.

MATTHEW GUGGEMOS, of San Francisco, Calif., is the recipient of the Intellectual Benefit to Society Award, which recognizes a Mensan's application of intellectual abilities that result in tangible benefit to society. Matthew, a speech-language pathologist, developed his own mobile-interactive-video-self-modeling approach to improve social communication skills in children with autism spectrum disorder and/or social thinking deficits.

RENA SUBOTNIK is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, presented in recognition of a lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects, for her extensive work on the needs of high-performing children and adolescents. Rena created and developed the Esther Katz Rosen Center for Gifted Education Policy at the American Psychological Foundation, the mission of which is to address the needs of gifted children through policy development, model building and service to psychologists and parents.

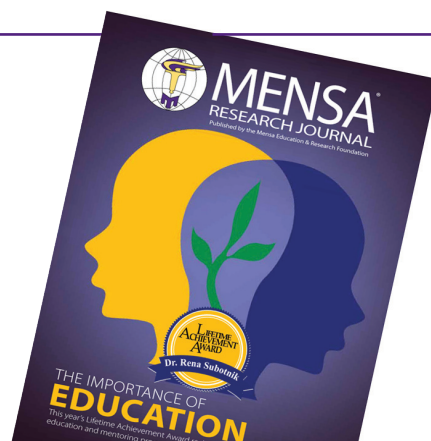
JOHN OTTERSTEDT, a third-grade teacher in Ridgewood, N.J., is the recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award, which recognizes a teacher, professor or instructor at any education level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member or a dependent. Nominated by a fellow teacher, John is known for subtly "tricking" his students into better expressing themselves through associative writing prompts, even going as far as videotaping lessons for a student unable to attend classes due to health issues. Students who struggle in his class are given "immediate and extensive attention," and communication between this teacher and parents is paramount.

Learn more about these outstanding winners at mensafoundation.org.

MENSA RESEARCH JOURNAL

The *Mensa Research Journal* prints articles by internationally recognized scholars from throughout the world whose life work is studying and learning about human intelligence. If you're in Mensa, you understand the important role your intelligence plays in your life, so reading about it is a natural. A subscription to the *MRJ* can bring you a new understanding of how your brain works, and why; and as Auntie Mame said, it can "open doors you never knew existed."

**Check out the list of back issues,
order a copy or subscribe at mensafoundation.org/mrj.**



EVENTS

Held the day before the Boston AG, the 2014 Colloquium: *Crime Scene Intelligence* was a huge success. The record attendance of 460 was limited only by the room size.

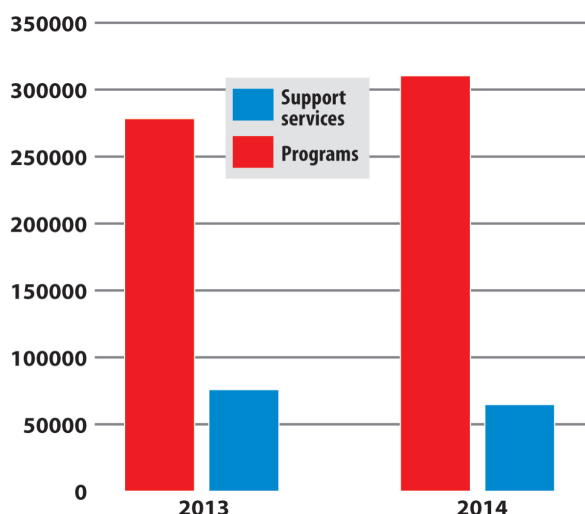
This year's speaker lineup was made up of forensic scientist and mitochondrial genome researcher Rhonda Roby, forensic toxicology expert Ashraf Mozayani, forensic artist Harvey Pratt, forensic psychologist Jeff Kieliszewski, and forensic anthropologist and author Kathy Reichs (pictured speaking at right).

The Colloquium's history of successes is due primarily to the planning foresight and commitment of former Foundation president Greg Timmers, who passed away last year.



FINANCIALS IN BRIEF

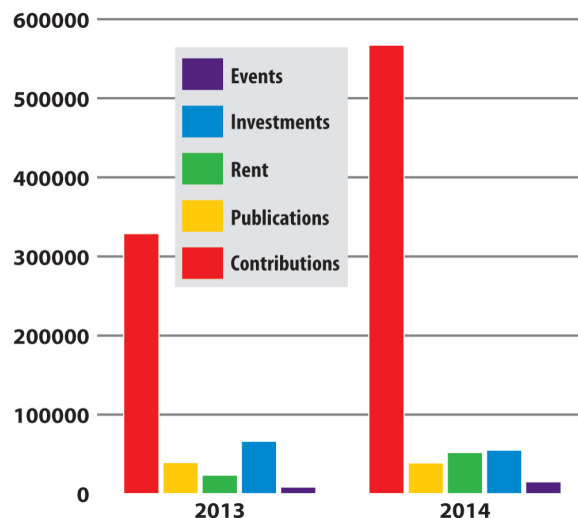
EXPENDITURES (in dollars)



EXPENSES

	2013	2014
Program services	\$278,432	\$310,395
Supporting services	75,842	64,685
Total expenses	\$354,274	\$375,080

REVENUE SOURCES (in dollars)



REVENUE

	2013	2014
Contributions – Total	\$328,923	\$567,160
Unrestricted	201,409	356,181
Temporarily Restricted	70,914	153,979
From American Mensa	56,600	57,000
Publications	39,484	38,918
Rent (net minus expenses)	23,542	52,119
Investment Income – Total	66,462	55,275
Unrestricted	26,517	16,709
Temporarily Restricted	39,945	38,566
Event Income	8,345	15,062
Total Revenue	\$466,756	\$728,534