The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that benefits society by inspiring and empowering intellectually gifted people. 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 of the Foundation’s programs and activities can be found at mensafoundation.org.
once upon a time

about it. When I saw that the new

became a Mensa member. What I didn’t know then

had not really known much of my dues went to this or-

was referred to as “MERF” (Mensa

leadership roles. Somewhere during

more intriguing.

social aspects of Mensa became

wanted in one dose. At that point,

as I explored further, I backed

in Arlington, Texas, would be

National Office building in Arlington, Texas, would be

myself. No donation is ever too

especially in those countries where

gifted youth resources are not read-

grown. This year, about $134,000

in scholarships will be awarded

including five international schol-

Moving forward, we have so

many opportunities to continue

enhancing and growing programs,

adding new ones, and broadening

their impact. Not surprisingly,

there are more great ideas than we

are able to do. That is why we have

been revisiting our strategic plan

so that we can prioritize short-

and long-term projects that achieve our

strategic goals.

Another key compo-

nent will be ensuring that

funding is available to achieve those goals and make a differ-

ence. We want to ensure that what we do is sustainable, so

we are stepping up our efforts in fundraising. As you’ll see in

this report, a Director of Philanthropy has been added to the

National Office staff. His role is to serve the Mensa

Foundation in development.

You can also be part of the

legacy. After all, this is your Foun-
dation and a good opportunity to

impact the lives of people like

yourself. No donation is ever too

small … or too large. Together, we

make a difference.

The summer issue looks at

cognitive ability, mathematical
development and IQ testing

among youth, and gifted His-

panic education.

In addition, the AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN

RESEARCH are highlight-
ed. Recognizing outstanding

research on aspects of human

intelligence and giftedness, this

year’s recipients are:

2017 SENIOR DIVISION

Dr. David Lubinski, Vanderbilt

University: From Terman to Today: A

Century of Findings on Intellectual Precocity

Dr. Jennifer Riedl Cross, College of William & Mary: Social Coping and

Self-Concept Among Young Gifted Students in Ireland and the United States: A

Cross-Cultural Study

Dr. Matthew C. Makel, Duke University: When Lightning Strikes Twice: Pro-

foundly Gifted, Profoundly Accomplished

Dr. Bruce Shore, McGill University, Canada: Social-Perspective Coordina-

tion and Gifted Adolescents’ Friendship Quality

Dr. Nicholas Benson, Baylor University: Examining the Integrity of Measure-

ment of the Cognitive Abilities in the Prediction of Achievement: Comparisons

and Contrasts across Variables From Higher-Order and Bifactor Models

2017 JUNIOR DIVISION

Dr. Tanja Gabriele Baudson, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany: The

Mad Genius Stereotype: Still Alive and Well

Dr. Ryan J. McGill, College of William & Mary: Invalidating the Full Scale IQ

Score in the Presence of Significant Factor Score Variability: Clinical Acumen or

Clinical Illusion?

Subscribe to the MRJ at mensafoundation.org/mrj
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.

Human development relies on knowledge, and the Foundation strives to make that knowledge available to everyone.

Our donors provide the Foundation with the means to promote intelligence worldwide and the knowledge that goes hand-in-hand with it. That progress begins with gifted youth and the Foundation’s youth literacy and college scholarship programs, and it continues through the encouragement of intellectual growth through rewarding achievements in the research of giftedness, intelligence and creativity.

Learn more about making a gift at mensafoundation.org/donate.

In addition to the donors listed in these pages, many others have contributed support for the year’s successes.

THANKS TO OUR HONOR ROLL OF DONORS. WE COULDN’T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

THE MENSA FOUNDATION PRIZE, honoring discoveries in intelligence and creativity, is endowed by the estate of Kenneth Douglas Thomson (1934-2013), a longtime Mensa member from California. A Mensan for nearly 50 years, Thomson valued the organization as much as he valued intelligence and learning.

The Foundation Trustees are proud to present the inaugural Prize to Dr. David Silver, who led DeepMind’s efforts to develop the first computer program to defeat the world’s best Go players.

The biennial award, which comes with a $10,000 prize this year, recognizes both applied and fundamental discoveries in areas such as brain-related research, creation of tools and mechanisms for advancing such research, or any significant research that leads to an improved understanding of human intelligence, including artificial intelligence. Discoveries must be documented in a major peer-reviewed scientific journal to earn consideration.

Silver was the main programmer on the AlphaGo team at DeepMind and its primary developer. AlphaGo, comprising a complex algorithm and artificial intelligence software, became the first program to defeat a human professional Go player in 2015. The results were published the following year in Nature. Go has long been considered a grand challenge for artificial intelligence due to the enormous complexity of the game. AlphaGo won all three games in May 2017 against Chinese grandmaster Ke Jie, the world’s top Go player.

MEET JOHN THOMPSON, the newest addition to the professional staff at American Mensa. He is the first staffer dedicated to serving the Mensa Foundation in a strictly developmental role. As Director of Philanthropy, Thompson will work closely with the Foundation Director, Foundation Trustees, and other staffers to cultivate a culture of giving in Mensa that will ensure funding to sustain and grow Foundation programs.

Thompson comes to Mensa with a strong background in fundraising within the field of education and membership-based organizations. He is a native of Mississippi and a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. Thompson brings an enthusiastic personality and a passion for fundraising.

“My job is not only to raise more money but to promote what the Foundation is doing,” Thompson says. And, as this Annual Report illustrates, what the Foundation does is plentiful.

If rewarding intelligence is important to you, expect a call soon from Thompson as he works with the Foundation Director, Trustees and donors to foster and promote giving within Mensa.
COPPER BLACK AWARD FOR CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT
Recognizing a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem solving

Creator of the successful Sit with Us app, Natalie Hampton is being honored for her work as an anti-bullying advocate. Natalie recognized the efficacy of student-led anti-bullying initiatives and, capitalizing on positive media attention, she’s taken her advocacy nationwide with the potential for worldwide reach. She has spoken at multiple conferences and has partnered with a handful of anti-bullying organizations to promote a message of inclusion, starting with this work ensuring kids never have to sit alone at lunch. A member of Greater Los Angeles Mensa, Natalie aspires to study psychology and neuroscience in college.

Distinguished Teacher Award
Recognizing a teacher for his positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member

“I believe that the most impactful learning is done when students engage in discovery based on learning experiences,” says Benjamin Rudolph, who teaches 6th grade Advanced Academics at Keene Mill Elementary in Springfield, Va. Mensan Aiden D., who nominated Benjamin, called him a “Superhero of Imagination” who gave “us all a sense of responsibility in our learning.” Rudolph’s superhero powers include the Google20time Project, in which students spend the entire school year developing a research question, finding existing information about the topic, and then creating a “product” that demonstrates their learning.

Dr. Harold Lyon, after working with the White House Task Force on the Gifted and Talented, became the first national Director of Education for the Gifted and Talented at the U.S. Department of Education. Under his leadership, teams of leaders were trained in every state, private foundation support was stimulated and national mentor programs were developed. A member of New Hampshire Mensa, Lyon worked to broaden the federal definition of gifted and talented to include divergent-thinking creative children. Lyon worked with Sen. Jacob Javits to pass the Jacob Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act.

INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS TO SOCIETY AWARD
For the application of Mensan’s intellectual abilities that result in a tangible benefit to society

Dr. Denise Spirou “is simply a powerhouse in the field of gifted education here in southeast Florida,” according to one nominating letter. Spirou leads the Greene School, an experimental private elementary school for high-performing students in West Palm Beach and has taught and provided Gifted Endorsement Coursework for more than 400 teachers in Florida. Her Facebook page, Growing the Gifted Mind with Dr. Spirou, is a platform to understand how the gifted mind works and how individuals process information.

Laura Joyner Award
For outstanding work in the area of human intelligence

LAURA JOYNER

For outstanding work in the area of human intelligence

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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
For contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects

A scholar, author and professor, Dr. Howard Gardner is the John H. and Elisabeth A. Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. His Theory of Multiple Intelligences has been cited by fellow researchers nearly 30,000 times. Gardner’s accolades include MacArthur (1981) and John S. Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2000) fellowships. He ranked fifth among top academic influencers in the 2017 Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings.

READ MORE AT MENSAFOUNDATION.ORG/AWARDS | LEARN ABOUT THE WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL MENSA FOUNDATION PRIZE ON PAGE 3
THE FOUNDATION’S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH manifests itself readily in its programs and support for gifted youth. Three shining examples throw a bright light on that commitment.

SPARK!

Activities for Young Mensans have been provided at each American Mensa Annual Gathering since 1997. Under the Mensa Foundation’s sponsorship, the program has expanded and grown. The multiple-day program track for youth is supervised by teachers and aides. The popular program features a summer-camp-type mix of cerebral and kinesthetic activities, providing variety, challenge and the opportunity to develop peer relationships and build skills.

MENSA FOR KIDS

With a wealth of resources for gifted youth and the families and teachers who love them, the award-winning Mensa for Kids website features lesson plans, TED Connections, and information on scholarships and the Mensa Honor Society. It’s also the place to learn about the Excellence in Reading program, the year-round challenge to kids of all ages based on the National Endowment for the Humanities appreciation of classic literature for young people. If that’s not enough, YM² magazine, Bright newsletter and games round out the activities.

Visit and learn at MensaForKids.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

For many Mensans, the Foundation is synonymous with the scholarship program, the longest-running and best-known effort by the Foundation to support human intelligence. In the 2016-17 scholarship program year, with the help of volunteer chairs and judges nationwide and the support of the National Office, the Foundation awarded $134,100 in scholarships. The college scholarship program bases its awards totally on essays written by the applicants.

COLLOQUIUM

COLLOQUIUM 2017 on July 5 brought together one of the most impressive lineups the event has ever hosted. The Health Care of Catastrophes: Innovation Driven by Disaster explored how hurricanes, mass shootings, epidemics and the like are posing complex challenges for the medical community. The crowd heard from:

- Dr. Sheri Fink, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author who chronicled the tough choices made by one hospital in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- Dr. Joseph Ibrahim, who leads Orlando Regional Medical Center’s trauma unit, the treatment focal point after the deadly Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016.
- Dr. Vivian Huang, who directs Adult Immunization & Emergency Preparedness for the New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene and, with Doctors Without Borders, worked amidst health crises in Sierra Leone and Syria.
- Dr. Michael Osterholm, who directs the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy and is an expert on public health preparedness and on the growing concern over the use of biological agents as catastrophic weapons.

Next year’s Colloquium promises to be just as enlightening. Join us when we explore the evolution and revolution of manufacturing.