

2018

ANNUAL REPORT



MENSA[®]
FOUNDATION



The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, nonprofit 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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A growing bounty for which to be thankful

THE PAST YEAR whooshed by. I'm another year older, maybe wiser, and happier. Why happier? One big reason is that it's been a productive year for the Mensa Foundation and, for me, that's fun and rewarding.

As Foundation President, I'm fortunate to work with a great group of people who comprise the Board of Trustees, as well as some awesome staff at the National Office. The board added three voting trustees — Keri M. Guilbault from Virginia, Vicki Herd from Alberta, Canada, and Jennifer Wise from Washington — who each bring a plentiful helping of passion for our mission along with incredible experience. They also generously made room in their busy lives to share their expertise with us. Read more at mensafoundation.org/leadership.

Highlights of successes from the past year are sprinkled through this annual report and on our website. One item of note is the awarding of our \$10,000 inaugural Mensa Foundation Prize, honoring discoveries in intelligence and creativity. Recipient Dr. David Silver led the AlphaGo team developing the first computer program to defeat the world's best Go players. In a May 2017 tournament, AlphaGo won all three games against the world's top Go player.

I mention the Mensa Foundation Prize because it was made possible by a generous donor, Kenneth Thomson from California, who endowed it through his estate. A Mensan for nearly 50 years, he valued the organization as much as he valued intelligence and learning. This was his way to encourage the use of intelligence and give back to an



**MARIE
MAYER**

organization he cherished.

Not all of us can be quite so generous, but all of us can make a difference. The Mensa Foundation will continue to focus its efforts on developing a culture of philanthropy within American Mensa so that we can increase our impact. We will also begin communicating the mission to those outside the organization.

Scholarship chairs or judges already understand the satisfaction of knowing you have helped deserving students continue their education. Without your time and talent, the scholarship program wouldn't exist. It also can't exist without funding, so we'll be reaching out to you — and all Mensans, in fact — with an appeal to make an even bigger difference with your donation. Imagine being able to say that you cared enough to help give gifted youth a smoother path.

The Foundation team knows we can't just talk the talk; we also have to walk the walk. Of the Foundation board of trustees and Foundation-related staff, 100 percent are donors. This coming year, we will challenge ourselves to increase our donations.

You, too, can be a part of fulfilling one of Mensa's purposes: "Identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity." Your gift of time, treasure, and talent provides scholarships, promotes research, champions gifted youth, and empowers educators. As Foundation Treasurer Guy Conti puts it: "I look at my participation in the Foundation, and I really liken it to being part of a family. And, you know, giving is just doing what any family member does."

RESEARCH

THE AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH recognize outstanding research on aspects of human intelligence and giftedness. This year's recipients are:

2018 SENIOR DIVISION

Saiuying Steenbergen-Hu, Northwestern University: *Factors That Contributed to Gifted Students' Success on STEM Pathways: The Role of Race, Personal Interests, and Aspects of High School Experience* (coauthor Paula Olszewski-Kubilius)

Linda S. Gottfredson, University of Delaware: *Hans Eysenck's Theory of Intelligence, and What it Reveals About Him*

Jonathan Wai, Duke University: *Helping Disadvantaged and Spatially Talented Students Fulfill Their Potential: Related and Neglected National Resources* (coauthor Frank C. Worrell)

Dr. Martin Dresler, Rad Bowd University Medical Center (the Netherlands): *Mnemonic Training Reshapes Brain Networks to Support Superior Memory* (coauthors William R. Shirer, Boris N. Konrad, Nils C.J. Müller, Isabella C. Wagner Guillén Fernández, Michael Czisch, Michael D. Greicius)

Dr. Ann Robinson, University of Arkansas, Little Rock: *A Talent for Tinkering: Developing Talents in Children From Low-Income Households Through Engineering Curriculum* (coauthors Jill L. Adelson, Kristy A. Kidd, and Christine M. Cunningham)

2018 JUNIOR DIVISION

Enyi Jen, Purdue University: *High-Ability Students' Perspectives on an Affective Curriculum in a Diverse, University-Based Summer Residential Enrichment Program* (coauthors Marcia Gentry, and Sidney M. Moon)

Renae D. Mayes, Ball State University: *Adversity and Pitfalls of Twice-Exceptional Urban Learners* (coauthor James L. Moore, III)

Ruth Karpinski, Pitzer College: *High Intelligence: A Risk Factor For Psychological and Physiological Overexcitabilities* (coauthors Audrey M. Kinase Kolb, Nicole A. Tetreault, and Thomas Borowskic)

Learn more at mensafoundation.org/excellenceinresearch



THE MENSA RESEARCH JOURNAL highlights scholarly articles and recent research related to intelligence from a diverse selection of international authors. It is relevant and timely research on intelligence, specially curated for Mensans, and is available at only \$9 per issue.

The summer issue looks at artificial intelligence, specifically the connection between human and artificial intelligence — a link particularly relevant for Mensans and which dovetails nicely with this year's Colloquium discussion.

Subscribe to the MRJ at mensafoundation.org/mrj

DEVELOPMENT

DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY remains a strong focus to ensure funding to grow and sustain Foundation programs. Last year, an information campaign helped Mensans learn more about the Foundation's work regarding scholarships, research, gifted youth, and educators. That resulted in a yearly increase in total donors and in total donations.

"It was heartening to see those informational efforts turn into financial commitments by our members," said John Thompson, Foundation Philanthropy Director.

Those efforts will continue with new steps to raise awareness about the Foundation's good works and mission. A philanthropy team will identify goals and work toward them. Annual appeals and Foundation events will cultivate new donors.

Additional efforts, such as developing leadership- and legacy-giving societies, will strengthen our fundraising capability.

Our upcoming leadership-giving societies will properly acknowledge our most loyal donors and will provide all of our donors with more opportunity to boost the impact of their gifts. Our legacy-giving societies will ensure your gift has a lasting impact on the Foundation's intelligence-based mission.

YOUR DONATION counts
in countless ways.

Make a gift today at
mensafoundation.org/donate

THE MENSA FOUNDATION published a trilogy of videos last year that, together and individually, tell the Foundation's story, highlighting its mission and efforts to provide scholarships, promote research, champion gifted youth, and empower educators. See them (and share them) at youtube.com/americanmensa or individually at the links highlighted below.

mensafoundation.org/giftedyouth



mensafoundation.org/donate



mensafoundation.org/about



"The satisfaction I get, knowing that I've helped somebody, that's just icing on the cake."

TITANIUM
(\$100,000+)

Kenneth D. Thomson

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

American Mensa, Ltd.
Lynda Harris
J. Gail McGrew
Mensa International, Ltd.

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

Julia Marie Ashley
LaRae Bakerink
Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Jon W. Gruebele
Patricia L. Merk
North Texas Mensa
Rich Olcott
Ruth Ann Parvin
Eldon C. & Lynda Romney
San Diego Mensa

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

Albert Appouh	Glen & Penelope
Bertha Lilley Clarke	Smith-Singleton
Guy T. Conti	Charlie Steinhice
Nancy M. Griggs	Deborah L. Stone
Linda Hathaway	Richard Steven
Vicki Herd	Studer
Isolated M	Jameson &
Marie Hope Mayer	Stephanie
Stephen L. Miller	Thornton
Monterey County	James Howard
Mensa	VanderMeer
Mr. Mensa	Eunice "Bunny" D.
Jason A. Seiler	Warsh
	Bingyang Yang

SILVER (\$500-999)

Shelton Alsup
Sallie Banko
Central Iowa Mensa
Shawn Chou
Aaron James Conti
Bob & Mary Ann Cox
Denver Mensa
Eastern Oklahoma Mensa
Ann B. Elly Fitzgerald
Donald Charles Forslund
Deborah Freeland
Cynthia M. Hamilton
Kash G. Hatton
Dr. Joseph A. Ibrahim
Mario Alberto Jimenez Jr.
Mark Nathan Lystig
Paul Michniowski
Northern Michigan Mensa
Sidney L. Pilson
Brian Reeves
Rhode Island Mensa
Theresa A. Riccardi
Dr. Harry I. Ringermacher
Lynda Rushing
Alice Lois Silver
Cam E. Smart
Paul & Joanne Soper
Jean J. Springer
Tampa Bay Mensa
Robert W. Templeton
Thomas George Thomas
Sharon L. Swan Tieszen
John M. Voymas
Alexis Sterling Wise
Linda R. Wright

BRONZE (\$250-499)

Steven M. Allison
Ann Carter
George Arnold Cooper
Barbara A. Danson
Pam Donahoo
Carl Clarence Fields
Michael J. Franke
Margaret L. Frazier
Jane Mary Friedlander
Linda H. Gregg
Laurence P. Johnson
Dr. Kishor M. Kulkarni
Mensa Hawaii
Mensa In Georgia
Trevor Mitchell
Cady Noland
Frank Richard Parth
Karen Lee Plourde
Donald R. Pomplun
Therese Ray
Redwood Empire Mensa
Dave & Elizabeth Remine
Baker D. Ring
Lessa Scherrer
Henry W. Seitz
Stephanie Smilay
Walter J. Sperko
Lori Stilwell
Mary Jane Tala
William R.M. Weber
Beth Weiss
Ronald Winter
Nancy Zanca

FOUNDATION (\$100-249)

Bradley Abelman	Alan H. Gold	Frank Poduska
Meelad Al-Arashi	James Hugh Gordon	Peter Powers
Mary Lou Alford	Greater New York Mensa	John Quinn
Sandra K. Anderson	Donna Province Grill	Joan E. Ramer
Lowell M. Aplebaum	Dr. Keri Guilbault	Robert J. Randall
Herbert Ashby	Paul Francis Guimond	John D. Recht
Z. Bainum	Marc Hamel	Janet M. Redding
Anita M. Bardeen	Jane Hanson	Robert John Reinbolt
Betsy Bayha	Mardi L. Hayt	Vicki Reitenauer
Jill Beckham	Dr. Susan M. Heimlich	Laurel Gray Richardson
Sarah Beckman	Elizabeth Schuyler	Stacy Rigney
Jack McDonald	Holcombe	Craig Roberts
Bennett Jr.	Eric Holstein	Catherine Roha
Alan L. Berman	CathyRaye B. Hyland	Thomas P. Ryan
Julie Blettner	Nancy S. Jarrin	Stephen Matthew
Anton G. Blieberger	Paul Eric Johnson	Sablack
John M. Blinke	Dr. Judith K. Jones	Dianne Scoles
Dr. John O. Bornhofen	Dr. Frederick William	Anthony J. Scriffignano
Sarah Jean Callow	Keidaish	Donald H. Sefton
Elaine Mayer Cardwell	James Goodner Keith	Benjamin David Shaw
Lisa Jeanne Cella	Charles Kiefer	Kenneth A. Silver
Colleen P. Chamberlain	Jeffrey King	Dr. Peter Harvey Simkin
Harry Chernoff	William Kitchen	Pat McKeown
Steven P. Collier	John Laird	Soderbeck
Donald Hirth Crawford	Barry M. Lamont	Brian Staples
Samuel Michael	SuSu Levy	Jared Alexander Stone
Cushinery	Susan Elaine Lorimer	Caren Stratz
Delaware Valley Mensa	Donald Low	David Sutor
Debashish Dhar	Gary Louis Lugauer	Stuart Keith Sutton
Cecile Dobson	William A.G. Mackey	John Thompson
John Tajr Doty	Lisa Maxwell	James Forester
Roger R. Durham	Eileen C. McKernan	Van Houten Jr.
Linda Evans	Mark Meyer	Dr. Barbara Rodgers
Ann L. Faget	Melissa Meyer	Voelkel
Floyd Foreman	Phyllis Kaden Miller	E. Joseph Weisensel
Stephen Forman	Karlton H. Nash	James S. Werdell
Scott K. Frisbie	Lori J. Norris	Jeffrey Wessel
Thomas Gall	Cale Overstreet	Carol Spangenberg
Earl Michael Gatewood	Laura V. Parcells	Wolford
SueAnn Gilmore	Don Pendley	Peter Henry Zakel
Kristin Z. Glywasky	Joseph Pickering	

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

FOUNDATION AWARDS

INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For a lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects



Dr. Brenda Milner is an eminent professor of psychology in the department of neurology and neurosurgery at McGill University in Montreal. A graduate of both Cambridge and McGill, she has more than 20 honorary degrees and several distinguished awards. Dr. Milner is best known for her landmark article “Loss of Recent Memory After Bilateral Hippocampal Lesions,” co-written with noted neurosurgeon William Beecher Scoville. Their empirical neurosurgical data definitely established that the anterior hippocampus and hippocampal gyrus govern the human brain’s normal memory functions. This discovery led to the establishment of the cognitive neuroscience specialty. Turning 100 this year, Dr. Milner continues to research how a healthy brain’s intellectual left hemisphere coordinates with its more aesthetic right one.

COPPER BLACK AWARD FOR CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

Recognizing a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem solving

Jerry Martin of Grass Valley, Calif., believes Sudoku, a puzzle pastime enjoyed by millions, can teach young students how to think, as opposed to how traditional school subjects teach what to think. “I believe Sudoku is a powerful, practical, and appealing ‘tool’ for impacting the cognitive evolution of all humanity,” says Jerry, a retired educator who also won the 2010 Copper Black for his Saluting New Readers program (saluting-new-readers.org). Solo Sukoku activity excels at training logical thinking, but Jerry also focuses on developing “interpersonal intelligences” by holding an annual Children’s Team Sukoku Tournament, which includes weekly classes and YouTube videos. “I’m trying to persuade educators to recognize Sukoku’s value, starting here in my hometown and eventually spreading to many other school districts,” Jerry says.



INTERNATIONAL COPPER BLACK AWARD FOR CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

Recognizing a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem solving

Aneta Kuczkowska of Poland has adapted LaserTank, one of the most difficult and extensive free logic games in the world, into a three-language encyclopedia about the game. Designed for computer and mobile devices, LaserTankpedia (lasertankpedia.zdobywca.com) contains thousands of boards, hundreds of categories, and thousands of statistics.



LAURA JOYNER AWARD

For outstanding work in the area of human intelligence



The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis is the largest children’s museum in the world and offers children and adults, regardless of income, opportunities to explore and learn through interactive and passive displays and programs. Its mission is to create extraordinary learning experiences across the arts, sciences, and humanities that have the power to transform the lives of children and families. “The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis offers mind-expanding experiences to all through free days each month and programming that inspires young minds and old to see and search beyond barriers they might otherwise encounter,” said Foundation Trustee Eldon Romney. “It is a model for children’s museums everywhere.”

INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS TO SOCIETY AWARD

For the application of a Mensan’s intellectual abilities that result in a tangible benefit to society



Not to put too fine a line on it, but **David Ilan’s** art has a point. The North Hollywood, Calif., artist’s pointillism style (drawing using only dots) has grown to “one person = one dot” projects, such as the one he uses to help schools build excitement about STEM education. “Getting a dot in a drawing joins people in a cause and forever makes them part of a community,” says David, also the recipient of a Volunteer Service Award from President Obama. David’s STEM Pointillism Project (davidilan.com/STEM) features a drawing of a student on a science book with four leaves, representing the four areas of STEM education, coming to life around her. “Students choose which leaf they want to join,” David says. “The more students join in, the larger the stems grow.”

INTERNATIONAL INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS TO SOCIETY AWARD

For the application of a Mensan’s intellectual abilities that result in a tangible benefit to society



Janine Teo of Singapore looked at a problem: hundreds of millions of out-of-school children worldwide denied workforce prospects because of poverty, diversity politics, gender, disability, armed conflict, or other factors. Her solution: Solve Education!, which uses game mechanics and artificial intelligence in an educational application, *Dawn of Civilization*. Designed to combat poor-quality schools that perpetuate the cycle of educational inequality, the game runs on low-end smartphones and intermittent internet. “Our findings show that when they are marginalized from employment, it is nearly impossible to be motivated to learn the skills for that marketplace,” Janine says. Launched in August 2017, *Dawn of Civilization* now has more than 4,000 learners who’ve clocked more than 250,000 learning minutes, and Solve Education! has secured partnerships in six countries.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD

Recognizing a teacher for positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member

As a student in rural 1990s Wisconsin, Jessica Street was on the wrong path, skipping class and engaging in behavior that led to an arrest and yearlong detention. Jessica describes that path – “I ended up one of the bad kids” – in her essay, “She Changed my Life; She Saved my Life.” The “she” in that title is **Karyl Kubick Hanson**, a teacher at Berlin High School in Berlin, Wis.,



and this year’s Foundation Distinguished Teacher. This “beautiful woman [who] had a shell much tougher than my own,” says Jessica, overlooked her flaws. “She helped make it possible for me to not only finish high school without being held back a grade but to graduate a full eight months early,” says Jessica. Today, Jessica is an honors graduate and a registered oncology nurse with a daughter (also a Mensa member) of her own. “I would not be here if not for my teacher,” Jessica reminds us. “Not just where I am now, but I may not even be here at all.”

[READ MORE AT MENSAFUNDATION.ORG/AWARDS](http://MensaFoundation.org/Awards)

[LEARN ABOUT THE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AWARDS ON PAGE 2](#)

GIFTED YOUTH

THE FOUNDATION’S COMMITMENT to educational outreach manifests itself readily in its programs and support for gifted youth.

See how at mensafoundation.org/giftedyouth

SCHOLARSHIPS

The longest-running and best-known effort by the Foundation to support human intelligence, the Foundation’s college scholarship program bases its awards totally on essays written by applicants. In the 2017-18 scholarship program year, thousands of students competed for 178 scholarship awards at the local, regional, national, and international level. With the help of volunteer chairs and judges nationwide and the support of the National Office, the Foundation awarded \$131,700 in scholarships.

MENSAFORKIDS.ORG

The award-winning Mensa for Kids website (MensaForKids.org) features a treasure trove of resources for gifted youth and their families and teachers. Lesson plans were expanded this year to reflect a partnership with Hasbro. It’s the place to learn about scholarships, the Mensa Honor Society, and 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. *Young Mensan magazine*, *Bright* newsletter, and games round out the activities.

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.



COLLOQUIUM

INDIANA ISN’T KIDDING when it calls itself “A State that Works,” and it’s no accident that it has been leading the nation in manufacturing job growth. Despite an established presence in steel, automotive production, and the aerospace industry, Indiana is keeping its eye on the manufacturing long game. All that and more made Indianapolis the perfect spot for Colloquium 2018, exploring “the evolution and revolution of manufacturing” in the 21st century. The one-day symposium examined the economic, technological, educational, and geopolitical ramifications of the manufacturing sector.

The crowd heard from:

- **Scott Paul**, President of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, a non-partisan nonprofit whose advocacy and research are aimed at making “Made in America” a top concern for voters and national leaders.
- **Dr. Ramses Martinez**, assistant professor at Purdue University, where he directs the Flexilab research group, which is exploring the innovative development of nanomanufacturing, biosensing, and soft robots.
- **Michael Davis**, who manages regional sales for Universal Robots, whose collaborative robots (cobots) can automate and streamline repetitive or potentially unsafe manufacturing processes.
- **Gardner Carrick**, Vice President at the Manufacturing Institute, leading efforts on a national data system for education, certification, and labor market data, as well as working for change in how manufacturers and schools prepare the workforce.

Learn more about Colloquium at mensafoundation.org/colloquium

