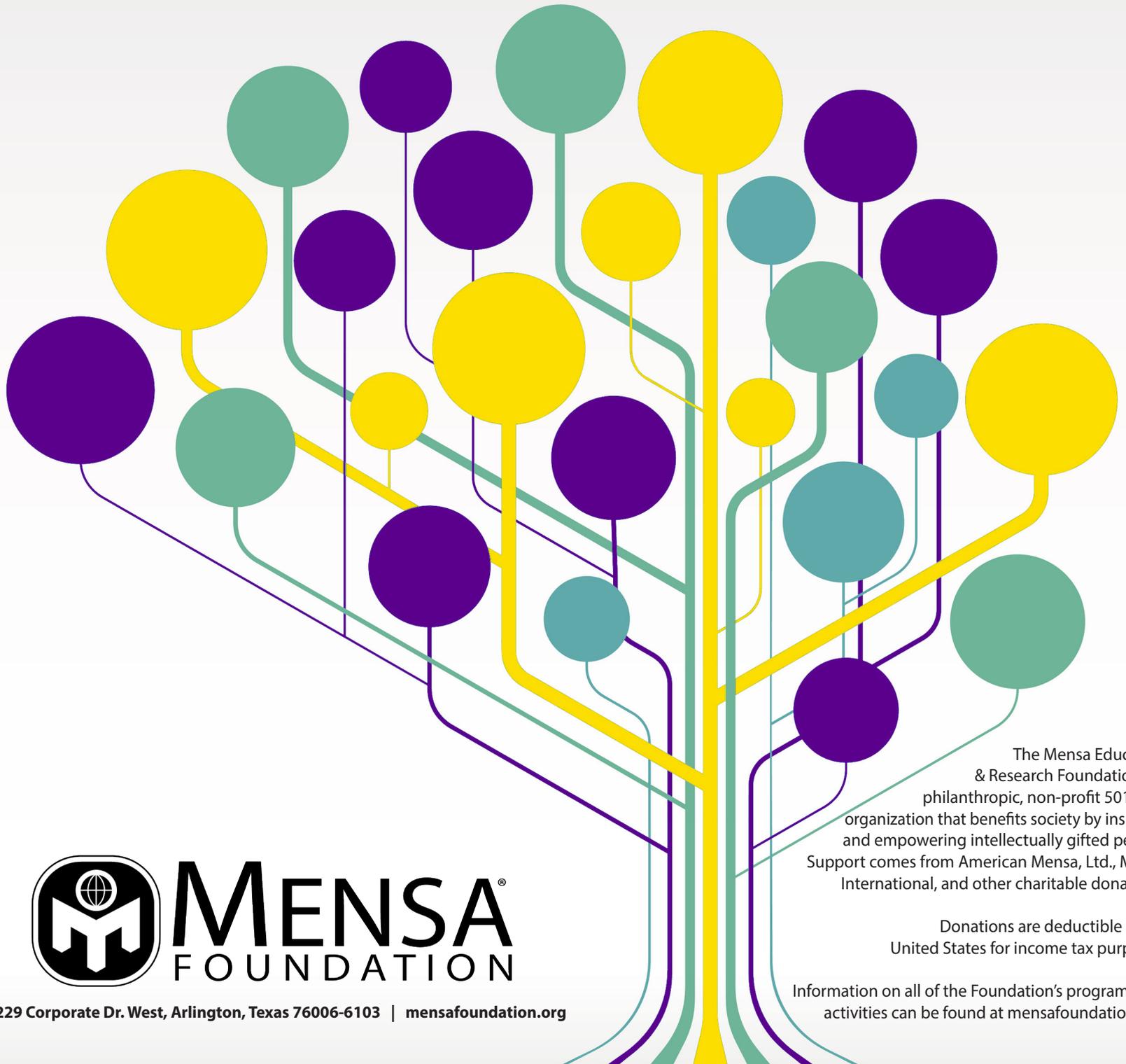


2017

ANNUAL REPORT



MENSA[®]
FOUNDATION

1229 Corporate Dr. West, Arlington, Texas 76006-6103 | mensafoundation.org

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Building upon our Foundation's legacy

ONCE UPON A TIME

(about 39 years ago), I became a Mensa member. What I didn't know then is that this seemingly minor decision would be a life-changing experience.

In time, I attended my first Mensa event. On the way home, my mind was buzzing – thinking, processing, pondering – unlike it had after any other social event I had ever attended. I finally realized why I didn't "fit" at times. It wasn't that I was under-tall, or how I dressed, or how I looked. My "problem" was that I was intelligent ... and I thought a lot.

A step at a time, I explored this world of Mensa I had entered. At first, it was the stimulus of talking with my intellectual peers. Then, as a late-blooming university student, I had plenty of intellectual stimulation ... sometimes more than I wanted in one dose. At that point, the social aspects of Mensa became more intriguing.

As I explored further, I backed into opportunities that led to leadership roles. Somewhere during the leadership adventure, I decided to learn a bit more about what then was referred to as "MERF" (Mensa Education & Research Foundation). Although I knew that \$1 of my dues went to this organization, I didn't really know much about it. When I saw that the new



**MARIE
MAYER**

National Office building in Arlington, Texas, would be dedicated on the same weekend as a Foundation meeting, I chose to attend both events.

That was my first exposure to another element of Mensa – one where people enjoyed working to benefit gifted youth and students as well as fostering intelligence in everyone.

Now, as the President of the Mensa Foundation Board of Trustees, it's clear that I liked what I learned, and I wanted to be part of this group whose mission is to "benefit society by inspiring and empowering intellectually gifted people."

The Foundation continues on the path its founders embarked on 46 years ago. Current key program areas include scholarships, awards and recognition, education, and outreach. Each of these began at some point with baby steps. With vision, work, and donations over the years, the once-fledgling programs and new programs are robust and growing.

As one example, the Mensa-ForKids website was a new initiative 10 years ago; it has grown, been revamped, and is being accessed from all around the world,

especially in those countries where gifted youth resources are not readily available. Scholarships have also grown. This year, about \$134,000 in scholarships will be awarded (up from about \$94,000 last year), including five international scholarships. Peruse this annual report for a glimpse of other achievements from the past year.

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.

Moving forward, we have so many opportunities to continue enhancing and growing programs, adding new ones, and broadening their impact.

Another key component will be ensuring that funding is available to achieve those goals and make a difference. 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 Foundation 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.

RESEARCH

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

The summer issue looks at cognitive ability, mathematical development and IQ testing among youth, and gifted Hispanic education.

In addition, the **AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH** are highlighted. 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: Profoundly Gifted, Profoundly Accomplished*

Dr. Bruce Shore, McGill University, Canada: *Social-Perspective Coordination and Gifted Adolescents' Friendship Quality*

Dr. Nicholas Benson, Baylor University: *Examining the Integrity of Measurement 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



DEVELOPMENT


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.

**YOUR DONATION
COUNTS in countless
ways. Make a gift at
[mensafoundation.org/
donate](http://mensafoundation.org/donate)**



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.

TITANIUM
(\$100,000+)

Carol W. Martinez
Kenneth D. Thomson

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

American Mensa, Ltd.
Lauren Grannis
J. Gail McGrew
Teri Prentiss

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

Julia Marie Ashley
Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa
Bob Haley
Laura G. Joyner
North Texas Mensa
Abbie F. Salny
Patricia L. Merk
Phyllis Miller
Ruth Ann Parvin
San Diego Mensa
Tucson Mensa

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

LaRae Bakerink
Desiree & Jonathan Elliott
Jon Gruebele
Linda Hathaway
Mr. Mensa
Craig Nordstrom
Jason Seiler
Charlie Steinhice
Richard Steven Studer
Eunice "Bunny" Warsh
Western Michigan Mensa

SILVER (\$500-999)

Ryan Allois
Sheldon Alsop
Sallie Banko
David L. Cahn
Central Iowa Mensa
Bertha Clarke
Guy T. Conti
Trevor Colburn
Bob & Mary Ann Cox
Denver Mensa
Eastern Oklahoma Mensa
Deborah Freeland
Robert L. Johnson
Maine Mensa
Mary Merrifield
Paul Michniowski
Kelly Morger
Northern Michigan Mensa
Kathe Oliver
Sidney L. Pilson
Therese Ray
Brian Reeves
Dave & Elizabeth Remine
Theresa A. Riccardi
Eldon & Linda Romney
Lynda Rushing
Lessa Scherrer
Sean D. S. Sebastian
Alice Silver
Glen Singleton & Penelope
Smith-Singleton
Cam Smart
Paul & Joanne Soper
Jean J. Springer
Deborah L. Stone
Gregory Sutliff
Mary Jane Tala
Jameson & Stephanie Thornton
Sharon Swan Tieszen
Charitable Foundation of the
Estate of Helen J. Wallace
James S. Werdell
Thomas A. Young

BRONZE (\$250-499)

William Buerschinger
Martin Burns
R. Jay Campbell
James Carson
Central Indiana Mensa
Patricia Coontz
Tasha L. Criss
Monte R. Evans
Jan Fargo
David D. Felt
Carl Clarence Fields
Donald Charles Forslund
Michael Franke
Thomas Gail
Kate Kinley Gregg
Naomi Mandel Horovitz
Mario Alberto Jimenez Jr.
Kishor M. Kulkarni
Matthew Lattis
Daniel B. Liehr
Mark Nathan Lystig
William A. G. Mackey
Maryland Mensa
Lisa Maxwell
Marie Hope Mayer
Martin S. Merado
Metropolitan Washington Mensa
Northwest Florida Mensa
David Niggara
Karen Lee Plourde
Redwood Empire Mensa
Rhode Island Mensa
Barbara Hall Sheldon
Thomas George Thomas
Beth Weiss & Stan Ward
Western Pennsylvania Mensa
Nancy Zanca

FOUNDATION (\$100-249)

Robert Ahern
Betty Elgart Aster
Cookie Bakke
Daniel T. Bandor
Karen A. Barrett
Sandeep K. Basu
Jill Beckham
Anton G. Blieberger
John M. Blinks
W. Douglas Bond
John O. Bornhofen
Elaine Mayer Cardwell
Rita Charles
Robert Scott Cross
Ruth Danielle
Delaware Valley Mensa
DNVGL
Cecile Dobson
Pam Donahoo
Linda Edelstein
Peg Fishel
Scott K. Frisbie
Thomas Gall
Nicola Genco
Chris Gilbert
John Sale Gilbert
Kristin Z. Glywasky
Alan H. Gold
James Hugh Gordon
Linda H. Gregg
Donna Province Grill
Cynthia M. Hamilton
Jane Hanson
Mensa Hawaii
George Haynes
John Healey
Linda P. Herbert
CathyRaye B. Hyland
Hyun Joon Kim
Jason Knight
Nancy J. Konopka
Gregory R. Kontz

Scott Kutz
Stanley Lee Lamkin
Barry M. Lamont, M.D.
Molly Leban
Robert LeRoy Leininger
Fr. William D. Loring
David J. Mack
Abigail Manis
Patricia Manis
Celia A. Meese
Mark Meyer
Minnesota Mensa
Lori J. Norris
Don Pendley
Joseph Pickering
Dan Punzak
Joan Ramer
Robert J. Randall
Lynn Ratcliffe
John D. Recht
Patricia T. Reeves
Robert John Reinbolt
Baker D. Ring
Andrew M. Rish
David E. Rosenberg
Josh Rubin
Anthony J. Scriffignano
Henry W. Setiz
Matthew Shampine
Don Shockey
Lisa L. Simpson
Stephanie Smilay
Lori Stilwell
Caren Stratz
David Sutor
Tony Tripodi
Scott D. Tyler
Andy Wang
William R. M. Weber
Christopher Wendel
Wayne White
W. Andrew York

FOUNDATION AWARDS
**COPPER BLACK AWARD
FOR CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT**

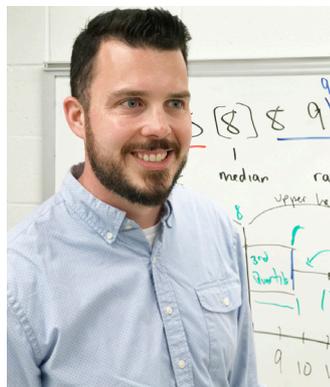
Recognizing a Mensan for exceptional creativity and problem solving



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.

**INTELLECTUAL BENEFITS
TO SOCIETY AWARD**

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



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.

**LAURA JOYNER
AWARD**

For outstanding work in the area of human intelligence



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.

**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 MENSASFOUNDATION.ORG/AWARDS | LEARN ABOUT THE WINNER OF THE INAUGURAL MENSA FOUNDATION PRIZE ON PAGE 3



GIFTED YOUTH

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!

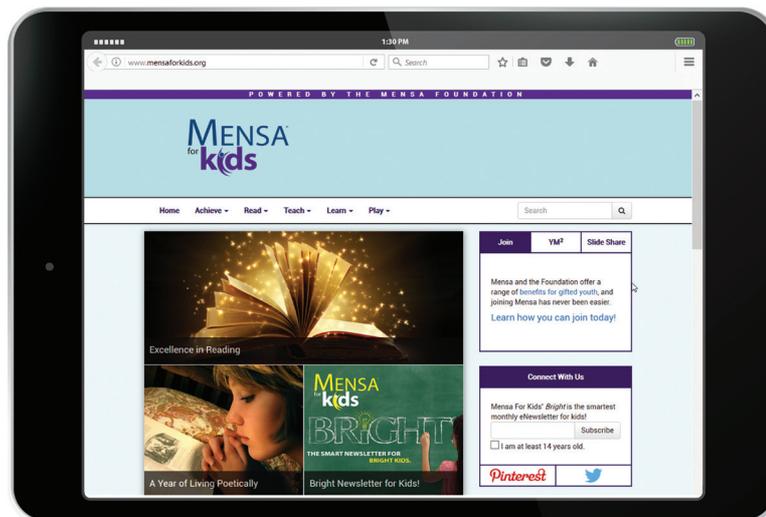


Activities for Young Mensans have been provided at each American Mensa Annual Gathering since 1997. Under the Mensa Foundation's sponsorship, the program has expanded and grown. The multiple-day program track for youth is supervised by teachers and aides. The popular program features a summer-camp-type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

MENSAFORKIDS.ORG

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 amid health care 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.