

2018

ANNUAL  
REPORT



**MENSA**  
FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL

[mensafoundation.org](http://mensafoundation.org)

**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](http://mensafoundation.org).

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## A growing bounty for which to be thankful

**THE PAST YEAR** went by quickly. 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 board of trustees comprising a great group of people, as well as some awesome staff at the American Mensa National Office. The board added three voting trustees — Keri M. Guilbault, Virginia, USA; Vicki Herd, Alberta, Canada; and Jennifer Wise, Washington, USA — 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 about them on the Foundation website ([mensafoundation.org/trustees](http://mensafoundation.org/trustees)).

Financially, the Foundation is very stable. Our investment policy, revised last year in April, has yielded much better returns for us. Net return on investments this year was \$113,661 versus \$39,144 last year — an increase of \$74,547, more than 90 percent.

Total current net assets are \$4,697,456 compared to \$4,423,976 last year, an increase of \$273,480. We continue to be able to support funding programs at their current levels and effect some growth.

Individual contributions rose from \$62,042 in 2017 to \$89,745 in 2018 — an increase of \$27,703, more than 44 percent. This next year, we expect to see much more activity in the fundraising arena.

Other highlights of successes from the past year are sprinkled through this report and on our website. One item of note is the awarding of the inaugural Mensa Foundation Prize, which included \$10,000 as part of the award. Honoring discoveries in intelligence and creativity, its 2017 recipient was Dr. David Silver of London, the lead on the AlphaGo team developing the first computer program to defeat the world's best Go players. In a May 2017 tournament,



**MARIE  
MAYER**

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 help encourage the use of intelligence and give back to an

organization he cherished.

Not all of us can be quite so generous, but all of us can make a difference. In our current fiscal year, the Mensa Foundation continues to focus its efforts on a culture of philanthropy within American Mensa, as well as Mensa International, so that we can increase our impact. We are also taking steps to communicate the mission to those outside the organization.

Mensa members know what it's like to grow up gifted. Imagine being able to say that you are part of helping gifted youth have a smoother path because someone cared enough to help. Supporting the Foundation is one way to do that.

The Foundation team knows we can't just ask for donations, we also have to donate. Of the Foundation Board of Trustees and staff, 100 percent are donors. This year, the total was more than \$12,000. In the coming year, we will challenge ourselves to increase our donations.

You, too, can be a part of fulfilling one of Mensa's purposes to "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 former 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."

## 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](http://mensafoundation.org/giftedyouth)**

## SUPPORT

Helping gifted students is an investment in society, and training future teacher-leaders in the field of gifted education is vital. Our Gifted Education Fellowship is intended to assist U.S. educators in acquiring post-graduate degrees in gifted education or a closely related field from an accredited institution of higher education. The Fellowship has a value of \$5,000 per year, renewable for one year. (Learn more at [mensafoundation.org/GEFellowship](http://mensafoundation.org/GEFellowship).)

## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation's longtime College Scholarship Program bases its awards totally on essays written by applicants. In the 2017-18 program year, thousands of students competed for 178 scholarship awards at the local, regional, national, and international levels. With the help of volunteer chairs and judges nationwide, and the support of the National Office, the Foundation awarded \$131,700 in scholarships. The International Scholarship Program grows each year, with 62 entries this year from Mensans in 25 countries. Ten Mensan judges from 10 countries chose these recipients: Sebastian Sedlar, Mensa Czech Republic; Joshua Taya, Mensa Canada; Gwyneth Rolph, British Mensa; Simon Hellstrom, Mensa Sweden; and Tyler Barton, Mensa New Zealand.

## MENSAFORKIDS.ORG

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

**Learn more at [MensaForKids.org](http://MensaForKids.org)**



## 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.

The Foundation's work in the global community continues to grow with expansion of its award and scholarship programs to include more international participants. (See more on international award winners on Page 5.)

Growing support globally will play a key role in the Foundation's continued growth.

"To fulfill our mission of benefitting society, we will need philanthropic individuals across the world to show their support for the Foundation's initiatives," said Foundation Philanthropy Director John Thompson.

Efforts in the U.S. and abroad 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.

**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](https://youtube.com/americanmensa) or individually at the links highlighted below.



[mensafoundation.org/giftedyouth](https://mensafoundation.org/giftedyouth)



[mensafoundation.org/about](https://mensafoundation.org/about)

**YOUR DONATION COUNTS IN COUNTLESS WAYS: Make a gift today at [mensafoundation.org/donate](https://mensafoundation.org/donate)**

**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
Mensa Switzerland	Thornton
Stephen L. Miller	James Howard
Monterey County	VanderMeer
Mensa	Eunice "Bunny" D.
Mr. Mensa	Warsh
Jason A. Seiler	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.

**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.


**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.


**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.”

**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, and Solve Education! has secured partnerships in six countries.

**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 with 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.

**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 Mensan) 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 MENSAFOUNDATION.ORG/AWARDS](http://MensaFoundation.org/Awards)

[LEARN ABOUT FOUNDATION RESEARCH AWARDS ON PAGE 6](#)

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)

**Renee 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 Borowski)

Learn more at [mensafoundation.org/excellenceinresearch](https://mensafoundation.org/excellenceinresearch)



**THE MENSA RESEARCH JOURNAL** highlights scholarly articles and recent research related to intelligence from a diverse selection of international authors. It includes relevant and timely research on intelligence, specially curated for Mensans, and is available at only \$9 (USD) 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 and next year’s Colloquium discussions.

Subscribe at [mensafoundation.org/mrj](https://mensafoundation.org/mrj)

COLLOQUIUM



**COLLOQUIUM 2019**, scheduled July 2 in Phoenix, will explore how privacy rights have been transformed in the digital age and how they may yet change. Sponsored by the Mensa Foundation, this one-day symposium will provide a forum for Mensans and the general public to probe “Privacy in the 21st Century.”

Expert speakers will examine the inherent intertwine of privacy rights and information technology, including how governments, marketers, and political data firms collect, store, and use what the world’s largest privately held software business calls the “ever-increasing volume, velocity, variety, variability and complexity of information.” We’ll ask how legislative actions will affect the role of tech companies in government surveillance. And with new technology platforms poised to change the way data ownership works, we’ll explore how those smart products may affect limits of the third-party doctrine in the U.S. Constitution’s Fourth Amendment.

The Phoenix event will follow last year’s study of the evolution and revolution of manufacturing. Held in Indianapolis, Ind., which bills itself as “A State that Works,” the event featured a “cobot” demonstration and speakers who examined the economic, technological, educational, and geopolitical ramifications of the manufacturing sector.

Learn more and register at [ag.us.mensa.org/colloquium](https://ag.us.mensa.org/colloquium)