



# MENSA<sup>®</sup> Education & Research FOUNDATION

2006–2007 Report

*Supporting and Encouraging Intelligence*

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501c(3) organization committed to the pursuit of excellence in the areas of intelligence. Its mission and strategic programs focus on **Scholarships** encouraging intelligence, **Research** supporting intelligence, **Education** communicating intelligence, and **Awards** recognizing intelligence.

The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who are volunteers elected by members of the American Mensa Committee (AMC), the voting members of the Foundation. Funding support comes from American Mensa, Ltd., Mensa International, and other charitable donations.

Donations to the Mensa Foundation are deductible for income tax purposes.

## A Year of Successes

*by President Greg Timmers*



The Mensa Education & Research Foundation and American Mensa, Ltd. share the vision of “assisting intellectually gifted people in the development of their intellectual and social abilities so that they can better benefit society.”

Mensa donor Russell F. Taptich shared the following comments after a conversation with me in December 2006: “You have a non-bureaucratic approach toward ‘doing’ something to benefit gifted children... The mission is daunting, not for lack of Mensa-level ideas, but for not having Bill and Melinda-level funding...”

“There are all kinds of things to be done in adult ‘reality,’ despite society’s current direction more toward training than education. A mentored smart kid can come to imagine that there’s little he/she cannot intelligently try to do, by being introduced to some of the infinite variety of things that are being done... The rewards, which may result after all of our times, may advance the Pursuit of Happiness for more of the world.”

An inherent benefit of your Mensa Foundation is to assure that desired uses of generous donations will be used for designated programs. In the United States, the charitable benefit is also recognized as a deductible amount for individual taxes.

IBD (International Board of Directors) delegates to the 2006 Mensa World Gathering in Orlando requested that the Mensa Foundation increase its international programs and provided funding to do so. Dr. Abbie Salny, International Honorary President, has dedicated her term to discussing the Mensa Foundation concept and programs during visits to several countries. Thank you, Abbie, for your considerable efforts in helping us achieve this goal.

The assets of the Mensa Foundation now represent approximately 30 percent of the combined assets of American Mensa, Ltd., and the Mensa Foundation, reflecting the strong commitment of our members to the vision as well as to specific programs. Generous donations and bequests from members provide support for scholarships, education programs, and recognition awards, of which many examples are being shared with you in this annual report.

The boards of the Mensa Foundation and American Mensa, Ltd. thank you for your continuing dedication to meeting our goals of today and tomorrow with monetary donations, volunteer activities, and intellectual contributions to society.

# Awards

## *Recognizing the Exceptional*

### ■ *Teaching*

**Michelle Breuer-Vitt**, a Latin teacher at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, MN, was awarded the 2006 **Distinguished Teacher Award**.

Michelle (aka Magistra) was chosen for the award based on an essay written by Stephanie Long, a Mensa member and former student.

"I love teaching in a middle school because of the kids," Michelle says. "They have an excitement and a joy for life that is just fantastic."

In her nominating essay, Long wrote, "While other teachers' names and subjects fade in memory, Magistra's will continue to last.

As for me, the love of language that Magistra instilled in me led to a degree in linguistics.

"And even today, as a law student, I still hear her voice every time I come across a Latin legal term, of which there are many. Latin may be a dead language to some people, but to those of us who saw it come alive, it never will be. And because of her, I will always smile and remember that no language, memory or experience is dead, so long as it's remembered and loved."

The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes a teacher, professor, or instructor at any educational level who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member. The educators can impact the Mensa member directly or as a result of their influence on the education of a dependent.

The teacher selected for the award is presented with a plaque and a monetary award from the Mensa Education & Research Foundation.



Gordon Anderson of Minnesota Mensa presented Michelle with her award.

### ■ *Communication*

**Carolyn Jack** was awarded the **Mensa Press Award** for a seven-part series of articles on human creativity, "The Work of Art," published during July 2005 in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. Carolyn was the arts writer for the newspaper at that time.

This award recognizes excellence in writing about human intelligence and giftedness in media designed for lay audiences

From the nomination letter, "More and more, experts are finding that the value of the arts far exceeds mere diversion: Recent research reveals a strong correlation between arts experiences and the kinds of brain activity necessary for heightened general intelligence, academic achievement, emotional well-being, workplace productivity, and social engagement."

Carolyn noted, "Realizing that many among our readership regard the arts as having little or no consequence in their lives, I thought it might be interesting for them to see evidence of the role creativity plays in any kind of activity or occupation, even the most ordinary. I undertook the series to explain in simple terms the scientific origins and functions of the arts; how they are at once the result of, and an influence on, humans' evolving intelligence; and the impact arts-related skills have on our daily lives."



Kathryn Kerber, LocSec for Cleveland Area Mensa (on the left) presented the Mensa Press Award and plaque to Carolyn Jack.

# Awards

## *Recognizing the Exceptional*

### ■ *Intellectual Benefits*

The first **Intellectual Benefits Award** goes to **Karl Albrecht**. The Foundation's newest award program recognizes a Mensa member for the application of intellectual abilities that result in a tangible benefit to society.

Karl won the award based on his book, *Social Intelligence: the New Science of Success*. The book discusses how social intelligence is key to success at work and in your personal life. Foundation



President Greg Timmers noted in his letter to Karl, "The Mensa Foundation has utilized and personally thanks you for your work and recent book... Interestingly, the Mensa Foundation Articles of Incorporation, dated March 1, 1971, include as a purpose, 'Assisting intellectually gifted people

in the development of their intellectual and social abilities so that they can better benefit society."

Karl Albrecht is a management consultant, futurist, speaker, and prolific author. In his 20-year career, he has worked with many kinds of business organizations in a broad range of industries worldwide. He has consulted with senior executives, lectured to audiences on all inhabited continents, and authored more than 25 books on various aspects of business performance.

### ■ *Research*

The **Awards for Excellence in Research** are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields. Eligible research is that first published in or accepted by a peer-reviewed journal, or presented at a peer-reviewed professional conference. Entry categories include senior and junior investigators.

#### **Senior Researchers**

**Susan G. Assouline**, University of Iowa, "The Impact of Vulnerabilities and Strengths on the Academic Experiences of Twice-exceptional Students: A message to School Counselors."

**Jerrell C. Cassady**, Ball State University, "A Factorial Representation of Suicidal Ideation Among Academically Gifted Adolescents."

**Tracy L. Cross**, Ball State University, "Suicide Ideation and Personality Characteristics Among Gifted Adolescents."

**Jean Peterson**, Purdue University, "Bullying among the gifted: The subjective experience."

**Nancy L. Segal**, Cal State-Fullerton, "Virtual twins and intelligence: Updated and new analyses of within-family environmental influences."

#### **Junior Researchers**

**A. Alexander Beaujean**, Baylor University, "Heritability of mental processing speed as measured by mental chronometric tasks: A review and meta-analysis."

**Zorana Ivcevic**, University of New Hampshire, "Emotional Intelligence and Emotional Creativity."

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## *Note From Past Scholarship Winner . . .*

**SuiLin Lap**, the winner of the International Scholarship for 2004–2005 writes, "It is indeed an honor to be a recipient... I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Professor Joseph Joyce of the Economics department at Wellesley College on his research on the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) evolving role in the present international financial system.

In addition, I conducted an independent research project, analyzing the capital inflows in China and India...

"Furthermore, I was selected from 700 applicants worldwide to participate in the 6th China Synergy Program for Outstanding Youth in China. It was an exciting and enriching experience."

# Scholarships

## *Opening Doors of Opportunity*

Scholarships are awarded at the local, regional, national, and international level. This year's national winners are listed here.

### Unrestricted National Award (\$600)

- *Jerry Salny Memorial Scholarship*: **Suzanne Fei**, Portland, OR.

### Restricted National Awards (\$600)

- *Rita Levine Memorial Scholarship*: **Annemarie Redelmeier**, Austin, TX. (For a female returning to school after any absence of seven or more years)
- *Peter Booras Award*: **Landon R. Southerly**, Accident, MD. (Study or career in education)
- *Harper Fowley-Isolated M Award*: **Kristin Hinkley**, Mission Viejo, CA. (Study for an undergraduate liberal arts degree)
- *Margie Mandelblatt Award*: **Rachel Marcus**, Wellington, FL. (Study in journalism)
- *Grace Harrington Wilson Scholarship*: **Melissa Benbrook**, North Highlands, CA. (For a female student with a focus in journalism)
- *Lester London Award*: **Micah Lapidus**, Cincinnati, OH. (Must be enrolled as a graduate student in history when applying)
- *Rosemary Greathouse Scholarship*: **Andrea Soto-Lemus**, Bradenton, FL. (For a student pursuing a

degree in the Arts, including creative writing and journalism)

- *Helen Kupper Scholarship*: **Brandy Rose**, Bayside, CA. (For a student pursuing a degree in the Fine Arts)

### Restricted National Awards (\$1,000)

- *J.F. Schirmer Scholarships*: **Vladimir Rosenhaus**, Chico, CA; **Rebecca A. Harris**, PA; and **Jessica Lien**, Phoenix, OR.
- *Margot Seitelman Memorial Scholarship*: **Marissa Johnson**, Littleton, CO. (Graduate student who plans a career in professional writing or teaching English grammar and/or writing)
- *David Mann Scholarship*: **Kayla Medina**, Enterprise, WV. (Study of aeronautical engineering or an aerospace field)

### Mensa Member Awards (\$1,000)

- *Abbie Salny Scholarship*: **Constantino Diaz-Duran**, New York, NY.
- *William Bundy Scholarship*: **Christina Branson**, Farmington, NM.
- *Stuart Friedman Scholarship*: **Nathaniel E. Huebscher**, New York, NY.
- *Charlotte Jermyn Scholarship*: **Elizabeth M. Lakata**, Huntingdon Valley, PA.

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## *Who's Who in Scholarships*

**Stuart Friedman**, for whom one of this year's Mensa Member scholarships is named, writes, "Over the years, in addition to co-founding MERF, I've served in many capacities, elected and appointed. Many of these were personally very rewarding but none matched the pleasure of being the recipient of this acknowledgement."

**Helen Kupper's** 80th birthday was marked by the creation of the Helen Kupper Scholarship for the study of Fine Arts. People in her local Chicago Area Mensa group and others with the Mensa Foundation

worked to raise the \$20,000 to endow this scholarship in perpetuity.

Helen has been very active in Mensa and served in many roles at the local, national, and international level. She was appointed by Mensa International as the U.S. person in charge of the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1996.

**Dr. J. F. Schirmer** was a Mensan from San Antonio who wanted to help college students attain their goals and saw the Mensa Foundation as the way to do it. A few years before his death, he revised his will to include a substantial bequest for the establishment of a scholarship that would be renewable for each of a student's four years in college.



# Colloquiums

## *Stimulating Thinking*

Colloquiums examine contemporary issues in depth with authoritative speakers and discussions. Two colloquiums were held in the last year. In the works for early 2009 is a colloquium on climate change.

### ■ *Revolution in Cosmology*

**Colloquium 2006** was presented on October 6–8 in Albany, NY, and chaired by Judy Keating and Harry Ringermacher. Attendees learned about the recently discovered accelerating universe and “dark energy” responsible for it, galaxies surrounded by invisible “dark matter,” extra dimensions, string theory, loop quantum gravity, and more.



A sold-out event hosted world-renowned scientists and authors: Brian Greene, physicist known for his superstring theory; Jeremiah Ostriker, a dark matter/dark energy expert and an influential researcher in astrophysics; Vera Rubin, an astronomer known for her research of dark matter in galaxies; Lee Smolin, theoretical physicist and creator of the loop quantum gravity theory; Marc Millis, NASA rocket scientist; and George Musser, editor and contributing writer for *Scientific American*.

This Colloquium was presented by Mensa of Northeastern New York, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation, and American Mensa, Ltd.

### ■ *Aspects of Humor: The Art and Science of Laughter*

“Comedy and humor. Art and science. Observation and participation.” These words welcomed attendees to **Colloquium 2007**, held March 23–25 in Oak Brook, IL, and chaired by Chris Edwards.



Throughout the weekend, participants explored the social and psychological functions of laughter and comedy, the techniques of their generation, and their practical applications. Light moments were mixed with a serious look at how humor fits into the ordinary and extraordinary facets of our lives.

Highlights included keynote speaker Merrill Markoe, original head writer of “Late Night with David Letterman” who garnered five Emmies. John Vorhaus, author of “The Comic Toolbox,” shared his tools, techniques, and tips for writing comedy. Mensan Rubi Nicholas, winner of “Funniest Mom in America 2,” demonstrated how a unique point of view, friendly style, sense of timing, and charisma bring people together as they find common ground.

The event was presented by Chicago Area Mensa with support from Mensa Education & Research Foundation, American Mensa, Ltd., and a generous donation from the GOBS (Good Old Burton Spain) trust.

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# Gifted Children

## *Nurturing the Future*

The Mensa Foundation has taken several steps to increase its support of gifted children and related programs. Highlights include:

- Supported cost of membership in National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) for approved Local Gifted Children Coordinators; coordinated with American Mensa’s Gifted Children Program to set up the NAGC memberships.
- Approved an annual grant of \$500 for materials for the conduct of a Gifted Children’s program at the Annual Gatherings of American Mensa. The
- program, currently called Kids Trek, has been enormously successful with the oversight and dedicated volunteerism of Mensa member Martha (Feld) Williams.
- Launched the Mensa For Kids website (at [www.mensaforkids.com](http://www.mensaforkids.com)), providing funding for the 2007–2008 year. The site includes a feature of the month, educational games, and activities geared for children 6–10 years old, plus a variety of resources for teachers and parents.

# Mensa Research Journal

## *Understanding Our Community*

The *Mensa Research Journal* (MRJ) publishes articles on recent findings in intelligence research from nationally and internationally esteemed scholars.

Themes for 2006–2007 included chemical abuse and IQ, including why the brain becomes addicted; intellectual property in the 21st century; spatial intelligence; and a supplemental issue on fibromyalgia and fibrofog by past editor Dr. Shirley Loges.

The MRJ also includes book reviews, a column of recommended websites and other resources dealing with intelligence, and information about events.

Upcoming themes include “What is ‘g’?” and an issue on homeschooling.

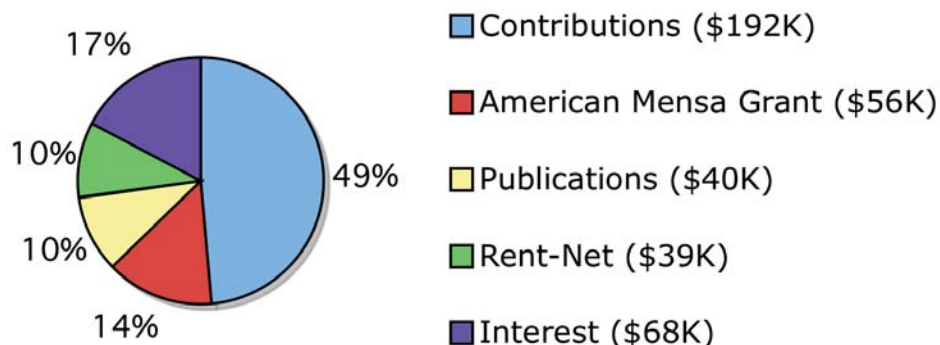
This past year saw the addition of four members to the editorial board as well as two assistant editors on the MRJ staff. Book reviews became a more visible part of each issue.

The MRJ’s mission is to seek and publish current research that addresses the development, measurement, education, preservation, enhancement, or loss of intelligence. Tangential issues or concerns related to cognition or intelligence are also explored.

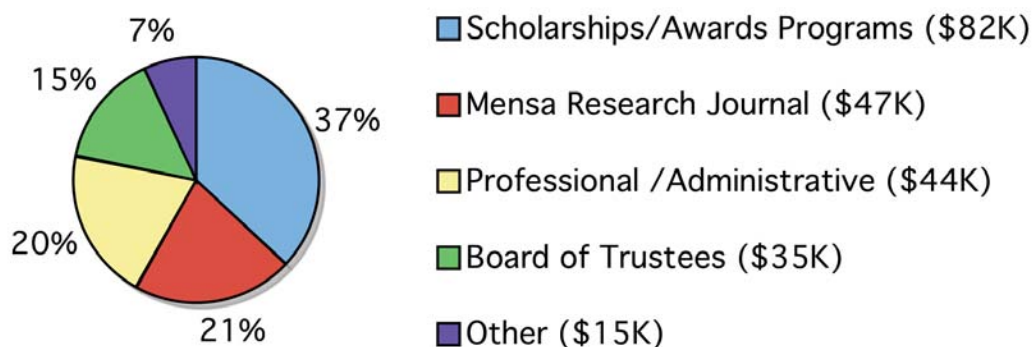
## Financials in Brief

*April 1, 2006–March 31, 2007*

### Sources of Revenue



### Expenditures



### Items of Interest

- Scholarship/Awards Programs and Mensa Research Journal disbursements as a percentage of net assets totaled 7.2%.
- Management costs as a percentage of net assets totaled 3.3%.
- American Mensa grant covered 91% of National Office administrative costs.
- Colloquiums achieved the target goals of break-even operations.
- Contributions deferred for future scholarships represent 54% of net assets.

# Thank You to Our Donors

## *April 2006–March 2007*

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors. They are truly the base of the Mensa Foundation that allows us to continue and enhance our 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.

### Platinum Level (\$2500+)

Rich Olcott  
Donald A. Prince  
Dr. Abbie F. Salny  
Russell Francis Taptich  
Dr. Martin Zwart

### Bronze Level (\$250–\$499)

Justin Cupples  
Peter L. Geddeis  
Gen X SIG  
Judith Coppock Gex  
Phyllis Miller  
Teresa D. Page  
Faye Robinson  
Western Pennsylvania Mensa

David Felt  
June Lee Fitzgerald  
William A. Flygare  
Gwendolyn Freed  
Bart John Geraci  
Greater New York Mensa  
Micaela Hawn  
William Hawthorne  
Mary Rapstine Haynes  
Charles Hilton

Neal B. Morton  
Joseph Naggar  
Linda L. Olson  
George W. Pope  
Edward J. Prowse  
Weslie L. Rau  
Robert John Reinbolt  
Dr. David J. Rhoads  
Tony B. Rich  
Ron Sacchi

### Gold Level (\$1,000–\$2,499)

Beverly Mandelblatt  
J. Gail McGrew  
Joseph Pickering  
Prairie Cardiovascular  
Consultants  
Steven Szymczak  
Gregory D. Timmers  
Joseph Bruce Zanca

### Foundation Level (\$100–\$249)

Michael David Abrams  
Marc A. Appelbaum  
Edgar David Aronson  
L. Michael Aschoff  
Paul Ash III  
Jonathan P. Benfield  
Cecil J. Bennett  
Walt Bodley  
James Lee Box  
Yvonne E. Brownlee  
David Ferrell Butler  
Brian P. Carr  
Dr. Steven D. Darmstadt  
Jed Deaver  
Delaware Valley Mensa  
Cecile Dobson  
Pam Donahoo  
Christine Doyle  
Dave Drews

Sonia M. Hoglander  
Velma Jeremiah  
Deborah L. Johnson  
Ka'iana Kau  
Lt. Gen. Robert Prescott Keller  
Lya Korda  
Dr. Kishor M. Kulkarni  
Kenneth Joseph Lamberson  
Stephen M. Loeb  
Richard Alan Magnus  
Charles Anthony Marciano  
Marie Hope Mayer  
James P. McGill  
John W. McGreevey  
Patricia L. Merk  
John Mertes  
Mark Meyer  
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Satisloh N. America Inc.  
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Martin Solomon  
Priscilla Sweet  
Stu J. Sweet  
Susan Dee Tanenbaum  
Steven Otto Tonn  
Frederic Vereecken  
Ed Vincent  
Phil David Wedemeyer  
Daniel Thomas  
Wilterding  
Linda R. Wright  
Henry C. Yen  
Arnold Zousmer

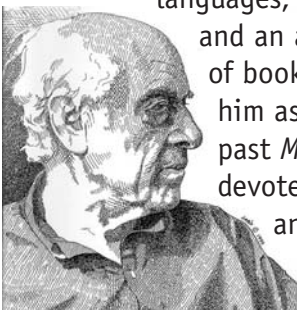
### Silver Level (\$500–\$999)

Jason Bowlds  
Bertha Lilley Clarke  
Annie Ruth Lewis  
Oregon Mensa  
Dave Remine  
Sean T. Rock  
Paul and Joanna Soper

### *Donor Spotlight: Martin Zwart*

*A gifted man made a gift, and thousands of gifted children will benefit.*

Martin Zwart, a longtime member of Chicago Mensa, was a professor of linguistics who spoke seven languages, a passionate stamp collector, and an avid reader with thousands of books. Although some may know him as the model for the cover of a past *Mensa Research Journal* issue devoted to articles on intelligence and the elderly, he was more interested in gifted children. He decided to put that



interest to use by including a bequest in his will for the Mensa Foundation.

Martin died in 2004 and, upon the settlement of his estate, the Foundation received a donation of more than \$90,000 designated to benefit gifted children. A portion of those funds are now being used to support the new Mensa For Kids website; more projects will follow.

As do many of our donors, Martin Zwart chose to make a difference with something that mattered to him. Thank you, Martin.

# Leadership

## *Trustees and Staff 2006–2007*



**Gregory Timmers**  
President, Trustee  
Springfield, IL



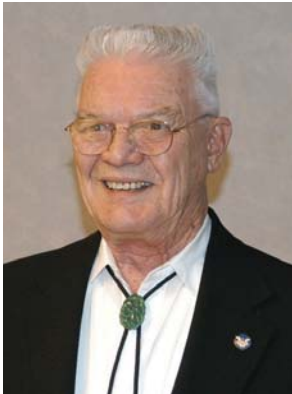
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Vice President, Trustee  
Somerset, NJ



**Michael Jacobson, Ph.D., J.D.**  
Treasurer, Trustee  
Chicago, IL



**David Felt**  
Secretary, Trustee  
Sierra Madre, CA



**Francis Cartier, Ph.D.**  
Trustee  
Pacific Grove, CA



**Shirley Loges, Ph.D.**  
Trustee \*  
Nederland, TX

\* Term ended March 23, 2007.



**Marie Mayer, M.A.**  
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**Dave Remine**  
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**Joanna Soper**  
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**M. Russell Bakke**  
Ex-Officio Trustee, AMC Chair  
Las Vegas, NV



**Jill Beckham**  
Foundation Director  
Arlington, TX

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