



MENSA[®] Education & Research FOUNDATION

2009–2010 Report

Supporting and Encouraging Intelligence

This report of the 2009–2010 activities of the Mensa Education & Research Foundation has been prepared for distribution at the 2010 Annual Gathering of American Mensa. Additional information can be found on the website at www.mensafoundation.org or in the September 2010 *Mensa Bulletin*.

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

committed to the pursuit of excellence in the areas of intelligence. The Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees who are volunteers elected by 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 United States income tax purposes.

A Year of Successes

by President Greg Timmers



The Mensa Foundation **big goal—to be seen as the global resource in all areas of intelligence**—is ever more plausible because of our reputation as a credible resource. Information from around the world is readily available today. Filtering that information for practical benefits to society is an increasing challenge.

The coordinated expansion of the Mensa Foundation programs globally is a relatively new strategic focus. The Mensa Foundation confirmed the merits of its **vision—to recognize, encourage, and communicate excellence in intelligence**—during discussions with the International Board. There were many commonalities globally in the desires and benefits of expanding the reach of our intellectual capacities.

An important theme in the strategic plan of the Mensa Foundation is the **perpetual education** experience. Grethe van Geffen, Chair of Mensa The Netherlands, notes an important facet of this focus—our target audience. She says, “Another new theme we initiate at this moment is high IQ in the workplace. Usually, the societal focus is on high

gifted children. There is little awareness of the possibilities and talents that high gifted adults bring to society.”

We acknowledge the economic and time constraints facing present society. The Mensa Foundation specifically highlights its website resources: **Mensa for Kids** programming by Lisa Van Gemert and **Conversations with Mensa** podcasts.

The **Mensa Research Journal** released a special “**Best of the Best**” issue for summer 2010. Editor Emeritus Phyllis Miller searched issues over the last 25 years for us to recall our commitment to “extreme thinking.”

The boards of the Mensa Foundation, Mensa International, Ltd., and American Mensa, Ltd. thank the Mensa members and others for continued support of our **mission to achieve our vision globally through education, research, and recognition programs**. Mensa – North America, thank you for 50 years supporting the value of intelligence for society.

Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Lifetime Achievement

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Dr. Tracy L. Cross**, executive director of the Center for Gifted Education and a professor at the College of William and Mary. This award honors an individual's lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence, giftedness, or creativity.

Cross received the award based on his dedication



Provost Michael Halleran, Dr. Cross, and Foundation Trustee Dave Remine.

to research in the field of gifted students over the span of 15 years. Cross has become the most active researcher in the world on the suicidal behavior of gifted students and has written five books on the topic.

He has also served as editor of every research journal in the field of gifted education, and has received many other awards for his contributions to the field.

Communication

Ashley Merryman and **Po Bronson** have been honored with the 2009 **Mensa Press Award** for their article "How Not to Talk to Your Kids," published in *New York Magazine*.



Po Bronson, Phyllis Miller, and Ashley Merryman.

Mensa Foundation Vice President Phyllis Miller presented the pair with the award at a bookstore in New York City, where they were launching their new book, *NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children*.

Together, Bronson and Merryman have written for *Time*, *New York Magazine*, and *The Guardian* (U.K.). This fall, they will begin writing a NurtureShock blog for *Newsweek*.

Recipients of this national award have shown excellence in writing about intelligence and human giftedness in media designed for lay audiences.

Teaching

Dr. Allan Meltzer, a political economy professor at Carnegie Mellon University, has received the **Distinguished Teacher Award**.



In his nomination essay, Mensa member Bob Beatty of Hilliard, OH, described how Meltzer advised him in 1958 to become familiar with computers, as they "would play a significant part in our future." Beatty went on to a 40-year career in computer programming.

The Distinguished Teacher Award recognizes a teacher who has had an especially positive influence on the education or life of a Mensa member.

Research

The **Awards for Excellence in Research** are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields.

Senior Researchers

Stephen T Scroth and **Jason Helfer**, Knox College, IL, "Identifying Gifted Students: Educator Beliefs Regarding Various Policies, Processes, and Procedures."

Jean Peterson, Purdue University, IN, "A Longitudinal Study of Negative Life Events, Stress, and School Experiences of Gifted Youth."

Susan Assouline, The University of Iowa, IA, "Profoundly Gifted Girls and Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Psychometric Case Study Comparison."

Junior Researchers

Jonathan Wai, Duke University Talent Identification Program, NC, "Spatial Ability for STEM Domains: Aligning Over 50 Years of Cumulative Psychological Knowledge Solidifies Its Importance."

Gregory Park, Vanderbilt University, TN, "Ability Differences Among People Who Have Commensurate Degrees Matter for Scientific Creativity."

Jennifer L. Jolly, Louisiana State University, LA, "Gifted Education Research 1994–2003: A Disconnect Between Priorities and Practice."

Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

Creativity

Dr. Gary Flom, an otolaryngologist in Atlanta, is the 2009 recipient of the **Copper Black Award**.

He developed a Universal Forceps to improve surgical procedures by allowing surgeons



Dr. Flom is presented the Copper Black Award by Georgia Mensan Mary Dwyer Wolfe.

to concentrate on their tasks without having to switch between numerous instruments.

Flom received his medical degree from the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science at Chicago Medical School, and did his residency in otolaryngology and general surgery at St. Louis University Hospital.

The Copper Black Award recognizes exceptional creativity and problem solving by a member of American Mensa.

Scholarships

Opening Doors of Opportunity

Scholarships are awarded at the local, regional, national, and international level, of which a few are listed here. A full list is on the website at www.mensafoundation.org.

International Award (\$1,000)

- **Tom Zimmermann**, Cambridge, MA

National Scholarship Awards (\$1,000)

- J.F. Schirmer: **Daniel R Cleary**, Portland, OR
- J.F. Schirmer: **Sarah Courbis**, Portland, OR
- J.F. Schirmer: **Stephaney Cox**, Trabuco Canyon, CA
- J.F. Schirmer: **Jessica Lien**, Phoenix, OR

- **Margot Seitelman Memorial Scholarship: Hannah Johnson**, Marion, AR
- **David Mann Memorial Scholarship: Natalie A. Spencer**, Arlington, WA

Mensa Member Awards (\$1,000)

- **Russ Bakke Scholarship: Eric Powers**, Mount Pleasant, SC
- **Joan Bauman Scholarship: Neilee Wood**, Oklahoma City, OK
- **Rose Lee Crutcher Scholarship: Leonard D. Garneau**, Manning, SC
- **Judy Vasiliaskas Scholarship: Mason Volk**, Lake Forest, IL

Conversations with Mensa

Interviews on Relevant Topics



"Music Genome Project" is the newest addition to the Conversations with Mensa podcast series in which **Tim Westergren** (left), founder of the Music Genome Project™ and of Pandora®

Internet Radio, discusses the success, scope, and synergy of the twin projects with **Aaron Dai** (right), an accomplished pianist, composer, and Mensan who lives and teaches in New York.



Thank You to Our Donors

Our Work Depends on You

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our donors. They are truly the base for 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+)

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Gold Level (\$1,000–\$2,499)

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Daniel J Kerns
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Dr Abbie F Salny
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Southern Idaho Mensa
Western Pennsylvania Mensa

Silver Level (\$500–\$999)

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Jean M Davis
Greater Phoenix Mensa
Oregon Mensa
Redwood Empire Mensa
Dave Remine
Paul B and Joanna M Soper

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Melissa Herschopf
Harrison Heymann
Dick Hodgson
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Sally-Anne Moringello

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Leadership

Trustees and Staff 2009–2010



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