



MENSA[®] Education & Research FOUNDATION

2009–2010
International Report

Supporting and Encouraging Intelligence

This report highlights recent activities of the Mensa Education & Research Foundation, particularly those relevant to an international audience. Previous annual reports and additional information can be found at www.mensafoundation.org.

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit 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.

A Year of Successes

by President Greg Timmers

The Mensa Foundation's **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.**



International Awards

Recognizing the Exceptional

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation and Mensa International, Ltd. work together to oversee several programs open to Mensa members around the world. Highlights of some of these are included here. More information on these awards and programs is at www.mensafoundation.org/Programs.

Scholarships

The **International Scholarship Program** provides scholarships for international students enrolled at colleges or universities in the United States.

The program is being expanded in the next year to also provide scholarships to benefit Mensa members or dependents attending colleges or universities worldwide.

Research

The **Awards for Excellence in Research** are given internationally for outstanding research on intelligence, intellectual giftedness, and related fields. Entries are reviewed by the Foundation's Research Review Board, with up to 10 awards each year given to the best published papers by junior and senior investigators.

Creative Achievement

The **Copper Black International Award for Creative Achievement** recognizes an international Mensa member who has produced

an innovative, practical idea and successfully implemented it. This includes any invention or other novel idea that has a practical application, such as a solution to a persistent problem or a difficulty alleviated.

Lifetime Achievement

The **International Lifetime Achievement Award** honors an individual's lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence and related subjects.

Requirements include an exceptional body of work in research, theory, or other scholarly work by a living person over a period of not less than 15 years. Winners may be educators and/or practitioners in the fields of giftedness, brain function, human intelligence, creativity, or intelligence testing.

Benefit to Society

The **International Award for Benefit to Society** recognizes an international Mensa member for the application of intellectual abilities that result in a tangible benefit to society.

One of the purposes of Mensa International, Ltd., is to "identify and foster intelligence for the betterment of humanity." This award was founded to pursue this goal as well as the Foundation's purpose of "assisting intellectually gifted people in the development of their intellectual and social abilities so that they can better benefit society."

Communications

Keep updated on the work of the Mensa Foundation through its regular communications.

Foundation News is produced quarterly to keep supporters informed of the Foundation's programs and events; the newsletter also includes volunteer and donor profiles. The most recent and past issues of the newsletter are at www.mensafoundation.org/foundationnews.

The Mensa Foundation's **annual reports**

tell the stories of the far-reaching impact of its efforts to support intelligence. Past and current reports, including international reports, can be found at www.mensafoundation.org/annualreport.

And, of course, the **website** is continually updated to reflect current information on programs, scholarships, publications, and events.

Conversations with Mensa

Discussing Interesting 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 City.



Created in 2000, the Music Genome Project is the most sophisticated taxonomy of musical information ever collected, with years of analysis by musicologists and spanning 60 years of music. Pandora Internet Radio uses this analysis to build playlists based on musical similarity for its more than 23 million registered listeners. Through these projects, Westergren fosters his passion of helping talented emerging artists connect with the music fans most likely to appreciate their music.

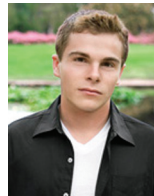
While this conversation was being recorded, Westergren was named one of the **"10 Most Creative People in the Music Biz"** by *Fast Company* magazine.

Reinventing Yourself was also added to the podcast series this last year. In it, Mensa member and actor **Myles Jeffrey** talks to "verbivore" **Richard Lederer** about his evolving interests and pursuits, successfully navigating through the process of change, and what can be learned from another's successful life experiences.

Richard Lederer (right) is the author of more than 30 books about language, history, and humor, including his best-selling "Anguished English" series and his current book, "Presidential Trivia." For his next evolution, Dr. Lederer is introducing a new book series featuring "wit and wisdom, information, and inspiration" on several topics.



Myles Jeffrey (below) has been an actor since the age of 5 with more than 30 television and movie credits to his name. He is an English major at Univ. of Calif.–Los Angeles but plans to transfer into UCLA's top-ranked undergraduate film production program. Upon graduation, Jeffrey aspires to become a film director and screenwriter.



Gifted Children Programs

Nurturing the Future

The Mensa Foundation continues to increase its support of gifted children and related programs. Some highlights of the previous year include:

- Continued to add content and enhance the **Mensa For Kids website** (www.mensaforkids.org) and provided funding for the 2009–2010 year. The site includes educational and challenging games; resources for kids, parents, and teachers; lesson plans and study tips; and a thought-provoking feature of the month written by a Mensan for the younger audience.
- Newest **lesson plans** added to the Mensa For Kids website include "Kingdom Animalia," a

nine-part lesson plan, and "Greek Mythology," an eight-part plan. Since these free, downloadable plans are designed to be completed with minimal supervision, they serve as independent coursework either in the traditional classroom or outside it. Visit www.mensaforkids.org/teachers for more information.

- Continued to provide funding for a **Gifted Children Specialist** to develop more gifted children resources for the Mensa for Kids website, among other assignments.



Mensa Research Journal

Understanding Our Community

In cooperation with Mensa International, Ltd., the *Mensa Research Journal* (MRJ) is published three times a year, highlighting current and significant research and commentary on all aspects of intelligence and giftedness with articles from nationally and internationally esteemed scholars.

Recent issues have included articles by Miraca Gross of Australia, Simon Baron-Cohen of the UK, Malgorzata Siekanska of Poland, Noks Nauta of The Netherlands, Nadine Helmbold of Switzerland, and our regular International columnist Awais Ashfaq of Pakistan. The current issue is the "Best of the *Mensa Research Journal*," highlighting the best articles and studies from the last 25 years.

Upcoming themes include ADHD and intelligence, and selections from the Awards for Excellence in Research nominees, among them "A Cross-Cultural Study of Teachers' Instructional Practices in Singapore and the United States," and "Identifying Gifted Immigrant Asian-Pacific Students."

To assist in world-wide distribution, postage costs for international subscribers are

subsidized so that the yearly subscription rate is the same for all subscribers. A discounted rate for group subscriptions is also offered.

Mensa Sweden and Mensa Norway are currently working with the Foundation on ways to make the *Mensa Research Journal* more readily available to their members.

"To fulfill Mensa's potential, it is my personal belief that more people need to understand that we are so much more than simply a social club," said **Björn Liljeqvist, Chairman of Mensa Sweden**. "There is nothing wrong with meeting friends and enjoying good, intelligent company, but the core principles of Mensa, expressed by the founders in their wish to identify and foster human intelligence, add a larger dimension."

"In my view, I would really like for all of our members to read the *Mensa Research Journal*," said **Lars Endre Kjølstad, Chairman of Mensa Norway**. "The *Mensa Research Journal* is Mensa's most prominent and constitutional contribution to our common cause of building knowledge."

For more information, go to www.mensafoundation.org/MRJ.

Leadership

Trustees and Staff



Left to right: **Gregory Timmers**, President and Trustee; **John Sheehan**, Trustee; **Elissa Rudolph**, American Mensa Committee Chair; **Jill Beckham**, Foundation Director; **Dave Remine**, Trustee; **Phyllis Miller**, Vice President and Trustee; **Joanna Soper**, Trustee; **Michael Jacobson**, Treasurer and Trustee; **Marie Mayer**, Secretary and Trustee; **Willem Bouwens**, Mensa International Chair; and **David Felt**, Trustee.