

This report highlights activities of the Mensa Education & Research Foundation for the fiscal year 2010–2011, with a focus on those activities and programs relevant to an international audience.

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. Additional information can be found at www.mensafoundation.org.

40 Years of Successes

by President Greg Timmers

The Mensa Foundation reflected on its forty-year history during American Mensa's Annual Gathering last summer. The sustainability of the initial programs and relevance today is amazing.

The present vision of the Mensa Foundation—to **recognize, encourage, and communicate excellence in intelligence**—is evident in the earliest programs. The scholarship program was initiated in 1973; the *Mensa Research Journal* was first published in 1969; and the inaugural Colloquium was presented in 1982.

During the most recent decade, a goal has been to **increase programs directly impacting Mensa members** and their families. As part of that goal, the Mensa member scholarship program was initiated in the U.S. Additional scholarships are being planned that will be available to Mensa members around the world.

The frequency of Colloquium programs has increased; speakers are now being funded through Mensa Foundation resources.

Members are also recognized for their **innovative ideas** through the Copper Black and Intellectual Benefits Awards.

Another goal this decade has been to **expand the population impacted by the Mensa Foundation**. Mensa International has requested that Mensa Foundation programs such as scholarships, Lifetime Achievement awards, and Intellectual Benefits awards be expanded worldwide; we have done this and continue to

expand these programs.

The Mensa Foundation retains its **focus on core programs**, continually evaluating them so that we remain relevant to a changing and expanding worldwide audience.

The Mensa Foundation has a strong commitment to **supporting educational outreach and social stimulation for gifted** young people everywhere. Particularly noteworthy this last year has been the growth of our gifted youth resources. The award-winning Mensa for Kids website (www.mensaforkids.org) with games, a monthly feature, activities, and information for youth and resources for parents and teachers. The Web has allowed us to rapidly expand the availability of our resources so they can be accessed worldwide.

The success of the Mensa Foundation can be attributed in part to the generous contributions of members, specifically several endowments and bequests, allowing it to become a three-million-dollar resource to **benefit society**. These financial resources, as well as the passion of our volunteers, have made possible the growth in programs and allows us to **utilize our intelligence to make a difference**.

Happy 40th Anniversary to the Mensa Foundation.



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 2010–2011 recipient was **Tomas Kubes**, Prague, Czech Republic. Winners in previous years have been from Australia, Germany, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Poland. The program is being expanded to also provide scholarships to benefit international Mensa members 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.

Some of these have recently been included in the Winter 2011 issue, "Awards for Excellence in Research," of the *Mensa Research Journal*.

Lifetime Achievement

The 2010 **International Lifetime Achievement Award** has been awarded to **Simon Baron-Cohen** for his extensive research and publications on autism. His research into autism has been on a psychological, diagnostic, and neuroscientific level.

Dr. Baron-Cohen is the Director of the Autism Research Centre (ARC) in Cambridge (UK),



Professor of Developmental Psychopathology at the University of Cambridge, and Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge.

He is also Director of the Cambridge Lifespan Asperger Syndrome Service (CLASS)—a clinic for adults with suspected Asperger Syndrome (AS); he has written several books about AS and autism.

This award honors an individual's lifetime of contributions to the field of intelligence, giftedness, or creativity.

Intellectual Benefits



British Mensa member **Melissa Sterry** received the 2010 **International Intellectual Benefits Award** for her development of *The Bionic City*.

She is the founding director of the multi award-winning sustainable innovation think

tank and laboratory Societas Ltd., which has become internationally recognized for its work developing groundbreaking new sustainability initiatives in design, media, and the visual arts.

Catalyst for rapid innovation in sustainable design NEW FRONTIERS is Melissa's latest initiative. Focused on the built environment, it brings together sustainability leaders from a variety of areas to create interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge sharing, capacity building, and public discourse.

This award recognizes a member whose intellectual abilities have resulted in a tangible benefit to society.

Creative Achievement

The **Copper Black International Award for Creative Achievement** was created to recognize 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.

Happy Anniversary

40 Years of Making Dreams Come True

In March 2011, the Mensa Education & Research Foundation celebrated 40 years of pursuing excellence in the study and use of intelligence for the benefit of humanity. “The present vision of the Mensa Foundation—to recognize, encourage, and communicate excellence in intelligence—is evident in the earliest programs,” notes Foundation President Greg Timmers.

Today, with the help of hundreds of volunteers, the Mensa Foundation has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people across the globe with its national and international awards, and programs created for members and non-members. A few highlights of the last 40 years are noted here.

- 1969** The first **Mensa Research Journal**, edited by Vernon K. Schumann, was published.
- 1971** The **Mensa Education & Research Foundation** was founded as a subsidiary corporation of American Mensa.
- 1973** The Mensa Foundation gained tax-exempt status as a **charitable institution**.
The **scholarship program** was initiated.
- 1982** The first **Colloquium** was held in Boston, with a topic of “Forecasting a Valid Tomorrow: Destination A.D. 2000.”
- 1999** The Foundation’s **first website** was launched at www.mensafoundation.org.
- 2000** The **Mensa Press Award** debuted; eleven awards have been given to date.
The first **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Julian Stanley.
The first **Copper Black Award for Creative Achievement** was given to Ralph Rudolph.
- 2002** After a hiatus, **Colloquiums** were revived. In all, 14 colloquiums have been held with two planned for 2012.
- 2003** The **Distinguished Teacher Award** was presented for the first time.
- 2004** The first **International Scholarship Award** was given (for a foreign student enrolled

at a college or university in the United States).

- 2006** The first **Intellectual Benefits Award** was given to Karl Albrecht.
- 2007** The **Mensa For Kids website** was launched (www.mensaforkids.org), featuring age-appropriate games and links for 6- to 10-year-olds, as well as study tips and resources for parents and teachers. The Foundation continues to provide funding for this venture.

An **annual report** on the work of the Mensa Foundation for each fiscal year began publication. Past reports are on the Foundation website (mensafoundation.org).

- 2008** The first “**Conversations with Mensa**” podcast was released. Available through the Foundation website and iTunes, eight are now offered, with more in the works.

Foundation News, an electronic quarterly publication with information on projects and people of the Mensa Foundation, was begun.

The first **International Intellectual Benefits Award** was presented to Nicole Schuster of Germany.

The first **International Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Dr. Miraca Gross of Australia.

- 2011** The Mensa Foundation celebrates its **40th anniversary**.

Foundation Presidents

Herb Jacobs	March 1971–November 1972
Sander Rubin	November 1972–September 1973
Stuart Friedman	October 1973–October 1984
L. Martin Miller	October 1984–November 1986
Henry Noble	November 1986–November 1992
Francis Cartier	November 1992–November 1995
Michael Jacobson	November 1995–August 2002
Greg Timmers	August 2002–present

Mensa Research Journal

Understanding Our Intelligence

In cooperation with Mensa International, Ltd., the *Mensa Research Journal* (MRJ) is published three times a year to recognize and highlight the latest and best research into all aspects of intelligence and giftedness.

Themes for 2010–2011 included “Best of the Mensa Research Journal” (Summer 2010) highlighting the best articles and studies from the last 25 years; “Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder” (Fall 2010); and “Awards for Excellence in Research” (Winter 2011). The current issue is



“Augmenting Human Cognition, Part 1: Non-Invasive Cognitive Training” (Summer 2011).

Each issue includes articles from researchers around the world. The issues noted here include authors from Brazil, Canada, England, Germany, Israel, Poland, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States.



A new feature for the MRJ is online summaries of articles along with the table of contents for each issue, beginning with the Fall 2010 issue. Check them out at www.mensafoundation.org/mrj.

Conversations with Mensa

Discussions on Relevant Topics



Understanding and Appreciating Introverted Advantages is the newest podcast in which Dr. Marti Olsen Laney (left), a psychotherapist and practicing introvert, talks with Mensa Life Member John Sheehan (right). The Mensa membership is approximately 65 percent introverts and 35 percent extroverts. This interview helps us understand and appreciate introverts, and make sense of the frequently confusing and uneasy feelings that introverts experience.



The **Weather or Not** podcast features Mensa member, Weather Channel® meteorologist



and “Hurricane Hunter” Warren Madden (left), discussing the future of our weather patterns with Dr. Josh Wurman (right), creator of the Doppler on Wheels program and founder of the Center for Severe Weather Research. Included are new findings in weather patterns, new technologies to track weather, and recommendations and resources for amateur storm chasers.



Podcasts are available for listening or download at the Foundation’s website (www.mensafoundation.org/conversations) or through the iTunes music store (www.apple.com/itunes).

Leadership

Trustees and Staff

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

