

## The Wire

### Inside this issue

Vouchers Available for Mensa Brilliant Month	1
Terrible puns on one	1
Two Colloquium Events Planned for 2012	2
Voting Opens Soon for Mensa 2011 Bracket Challenge	2
Pam's Cruise to the Sun on the Sun	3
Wiregrass Mensa Happenings	3
Recent Meetings in Photos	4
Community Symposi-MS continue in November	5
Lesson Plans for Kids	5
A Blog is Afoot!	5

### Mensa Dates

- October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting at Asia Bistro

Editor  
Barbara Hoover  
[bjhoover71@gmail.com](mailto:bjhoover71@gmail.com)  
423-364-9242

## Vouchers Available for Mensa Brilliant Month!

American Mensa's testing vouchers are a great way to facilitate test payments or to provide gift testing to those you would like to encourage to join! Vouchers are great for Local Groups that are restricted from using public buildings, like libraries, if they collect funds on site — the exchange of money occurs via American Mensa's Web site prior to the testing session.

Since Mensa Brilliant Month is here, there's no time like the present to check out this resource! Prospects can visit [www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher](http://www.us.mensa.org/testingvoucher) and pre-pay \$40 for their testing session. They will then be emailed a uniquely numbered voucher to take to the session. Proctors accept the vouchers as they would checks. If vouchers are presented during a reduced-rate testing promotion, the remaining funds will be applied to candidates' memberships if they qualify; otherwise, they will be applied to the second test battery or refunded upon written request.

These vouchers are similar to American Mensa's gift certificates in that the bearers own and can redeem them. The vouchers are the equivalent of cash and can only be used once. Should a voucher be copied and used more than once, only the first use will be accepted.

Please note that prospective members using a testing voucher in conjunction with the \$15 Mensa Brilliant testing coupon will have the additional \$15 applied to their future dues when both are returned to the National Office. Two \$15 coupons are available in your September issue of *Mensa Bulletin*.

Please direct questions on testing, testing sessions and collecting vouchers to Bob Akin and Rodger Morrison.

### Terrible Puns on One!



- A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.



## TWO COLLOQUIUM EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2012

The Mensa Foundation is pleased to announce two Colloquium events planned for 2012 as the Foundation seeks to expand the reach of Colloquium's educational efforts!

Colloquium 2012: "Bioterrorism Strikes Home," will take place May 4-6 on the Kansas State-Olathe campus. Using the traditional Colloquium format, this event will be a comprehensive examination of the safety issues regarding plant, animal and human life and the threat of bioterrorist attack. The lecture schedule and meals will be held at a new, state-of-the-art facility in the Kansas Bioscience Park and near several facilities devoted to biosafety/security. Registration is \$179 through March 15, 2012; professional CE credits will be made available for medical, veterinary, food and public health professionals.

Colloquium 2012.2: "Social and Video Games" is planned as a one-day add-on to the Annual Gathering in Reno, Nev., and will take place on Tuesday, July 3, at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino. With a registration rate of only \$69, this event will bring the topics and speakers from last February's popular Colloquium to the larger AG audience, including Dr. Mia Consalvo, Visiting Associate Professor of Comparative Media Studies at M.I.T.; Jamison Selby, game developer and Senior Producer at TimePlay Entertainment; and our closing keynote and game development legend Warren Spector, founder of Junction Point Studios and producer of Disney's "Epic Mickey." Dr. Douglas Gentile, Associate Professor of Developmental Psychology at Iowa State University, is tentatively scheduled to speak as well.

For more information on both Colloquiums, visit <http://www.colloquium.us.mensa.org> and select the Colloquium of your choice. For more information on the Mensa Foundation, visit <http://www.mensafoundation.org>.

•

## VOTING OPENS SOON FOR THE 2011 MENSA BRACKET CHALLENGE

We scoured the history books to come up with 64 worthy competitors in four categories — Electronics, Civilizations, Personal and Utilities. Each "region" is made up of 16 inventions, seeded 1 through 16, based on the strength of their resumes. In the first round, the top seed from a given category will face off against the 16th seed from the same region; the second seed will challenge the 15th seed, and so on.

After that, the challengers are in your hands. All winners are chosen by you, the readers. Beginning Oct. 24, visit [www.us.mensa.org/inventions](http://www.us.mensa.org/inventions) to vote in all Round 1 matches. Second-round voting will begin on Oct. 31. Round 3 will begin on November 7, and so on. You may vote for the winner of a match only once, so choose wisely; the winning invention will be announced in the January issue of the Mensa Bulletin.

Share the fun! You can only vote once per matchup, but that doesn't mean you can't try to convince other Mensans to vote your way. Track the fun on [www.facebook.com/AmericanMensa](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanMensa) and [www.twitter.com/AmericanMensa](http://www.twitter.com/AmericanMensa). Forward our posts and tweets to get your member friends in on the action!



### **PAM'S CRUISE TO THE SUN ON THE SUN**

I am Tom Lempicke, my wife is Carol. I have been a Mensan since 1966. I retired from USAir as an F-100 Captain. Carol and I took our first cruise in 1986 aboard Dolphin Cruise Lines. (Now extinct just like some of the airlines I worked for!) Since then we have been avid Cruisers and sailed on just about all of the cruise lines at one time or another.

Norwegian Cruise Lines has a good solid product at a competitive price. Their pitch is Freestyle Cruising which seems to attract a middle age crowd that is easy to be among. Formal nights are optional, which is fine by me. If you do want to attend a sport coat and tie will get by for the men while the ladies need dressy rather than formal clothing. About the only other rule is long pants and no flip flops in the dining room after 5:00 PM.

Here are the particulars: February 11th, 2012 for seven days

Port of Departure Cape Canaveral Florida on The Norwegian Sun

Ports of Call: Orlando, Nassau, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, San Juan, Great Stirrup Cay

On ship higher cabins are better cabins. I am holding some of the best for us! A ninth floor balcony for two people will cost \$1,959.02. An outside cabin with a picture window or porthole will cost \$1,599.02 per couple. An inside cabin will cost \$1,479.02 per couple. A \$250 deposit per person is required to hold your cabin and you can get a full refund if you decide against the trip any time up until full payment is made. (November 28th) As always at Mensa affairs guests are most welcome.

For more info and to sign up contact me at [727pilot@cars4tom.com](mailto:727pilot@cars4tom.com)

### **Benefits Spotlight: Fox Imaging**

Planning a head start on the holiday shopping season? Get thoughtful, Mensa-themed gifts at The Mensa Store ([www.mensastore.com](http://www.mensastore.com))! Licensed through Fox Imaging, this is the official store of American Mensa products and is your source for Mensa-branded apparel and other products including Mensa Select® games, books, pins and more. It's a convenient place to get just the right things for all your smart gift recipients, including yourself!

**Wiregrass Mensa Happenings** - Let me know if you're coming or going!

- Next Mensa meeting - Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Asia Bistro, Montgomery
- Because the holidays are such a busy time, Wiregrass Mensa is planning one meeting for November-December instead of two. We are looking at having the meeting in early December in either Troy or Enterprise. Input is welcome.



At the August meeting in Montgomery, Les showed off his new Mustang...



While at the September meeting in Dothan, Rodger displayed his new license plate...

It was wonderful to see new faces at our September Meeting in Dothan....

Back row from left to right -

Rodger & Vicki Morrison, Laurel & Bob Akin, Barbara & David Hoover, and Christiane Robinson

Middle - Tim French, Jerry Fontaine

Front row - Brent Gourley, Lester Holmes, Destin Hoover, Adrienne Fontaine

Please feel free to bring young Mensans to our meetings! Destin's getting tired of being the only child! Remember, when a family member comes with a Mensa member, they are considered Mensan, too.





## COMMUNITY SYMPOSI-MS CONTINUE IN NOVEMBER

In November, American Mensa's online Community will host the fourth installment of Community Symposi-Ms, our new virtual symposium series, and all Mensa members are welcome! Participation is easy but the opportunity to obtain new knowledge and perspectives could be profound.

The topic will be "Truth and Beauty in Physics" by Nobel winner Murray Gell-Mann. Armed with a sense of humor and laypeople's terms, Gell-Mann drops some knowledge on TEDsters about particle physics, asking questions like: Are elegant equations more likely to be right than inelegant ones? In addition to being a Nobel laureate, he is an accomplished physicist who's earned numerous awards, medals and honorary degrees for his work with subatomic particles, including the groundbreaking theory that the nucleus of an atom comprises 100 or so fundamental building blocks called quarks.

Watch the free 16-minute video before Sunday, Nov. 13. Then attend the Mensans-only online discussion at 3 p.m. central on Sunday, Nov. 13. Login to the American Mensa online Community ([www.community.us.mensa.org](http://www.community.us.mensa.org)) and enter the Chat area from the main menu. The symposium will be held in the General Chat room and will feature a question-and-discussion format.

Should you be unable to attend the live discussion, we welcome you to participate in the dedicated online discussion thread titled "Course #4: Truth and Beauty in Physics" in the Events section of the "Mensa and You" forum in the American Mensa's Online Community. You can access the forums by logging in to the Community and entering the Forums section from the main menu.

October's Community Symposi-M discussed "Architecture That Senses and Responds" by MIT's Carlo Ratti. The discussion and chat transcript are available in our online Community as well.

### LESSON PLANS FOR KIDS

Two new lesson plans have been posted at [www.mensaforkids.org/teachers](http://www.mensaforkids.org/teachers); you can also access them through the Parent/Teacher Resources section of the Mensa for Kids Web site, [www.mensaforkids.org](http://www.mensaforkids.org). The new lessons include:

- "I Need a Hero," for high-schoolers
- "Understanding the Influence of the Media," for 8th graders

Since these plans are designed to be completed with minimal supervision, they serve as independent coursework either in the traditional classroom or outside it. You can view the course materials online and download complete copies to hand to your favorite gifted student(s).

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is sponsoring this series of lesson plans for grades Kindergarten through 12. Designed to challenge gifted children, lesson topics range from the alphabet to the periodic table of elements, from Fibonacci numbers to the Seven Wonders of the World. Sign up online from the Lesson Plans page to get email alerts when new plans are published.

**A Blog Is Afoot** - Mensan Bill Sawatzki writes a monthly travel blog at [bsawatzki.blogspot.com](http://bsawatzki.blogspot.com) Read and comment if you would like.

Interested in having our own Mensa Chapter photo contest? Contact Barbara Hoover at 423-364-9242. Give me a call and let's start planning!