THE NATURE OF MENSA
A. Mensa is an international federated society composed of national Mensas and Direct International Members. Mensa’s purposes are:
1. To identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity,
2. To encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and
3. To provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members.

B. Mensa provides a forum for intellectual exchange among members. Its activities include the exchange of ideas by lectures, discussions, journals, special interest groups, and local, regional, national, and international gatherings; the investigations of members’ opinions and attitudes; and assistance to researchers inside and outside Mensa in projects dealing with intelligence or Mensa.

THE POLICY OF MENSA
1. The Society has no aim which is to the disadvantage of the general community.
2. Members or groups of members may express opinions, but the Society as a whole has no opinion. No opinion shall be expressed as being that of the Society.
3. The Society shall take no political action other than the publication of the results of its investigations.
4. The Society shall not have any ideological, philosophical, religious or political affiliations.
5. Any member may organise any group of members or any other legitimate activity in the Society, but no member may commit the Society to anything.
6. The Society is not a profit-making body.

MEMBERSHIP OF MALAYSIAN MENSA
Membership is open to all Malaysians or persons residing in Malaysia who have attained a score within the upper 2% of the population in general, in an IQ test approved by the International Supervisory Psychologist (ISP), that has been properly administered and supervised. The person who qualifies shall be accepted as a member upon completing a membership form and paying the dues as prescribed. Mensa is an international organization with over 100,000 Mensans worldwide and well-established in more than 60 countries.

Events Disclaimer: Although organisers keep safety and security a priority, all members must take full responsibility over their own personal safety and security. For those below 18 years of age, responsibility/authority is held by their guardians/parents, hence consent must be obtained.

Source Material: Submit original, non-copyrighted or permitted materials including photos and illustrations. Submit in clear and legible form, most preferably in common digital formats (e.g. doc). The Editor reserves the right to edit or decline any material received for publication. All submissions must carry the sender’s 1) name, 2) member ID, 3) phone/email and 4) a pseudonym, if required. Anonymous submissions are NOT acceptable. The contributor retains the copyright to his/her work but will grant Mensa non-exclusive rights for publication in its newsletters, journals, magazines, websites and for displays by Mensa without any financial reward to the contributor.

Content Disclaimer: Views expressed in the Triple-M are not necessarily those of the Editor/Editorial Board, nor of the committee and officers of the Malaysian Mensa Society. While all possible care is taken, the Malaysian Mensa Society and the Editor/Editorial Board of the Triple-M cannot accept liability for the loss or damage of pictures, articles, advertisements, offers or other items sent to the Editor/Editorial Board.

PUBLISHER
Malaysian Mensa Society

PRINTER
No.85, Jalan Metro Perdana Barat 11,
Sri Edaran Industrial Park, 52100 Kuala Lumpur.
Hello Mensans,

The end of the year is upon us and I hope it was a good year for all of you. Since the formation of the new committee, we have been working to upgrade and computerise our database to make administration an easier task. Progress is steady and we hope to finish it in early 2016.

The new constitution has been approved. Thanks to all who sent in their approval. We will be sending the new constitution to the ROS for their approval. Once that is obtained, we will set about fulfilling the new requirements as well as some new recommendations from MIL (read the full IBD report online).

One of the exciting things coming up is our involvement with a TV series from TV3: Clever Girl! It is a contest which combines beauty and brains! Look out for the ads. I encourage all Mensan ladies between 18 and 30 to take part. The auditions will be held quite soon. I am designing all the challenges and the questions. Malaysian Mensa will be given recognition in the credits. The series will give Malaysian Mensa a high profile with a huge new audience.

My experience in the latest IBD in Belgrade, Serbia was a really good and productive one. Earlier my article on Puzzler’s Challenge as well as the co-curricular course was picked by editor Kate Nacard to be included in the issue of the Mensa World Journal. The aspect that interested most people was the idea that kids would respond to such challenges in a big way.

The full IBD report can be found online at mensa.my/resources

The year end bash is coming up. Hope to see many of you there!

Hello Mensans,

Time flies and it is the end of the year. The Malaysian Mensa year 2015 was a productive one with many exciting mChats and new faces at these meet ups. 3M also had a face lift and a new team of editorial board. In each issue, polls were created to get feedback from the members and to encourage participation. I would like to thank all those involved in the editorial board of 3M and also members who have been contributing to the magazine regularly. We strive to keep on improving and attract more members to be apart of this society.

The year closed with our annual dinner at The Penthouse at Damansara Uptown with lots of fun and games.

Happy New Year to all in Malaysian Mensa!
The National Comitee 2015 / 2016

CHAIRMAN
Jayaram Menon

Jay is most interested in increasing Mensa’s involvement in aspects of education. He believes that such a commitment is vital to Mensa’s relevance in the identification and support of intelligence that exist in all students. From setting puzzles and hunts over the years, he has gained insight into how to engage the young in systematic problem-solving via “directed self-learning”. He has developed co-curricular courses that serve as bridge between what the students are learning in math and science and how these topics manifest in the world around them. The aim is to sustain the students’ interest in these ‘difficult’ subjects as they go through school. Eventually, he hopes to offer these courses through Mensa after validating them in the crucible of the real world.

VICE CHAIRMAN
Tan Kee Aun

Kee Aun is a person who loves beautiful things and there is nothing more mesmerising and satisfying than crafting beautiful things together with others. Which is exactly what he sees in Mensa. A beautiful amalgamation of the rarest of talents, skills, idiosyncrasies and will, coming together to bring out the best in each other. He believes that only by focusing on the basics and laying foundations for the future, can we then realise that Mensa is evidently so much more—when we are together.

SECRETARY
Tay Yen Pei

A social entrepreneur and usually portrayed to have a young persona, Yen Pei spent 13 years of his professional career at top global companies i.e. Motorola, Nokia and IBM. He is always passionate about the welfare of others, persistently promoting and embracing social altruism as the core value to create a better and compassionate world, ultimately building a sustainable networked society. A Mensan since 2012, he has been actively cultivating creative thinking among university students in the state of Perak leveraging Mensa as a platform. Yen Pei holds a Computer Science degree from Monash and an MBA from University of Manchester. He also funds and drives strategic directions for several innovative startups focusing on sustainability and bringing technology for good.

TREASURER
Zen Chow

Mr. Zen Chow graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Business and Commerce — double major in Accounting & Banking and Finance after spending a year in Melbourne, Australia. He is a Chartered Accountant by profession after admission as a full member of CPA Australia and a qualified member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA). He specialises in both direct and indirect Malaysian taxation and is now holding the position of Tax Executive Director in an established accounting firm. A Mensan for over a decade, Zen firmly believes that no matter what background you come from, you can bring something to the table because really, there’s no telling the immense amount of opportunity that exists when the brightest in the world come together.

PENANG BRANCH CHAIRMAN
Nic Sim

Nic is an artist, entrepreneur, geek, chief systems specialist and chief designer all rolled into one. He founded Redbox Studio in 1998 after “firing” his boss. While he is still very much a design geek at heart, he loves thinking and talking about unconventional marketing. Bringing all this together, his vision for Mensa is to see it rise in relevance to the people of today through a stronger sense of identity and impact in the general public.
Announcements

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN MENSA SOCIETY

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2016/2017

In accordance to Article X4 of the Society’s Constitution, members are hereby reminded that nominations for election to the National Committee for the term 2016/2017 are now open. Nominations must be signed by the nominee(s) and two (2) other member nominators. Nominate using the form provided. Photocopied forms accepted. Nominations for election shall be received up to and including the 1st of March 2016.

The nomination form can be found on page 21 of this Triple M issue or at mensa.my/feed

Secretary

The Lipogram Challenge

The lipogram challenge (to write without the use of the letter ‘E’) held last issue based from an excerpt from Nineteen Eighty-four by George Orwell. The winners below will win a Starbucks Gift card worth RM20.

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.

The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a coloured poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It depicted simply an enormous face, more than a metre wide: the face of a man of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome features.”

Liew Voon Kiong (MY 00932)
It was a bright cold day in April, with clocks flashing “13:00”. Tucking his chin in against numbing winds, Winston Smith ran past the glass doors of Victory Mansions in a flash, though not so quick as to avoid a swirl of gritty dust from trailing in his shadow.

Winston was now in a hallway that stank of soggy food and old rag mats. A portrait of a good-looking, fortyish man was blown up on a wall in full colour, with luxurious black strands of hair upon his lip.

Chow Poh Chee, Suzie (MY 00136)
It was a bright cold day in April, and clocks just dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, dong, non-stop. Winston Smith, his chin in midst of his two mounds in top-front of his body, trying to avoid a cold strong wind, did a swift sliding motion through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, but still too slow, allowing a swirl of gritty dust to go in with him.

The hallway has an aroma, of a whitish plant from a KFC food list boiling in H2O and old rag mats. At turning round spot of hallway, a photo of many colors, too big for indoor display, had thumb tacks round the photo so as to hang onto wall. It was a display of a plain, big portrait of width of 1.2 yards plus: portrait of a man of forty-six minus 1, with a black bushy top, on top of his lip and of good, strong, rough looks.

Events

JAN
mChats – All about Malaysian Mensa
Q&A by Low Keng Lok
Date: 24 January 2016
Time: 2pm
Venue: Malaysian Mensa Office

FEB
CNY Makan (Pending)

MAR
mChats – Tax Talk March by Zen Chow
Date: 13 March 2016
Time: 4pm
Venue: Malaysian Mensa Office

APR
mChats – TBC

MAY
mChats – TBC

RSVP mchats@mensa.my

MALAYSIAN MENSA GENERAL CONTACT
Email: admin@mensa.my
Office: 74, 2nd Floor, Jalan SS2/60, 47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
Post: Malaysian Mensa Society, P.O. Box 11161, 50738 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tel: +60 11 1233 6982
(Mon, Wed, Fri, 9:00 to 15:00)

PLEASE VISIT WWW.MENSA.MY FOR UPDATES
Welcome, New Members!

MY08182  Koh Wei Min
MY08181  Winnie Cheah Wenni
MY08180  Loo Jun Yie
MY08179  Ng Boon Jin
MY08178  Serena Sioco Teh
MY08177  Yeoh Yong Sen
MY08176  Teoh Jie Feng
MY08175  Kek Han Shin
MY08174  Mahdi Mozafarmoghdam
MY08173  Lee Siao Ping
MY08172  Scott Goh Chuan Li
MY08171  Chiam Zi Xin
MY08170  Liew Kaik Qiang
MY08169  Chan Tao
MY08168  Low Shin Thong
MY08167  Kevin Chew Ken Yi
MY08166  Dalene Ooi Chee Lin
MY08165  Jason Yew Wei Lie
MY08164  Lai Lewis
MY08163  Lee Ming Tatt
MY08162  Choong Zi Quan
MY08161  Ronnie Chew Soon
MY08160  Tan Kian Leong
MY08159  Chiam Zi Xin
MY08158  Hew Zhao Quan
MY08157  Mohd Suaimi bin Ramly
MY08156  Kareema Mohammad Ramli
MY08155  Cheong Soon Loong
MY08154  Zahira Tiara Shafiq
MY08153  Phan Wei Jet
MY08152  Phan Wei Jian
MY08151  Smith Agarwal
MY08150  Nicholas Chuang
MY08149  Puteri Nursaadah Amran
MY08148  Muhammad Farhan bin Amran
MY08147  Alfred Yeo Wei Zhen
MY08146  Chin Ai Wei
MY08145  Dylan Ng Zhi Perng
MY08144  Wan Amir Bin Hamzah
MY08143  Bong Sze Loong
MY08142  Charles Yong Kai Yue
MY08141  Yap Yee Aun
MY08140  Ranjit Singh Gill
MY08139  Loo Chew Lim
MY08138  Pravin Pillai Prathapan Pillai
MY08137  Laim Wei Xiang
MY08136  Yeoh Chew Ron
MY08135  Eow Sze Yuen
MY08134  Karen Ann D’cruz
MY08133  Pang Hsin Yi
MY08132  Pang Hon Kee
MY08131  Leong Yoke Jeng
MY08130  Ho Shin Tze
MY08129  Liang Kai Yuan
MY08128  Anniga Sofia Binti Ahmad Hadri
MY08127  Fatim Amira Binti Ahmad Hadri
MY08126  Elmi Binti Jani
MY08125  Lim Shu Jun
MY08124  Ginger Ooi Shi Yong
MY08123  Satoshi Watarai
MY08122  Ng Yi Rhu
MY08121  Ngim Su Juen
MY08120  Ngim Da Huey
MY08119  Tan Huei Ken
MY08118  Low Jia Jiun
MY08117  Ng Zheng Lin
MY08116  Evon Chai Huey San
MY08115  Yip Song-Ling
MY08114  Kenny Richard
MY08113  Mohamed Azrin Mohamed Ali
MY08112  Lee Jean Wei

Mensa Admission Testing in Klang Valley is held every SECOND SUNDAY of the month at 2PM.

The location of the test is 74, 2nd Floor, Jln SS2/60, SS2, 47300 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Pre-registration is required. Kindly visit www.mensa.my/test-info for more information. Candidates are required to fill up the online registration form and make payment. Testing fee is RM50. Contact the National Testing Coordinator, or your local Testing Officer to arrange for a testing. There are 36 objective questions, graphical in nature, to be completed in 40 minutes. The National Testing Proctor will mark and post the results in 2-4 weeks.
Be part of Triple-M:
Here is your chance!

Types of articles that are welcomed:
• Stories of engagement with other Mensans
• Thoughts about intelligence of Mensa society
• General knowledge topics
• Nomination of featured Mensan
• Call for interest in setting up a new special interest group
• Call for interest in setting up a new Mensa branch
• Interesting photos for cover pages, etc.

For any other types of articles, it is best to consult our editor at editorial@mensa.my before submitting.

The next Triple-M issue will be an Environment- and Nature-themed one. If you have any thoughts on this topic, send your original work in forms of articles, poems, puzzles, and/or photos to: editorial@mensa.my by 29 February 2016.
Coffee Appreciation mChat
by Chien Yi (MY 07417)

Black as night, sweet as sin.” — Neil Gaiman, Anansi Boys

From the long black or flat white in fancy boutique cafes to the Frappuccino or Americano in ubiquitous coffee chains to the plain old Aik Cheong kopi'O in quaint kopitiams, there is bound to be a coffee style that suits the preference of coffee-loving Malaysians. After all, Malaysians consume an average of 1.3kg of coffee per capita, ranking us at the 45th place in the world.

True to our interest in coffee, a group of us rose (early) to the occasion when the Coffee Appreciation mChat was organised in August, as the event started at 10.30am. The group of us was made up of curious beginners, typical coffee lovers and coffee connoisseurs. Upon arrival at the Barrister Guild Asia (BGA), we were greeted by a waft of coffee aroma and the sight and sound of a flurry of coffee-making activities. Aptly, each of us was served with a cup of flat white topped with latte art at the start of the mChat; perhaps, to stir us from our morning stupor.

“Did you know that coffee was first discovered in Ethiopia?”

Helming the mChat was none other than Daniel Liew, BGA’s Academic Director who is a licensed coffee grader as well as an authorised trainer. His passion for coffee was evident in the way he delivered the talk, from the ease with which coffee facts and trivia roll off his tongue to his upbeat tone and hand gestures.

“Do you know that coffees grown at higher altitudes will tend to be sweeter and more acidic?”

Aided by illustrative presentation slides, Daniel commenced the mChat with a brief history of coffee discovery and cultivation. The talk is occasionally punctuated by the presence of Daniel’s assistants distributing mini cups of coffee labeled with an alphabet for us to taste and to take note of what we tasted. Few moments after each of these interjections, Daniel will pause to ask us to share our opinion on how the coffee tasted. These brief coffee-tasting sessions proved to be a hit as some of us enthusiastically voiced our opinion.
“Did you know that the Panama Geisha, which is grown in western Panama is known as one of the best-tasting coffees in the recent years?”

As Daniel explained the various coffee varietals and the stages of processing coffee, he passed jars or bags containing sample coffee parchment and beans to the audience so that we would be able to experience what he explained with our sense of sight and smell. As the samples made their way among the audience, we eagerly observed the physical attributes of the beans and took in a whiff of their scents.

“Do you know that the annual production of kopi luwak all over the world is estimated to be about 700 kg only?”

A highlight during this point was when Daniel showed us a kopi luwak (civet coffee) sample and told us that kopi luwak is nothing more than an expensive gimmick. It is after all, the most expensive coffee in the world, with its hefty price driven not by its quality, but by the scarce supply and the hype surrounding it. So, be an educated consumer before we part with our hard-earned money.

“Did you know that roasting reduces acidity but increases bitterness of the coffee?”

As time was running short, the pace picked up towards the end of the talk when Daniel quickly shared the various ways of brewing coffee and the best practices in buying, storing and grinding coffee. At the end of the talk, we were treated to a live demonstration of brewing espresso and making a cup of latte. Before we dispersed, we took a customary group photo. For many of us, we left the talk with newfound knowledge of coffee and for some of us, a happy buzz from indulging in a bit too much coffee.
Most of us will break into cold sweat when someone asks us to give a speech on stage. On 11th October 2015, the Malaysian Mensa Society organised a public speaking event to unleash our public speaking skills.

Three speakers from Toastmasters International conducted October Public Speaking mChats event “Unleash The Public Speaker in You”. They were Distinguished Toastmasters Engr. Lee Meng Tze (Mensan who leads Public Speaking SIG), Alex Lu and Robert Ram from Premier Advanced, IEM and OUM Toastmasters Clubs. About 16 Mensan and friends attended this event. Alex Lu gave a talk on impromptu speech, a short speech (under 2 minutes) which can be used in situations such as interviews. This requires the speakers to think on his/her feet and speak at the same time.

To do well, he advised the audience to put themselves in a state of mind of carrying on a conversation, and learn the techniques and strategies for impromptu speaking, he shared 5-step techniques with Initials LPCTC: Listen, Pause, Confirm, Tell, Close. Robert Ram, a District Humorous and Evaluation Champion, shared on strategies like how to create a “wow” factor in our speech, by having a theme with initials IPEE: Inform, Persuade, Entertain, Encourage.

Finally, Mensan Engr. Lee Meng Tze conducted the Impromptu Speech Session by “unleash” the public speaker for Mensans to deliver a 1-2 minutes impromptu speech based on “table topic” randomly picked on the spot.

After the advice and example speeches given by the speakers, we had to give our own impromptu speech. When asked to present, no one wanted to take the initiative to go first and from the look of everyone’s face, all of us were nervous. The speakers tried persuading and encouraging us to perform because all of us would have to speak in front of everyone eventually. Eventually, somebody raised his hand, and was given a standing ovation, upon which the ball started rolling.

In the blink of an eye, it was my turn to perform. I had experience in story-telling, elocution contest, poetry recitation but impromptu public speaking is a different ball game. I was rather nervous at first. I went out and the speaker asked me to choose a card from her hand. I chose a card which gave me a topic saying “If you were given a chance to bring someone famous back to life, who would you choose and why?” My heart was racing and adrenalin filled me. I struggled but I gradually warmed up, relaxed and managed to finish my speech within the time allotted with encouraging words and support from the speakers and Mensa members.

I benefited a lot from this public speaking event. After the event, I feel that I am more capable of giving impromptu speeches with the guidance and help from the speakers, and I think the rest do, too. A Sunday afternoon well spent!

Toastmasters International is a world leader in communication and leadership development, with more than 332,000 members improving their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of the 15,400 clubs in 135 countries that make up Toastmasters global network of meeting locations.

MENA Public Speaking SIG meets every 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursdays 7.30pm @ 2nd Floor Wisma IEM, 21 Jalan Selangor, Petaling Jaya, along with IEM Toastmasters. For more information on various Toastmasters Clubs meeting events dates and locations, please contact Lee Meng Tze @ 012-2130588 or lmengtze@yahoo.com
CLASSIFIED RATES (BLACK AND WHITE ONLY)

Three sizes to choose from:

8cm x 4cm
Member: RM100
Non-member: RM150

8cm x 8cm
Member: RM125
Non-member: RM175

8cm x 12cm
Member: RM150
Non-member: RM200

*All classifieds dimensions is inclusive of a standard 2pt black border.

Disclaimer

No endorsement by Malaysian Mensa is intended or implied by the publication of any ad in the 3M.

3M does not knowingly accept ads that misrepresent the products or services being offered. Mensa Malaysia assumes no responsibility for the contents of the ads or for the advertisers. Respondents are urged to exercise the same prudence they would with any merchant or service organisation. Each advertiser assumes full responsibilities for his/her ad.

As a membership service, any complaint against the advertiser will be investigated in the interest of seeking a satisfactory and equitable resolution. All complaints should be addressed to the editor.

Acceptance of ads is based on space-available basis. All advertising materials and copy are subject to approval or rejection by Malaysian Mensa at its discretion. Advertiser may be required to submit samples of merchandise for sale.
We sometimes hear of parents saying they have just spent some quality family time. What does it mean to have quality family time and how is it different from just spending time?

Like most working parents, I certainly feel torn at times between the seemingly competing demands of two worlds. While the reality is that we have less time to spend with our children, let’s remember that quality is more important than quantity.

If I could offer some practical tips on how we can maximise the time with our children as working parents, it would be first of all to be mentally present with your child. Sometimes we can be physically at home, but mentally, our minds are miles away, thinking about some problem we are having at the office.

So, do whatever it takes—be it spending some time at the gym before heading home or a taking good hot bath after work, it is good to clear our minds and hearts of our work stresses, before we spend time with our kids. This way, we will find ourselves more patient, more cheerful, more giving and certainly more attentive to our children.

Secondly, consider doing ONE educational activity with your child each day. I can’t over emphasise that working parents can and should monitor their children’s schoolwork, ensuring that they are enjoying and engaging in the school curriculum. Helping with their homework and, more importantly, helping them apply some of the basic skills they have learnt in their home life are among the things we can do as working parents to encourage and support what they’re learning in school.

Lastly, do ONE Fun activity with your child each day as fun and joy are an important part of our family lives. They help establish the emotional connection between parents and their children. Therefore, it is good to just do things both parents and children can enjoy together. They say a family that plays together stays together.

For working parents, time with our children is so precious. Therefore, we need to be careful with the time we have with them. The point is that we should not underestimate how much we can achieve in the limited time we have. Remember, it’s not the quantity, but the quality that counts the most.

My child is gifted while I am just ordinary. What can I do as parents desiring the best for our child academically and in life?

It is not only parents of gifted that often feel inadequate when it comes to helping their children perform at school. Some parents comment that they have no education themselves and therefore feel ill equipped to help their child.

Many people think that to teach the child, we must ourselves know everything about everything, which of course is not possible for anyone. The problem is that we’re still stuck in the old fashion model of teaching, in which education was about the teacher just loading information into the child.

More contemporary models of education argue that the best form of education is getting children to learn for themselves. The parent or teacher acts as a facilitator, challenging the child to read and understand things for themselves.

One of the best examples I have read about this is from an old book called “The Children on the Hill” by Michael Deakin, which details a family that produces 4 prodigies. The mother who oversees their education while they are young is not highly educated herself. Her approach is to allow her children to determine what they are interested in studying and her role is to provide them with the time and encouragement to pursue their own study and learning.

This reflects a child-centred approach to teaching. Our role as parents is not limited to teaching them what we know. We should encourage them to learn beyond what we ourselves know.
When we have very intelligent and gifted children sometimes we have a tendency to set very high expectations for them and to push them hard. What are some of the dangers of pushing our children too hard?

Everyone loves a genius, a prodigy. While some parents harbour the hope that their sons and daughters will grow up to be the next Mozart, Curie or Einstein, one thought that scares many parents is that their children may turn out to be ordinary, rather than gifted, average rather than exceptional.

In our efforts to push them to “greatness” we may push them too hard. One of the consequences of over-pressuring is causing them to lose their love of learning.

When we as parents send our children the message that; “the most important thing is to score in your exams and we don’t care how you do it as long as you meet the performance targets we have set for you,” it kills off the inborn intellectual curiosity that all young children have when they first start their education.

Secondly, when over pressured, our children are thus motivated by fear. I have lost count of the number of students my colleagues have counselled who were stressed out because they were absolutely terrified of what their parents would do to them because their results were below average.

I once heard the quote that went “A life lived in fear is a life half lived.” I agree with this. When fear dominates, there is no opportunity for real growth, real exploration, real development, real happiness, real fulfilment.

Thirdly, over pressured children are more likely to burn out. Children, even gifted ones may not be able to cope with the constant pressure of having to perform for a long period of time. Eventually their resources and energy will run dry when their heart is not in their studies. Students burn out when they no longer have any motivation or energy to put into their work.

Fourthly, children who are pressured by their parents to perform also tend to be “over-managed” by their parents, meaning that they are told exactly what to do, how to do it and when to do it. Apart from the danger that even very gifted children not being able to manage their own lives, they may also become overly dependent on their parents as source of motivation and inspiration.

Having gifted children, we may be inclined to drive them to live out our dreams. Sometimes, it is tempting to push our children to achieve the things we failed to achieve ourselves. So we push them and we tell them that they have no excuse to fail because of all the wonderful opportunities, support and freedom they have now. But in reality they have no freedom when we are dictating their life goals.

There are many cases where children who have been pushed hard to pursue degrees they have no interest in just dropped out of college or university. Some have suffered from mental health conditions like depression or have developed eating disorders. Some cut themselves off from their parents because of bitterness and anger.

As parents we all want our children to grow up to be “successful” young adults. It is important though to be clear minded when we define “success”. Success is more than getting straight A’s, or being top of the class. Academic achievement is not the only thing that enables a successful career or a successful life.

While we should inspire and encourage our children to take their responsibilities as students seriously, we should not fall into the trap of over-pressuring them to perform in their studies. Rather, we should focus on the holistic and all round development of our children so that they will be well prepared to face the challenges of adult life.

What are your recommendations for conflict resolutions within the family whereby parents and children have high IQ’s?

Conflict is common when you have a family full of very intelligent, very articulate, very strong-minded people. It’s not necessarily a bad thing, as it trains children how to communicate and manage conflict better.

The key to any conflict situation is to first identify the needs and interest of each party involved. This is called the interest-based conflict management strategy.

Therefore, the first question all parties should ask is NOT “who is right, and who is wrong” but rather “what are the needs and interests of everyone in this situation”.

The next step is to then identify problem-solving strategies that will help meet the needs of everyone, where possible.

Another good rule of thumb is to have a cooling off period when emotions are high. Never engage when emotions are strong. Wait till everyone has calmed down before discussing the conflict.
Malaysian Families: Then and Now
by Fionna Tan (MY 05944)

Malaysia as a young and newly industrialised country has certainly witnessed its own shift in family dynamics and structure. Although extended families appear to be common in Asia as compared to other regions of the world, government statistics reveal that the proportion of nuclear families in Malaysia has risen over the years.

---

The family is our refuge and our springboard; nourished on it, we can advance to new horizons. In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future.

- Alex Haley
In the past, much of our family lives revolved around extended families. However, familial support structures such as these are quickly vanishing, notably in urban areas. Along with the rising proportion of working mothers, this societal transition highlights the importance of greater awareness and effort in establishing healthy family relationships.

A delve in the past shows us that family roles were clear and well-defined. The role of fathers was confined to being the breadwinner, and mothers were expected to take charge of household and child-rearing duties. Today, fathers are expected to be more than just breadwinners. They are expected to be fully engaged in the lives of their children. With the rise of dual-income families, parents are expected to share the responsibility in meeting their family obligations. With more Malaysian women attaining better qualifications and achieving financial independence, the number of househusbands is on the rise too, albeit very slowly.

According to the Malaysian Quality of Life (MQL) 2011 report released by the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Prime Minister’s Department, the family life subindex has improved since the 1990s. This improvement was attributed to the lower juvenile crime and higher household income. Contemporaneously, the higher percentage of divorces among the population had negatively affected the index. Having said so, it is worth noting that these three selected family life indicators do not fully capture all dimensions of family life in Malaysia. Whilst the increase in two-working-parent families translates to a higher household income, this could also result in lesser involvement in their children’s lives.

So what lies ahead for Malaysian families?

For starters, there will be no such thing as the quintessential Malaysian family. The line between the typical roles of breadwinner (father) and homemaker (mother) is expected to blur even further. Albeit a long process, there is a possibility of a role reversal in modern Malaysia. Society will be more accepting of having men as homemakers, as observed in several developed nations. For example, Japan traditionally regards women as stay-at-home mothers. A survey held by the Japanese Social Insurance Agency reveals that more men are now opting to stay home and let their wives go to work instead.

The younger generations who will become parents of tomorrow are likely to be more liberalised than their forefathers. Naturally, factors such as race, religion and background will become less of a deciding factor. Increasing number of families will depart from the traditionally distinctive monoracial families and be racially and religiously diverse. Moreover, the loosening of traditional values will have divorces, single parenting, as well as unmarried and cohabiting couples be viewed as more socially acceptable. It is also likely that there will be a disappearing presence of extended families.

It is hard to deny western influences especially as Malaysia is striving to mimic the economic and political prowess of their western counterparts. Seeing as we are largely influenced by the American culture, we can observe America’s trends in decreasing marriages and increasing divorces as an indicator of what is to come. However, with Malaysia being an Asian country, our society still clings to key Asian family values that have been ingrained from generations before such as filial piety. Furthermore, for the most part, Malaysia retains its distinct racial identity. As such, the future of the modern Malaysian family may not be as predictable as we think it is.

Below is a list of family support services offered by non-profit organisations in Malaysia:

- **Focus on the Family Malaysia** ([http://family.org.my](http://family.org.my))
  Established with a clear vision to strengthen families, Focus on the Family Malaysia offers parenting, youth and marriage workshops/programs and family support services. Family counselling is provided on a donation fee basis.

- **ibu Family Resource Group** ([http://ibufamily.org](http://ibufamily.org))
  ibu’s primary function is to provide support and information for pregnant women and the parents of babies and young children living in Malaysia. The organisation facilitates playgroups, support groups, yearly activities, and offers loan or rent of baby equipment and books.

- **Agape Counseling Center Malaysia** ([http://www.agape.org.my](http://www.agape.org.my))
  In accordance with Agape’s new strategies to serve the Malaysian community and to build the nation, the organisation believes in the importance of providing various counselling, therapies, pre-marital workshops/seminars, and training services to equip children and parents.

- **Calvary Life Ministries** ([http://clm.org.my](http://clm.org.my))
  Established as a nonprofit counselling and care organization, CLM provides counselling services to adults, couples and families. There are no fees charged for counselling services, however, donations are encouraged.

- **Malaysian Mental Health Association** ([http://mmha.org.my](http://mmha.org.my))
  Having a family member being diagnosed with mental illness can be quite an overwhelming experience. If you wish to talk to someone from MMHA to know more about mental illness, or caring for someone with mental illness, a Family Support member can visit you. You can also meet and talk to mental health staff at the MMHA centre.

- **Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation** ([http://www.kdsf.org.my](http://www.kdsf.org.my))
  The Parents Support Group acts as a support group for parents and families who have individuals or children with Down Syndrome. The PSG counsels families, organises activities, talks, family gathering and special meetings to plan and handle issues related to Down Syndrome.
A Mensan is rare enough, being only 2% of the population, but what is even rarer is a family of Mensans! Mr Goh Tiam Huat, 53 and his children Goh Zhen Yi, 24 and Goh Song Wei, 23, are a familiar sight in many Mensa activities, and it is heartwarming to see them spend time together as a family. So when Triple-M decided on this family-themed issue, it was a no-brainer to interview the Goh family to find out what makes the family of geniuses tick.

Goh Tiam Huat is currently working in the R&D department in the palm oil industry in Indonesia, where he is based. He has 30 years of experience in the industry.

What do you do in your free time?
I like reading, gadgets, photography, ball games.

How did you get your children to join Mensa?
I challenged them to take the entry tests.

What was your proudest achievement at work?
Worked in two start-up companies that ventured into a category of consumers specialized food products with good team work and good bosses whom I got a chance to work with, both companies’ products are now renowned for their product variety and quality.

Most memorable experience in Mensa:
Mensa Treasure Hunts because of the twists and turns that all help to add to the fun of treasure hunt.

Being outdoors, it enables us to explore and discover more as well as sharpen the navigational skills. Besides, it also stimulates an adrenaline rush in us and promotes social interaction where you have to get out of your comfort zone to ensure the team objective is met – that is to win.

Mensa events that you and your family have attended together:
Mensa Hunts, Year-end bashes.

Do you push your children harder in school after finding out that they are also Mensa-qualified?
I let them strive in any way possible. I do encourage them to find more hobbies and engage with successful people and activities that will be helpful for them in the future.

What are the most important qualities for a strong family relationship, and how do you implement that personally?
Find time for them even if you are busy with your daily work. Nothing beats having laughter at home.

Why do you think joining Mensa improved your family’s relationship with one other?
It challenges us to be better mentally.

Words of advice for the members in Mensa:
Mensa membership is for your own reference. It does not mean anything if you don’t use it for the benefits of mankind. We have some advantages but hard work and dedication are still needed in order to excel in whatever we have ‘dived’ into.

Goh Zhen Yi joined Mensa three years ago. She is currently an Application Engineer at an oil and gas company.

What are your hobbies?
Reading, singing, outdoor activities, travelling, fashion, fitness, photography.

How did you get around to joining Mensa?
My dad challenged both me and my brother, and I said why not? Good genes run in the blood, so he went and signed us up for the test.

Your greatest achievement in life:
Passed the PTS test during standard 3 and completing my engineering degree course.

Went to the United States for the work and travel program by myself for 3 months (I have never been this far away from home) where I get to sort of travel around the US and learn to be independent. My parents are very supportive as well.

Working for three months in the state of Wisconsin as a simple hotel receptionist, I have learned that sometimes communicating with people requires patience. Also being away for that long period of time, suppressing your craving for home cooked food could not be more difficult. So do not take simple home cooked meals for granted.

My most memorable moment during the whole trip was visiting Las Vegas. Media portrayals of Vegas is never short of excitement, hence being there was actually a dream come true and I would really like to go back there someday and bring my family members with me.

Most memorable experience in Mensa:
Get to spend quality time with my family at Mensa’s event, we have been joining dad for Mensa’s Treasure Hunt when we were younger.

Mensa events that you and your family have attended together:
Mensa Treasure Hunt, Mensa 30th Anniversary Gala Dinner
Words of advice for the members in Mensa:
Be daring and courageous to try out new things, there are many hidden "gems" in life.

Goh Song Wei is currently a full-time student at a local university, majoring in public relations, minoring in journalism.

What are your interests?
I am deeply passionate about badminton. Nothing beats the feeling of landing a perfect smash to the opponent.

My favourite badminton player, contrary to popular answers would be the amazing Taufik Hidayat, from Indonesia. His backhand smashes were and still are legendary, feared by many on the court. However, I still reserve a special spot in my heart for Dato’ Lee Chong Wei.

I am lucky enough to have a group of friends to play badminton with every week. After all, consistency is the key.

For players who are interested in improvements in the game of badminton, make sure to grasp all the basics. Get your stance and techniques right, and force a habit out of it. The most common mistake amateur badminton players make is not knowing the correct stances and techniques.

Your greatest achievement in life:
My greatest achievement in life to date would be conquering stage fright. It was during my last semester of foundation program. For our final assignment we were required to give a fake 'Presidential' speech in front of 200 audience members.

The secret behind this feat boils down to one thing. Practice, practice, and practice. Be clear of what you want to say, and practice in front of a mirror the night before.

Most memorable experience in Mensa:
My most memorable experience with Mensa would be the Mensa Eye-Q hunt 2013. Driving around Kota Damansara finding for answers with the whole family.

Mensa events that you and your family have attended together:
Mensa SIG photo shooting trip to Cameron highlands. The highlight of this event was a simple photography contest held among members that were present. Throughout the duration of the trip, members were encouraged to come up with the most creative and beautiful picture of any part of Cameron Highlands. Although I did not win, I picked up a few photography skills.

Words of advice for the members in Mensa:
Malaysian Mensa Society is a perfect platform to get to know more people, and network together by sharing experiences and advices for just about anything.

Wendy Koh a.k.a Mrs Goh is the only non-Mensan in the family. She is an accomplished person with her own business and at the same time being a wonderful mother and wife.

How do you feel in a family of Mensan?
It is fun watching them tackle those tricky IQ questions from time to time.

Why don’t you sit for the Mensa Admission Test?
I took the test a long time ago, but the results came out just a bit short. Definitely going to try again in the near future.

How do you keep the family bonding strong?
What activities do the family enjoy?
Mensa activities! I have attended quite a lot of events by Mensa, and it is activities like these that keep the family bond strong.

What is your best dish?
My absolutely best dish would be a pure and simple chicken curry. When it is done right, it brings smile to everyone’s faces.

You enjoy running, at what age did you pick up this sport and why do you like it?
I picked up running and hiking because staying fit is essential, besides the view from the peak never cease to amaze me.
The Festival of the Mind is an annual event held at two separate locations each year without fail. It will be held in the KTAR campus in Kampar, Perak as well as UTAR in Setapak, Kuala Lumpur. Usually for the Kampar location, the Malaysian Mensa Penang Branch Committee would be involved in the general information booth and conduct testing.

The Penang Branch Committee often looks forward to this event because not only do we get to meet people who want to know more about Mensa and take the Mensa test, we also meet old friends comprising of UTAR staff and other exhibitors.

Each year the festival spans 2 days, usually over the weekend. This year, the festival fell on 8 and 9 August 2015. That Saturday morning, we began our journey from Penang at 5.30am so that we could stop at Ipoh for its famous dim sum and at the same time, reach UTAR Kampar by 9am to set up our Mensa booth. We also were eager to catch the official opening ceremony that morning by Tun Ling Liong Sik, the patron of the festival.

Previous year’s exhibitors came in full force to this event and this included some interesting vendors and booths. Visitors could assess their potential by scanning their fingerprints, move a wheelchair with their brain power or even challenge their memory power using puzzles and games (this was run by a vendor who is also a Mensan).

We also met new exhibitors and vendors such as the Malaysian memory champion who could memorise a deck of playing cards in a minute. Another exhibitor showed festival visitors how to determine their lucky colour using just their birth dates while another exhibitor talked about improving one’s memory by chewing on the leaves of the holy basil plant.

In the past festivals, Mensa Penang used to put up puzzle challenge questions and also have big colourful Perspex tangrams for visitors to solve. However, we soon noticed that visitors had a wrong perception of Mensa. They thought we were simply a society focused on solving puzzles instead of solving puzzles instead of being a high IQ society! This year, instead of puzzles, we had sample Mensa admission questions printed and laminated. Each sheet showed a different type of question. We explained to the visitors that these were the kind of questions asked during an actual Mensa admission test. Many people had the wrong assumption that the Mensa test involved language skills and math calculation.

When they could solve the questions on the laminated sheets, they felt a lot more confident about taking the actual Mensa test. We’d tell them this showed they had a higher likelihood of having high IQ! We encouraged them to take the Mensa test so that they could join the society. Many were also excited to know that Mensa is an internationally recognised society and that they could join other world wide Mensa activities if they passed and became a member.

Of course, for the visitors who wanted some hands-on challenge, we provided them with some wood puzzles (courtesy of our Malaysian Mensa chairman, Jay Menon).

As the chairman for the Penang Branch, I also gave a 1-hour talk during this event to the public titled “3 Reasons Why Knowing Your IQ Can Transform Your Life and Career”. It was one of the strategies to encourage more people to understand the usefulness of knowing their IQ for life and work!

All exhibitors were treated to a delicious buffet dinner at the Grand Kampar Hotel that Saturday night. This year, we were treated to something special. The dinner featured a live band and Tun Ling Liong Sik even sang. Some exhibitors and UTAR staff also joined in! Even the lead vocalist of the live band was amazed at how well some of them sang and asked if they sang professionally!

It was a good outing for Mensa Penang Branch and I’d like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members and volunteers for going all the way to Kampar to help out. I was also happy to see UTAR students who are new Mensans coming to help out at our booth too.
If you'd like to learn and meet people, come join us as a volunteer for next year’s Festival of the Mind in Kampar. Contact us at info@mensapenang.org
In this issue, we conducted a survey on Malaysian Mensa members’ participation in the society. We thank those who have responded to the survey and the NatCom will strive to improve with the feedback received.

**Results compiled by Alvin Pang (MY 04485)**

### General Demographics

**20–29** is the age group with the most respondents, constituting 37% of all respondents.

**30–39** is the second most group, at 27%.

**67.9%** are males.

**ALMOST 75%** reside in the Klang Valley, with a handful in Penang and the rest scattered across the other states.

### Reasons for Not Attending

**40%** Stated that there is a clash of commitments, which is unfortunate but there is little we can do about.

**38%** Indicated that they did not attend as they did not know anyone. Paradoxically, you are also not likely to know any other fellow Mensans unless you actually attend an event.

**27%** Were not aware of the events which means we still need further work on communication.

### Social Media

Of respondents are in the Facebook R&R Group. The majority would like to be informed of events via e-mail although a little more than half have also indicated a preference for social media.

### Events

**37%** Disappointingly, have not been to any event at all, and this includes all who are between 12 – 19.

**≥40** The age group where everyone has attended at least 1 event. As the age group gets younger, it is more likely that there are non-active members. However, it is also interesting to note that while roughly half of respondents between 20 – 29 have not been to any event, the majority of those who do have attended at least 5 or more.

It is clear that we need to work on creating events with more appeal towards the younger generations.

### Event Preferences

**66%** would like to have events based on hobbies

**60%** are also interested in food, puzzles, games, or educational events

**50%** are interested in sports and recreation or social activities

**20%** are either not interested, felt like there was nothing to be gained, or would rather do something else

Sports/Recreation seems to be a popular choice in the 20–29 age range. However, it is somewhat baffling that a number who have indicated an interest in Social activities have also not attended events due to not knowing anyone.
# Nomination Form

**THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE 2016 / 2017**

## Nominee Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of Nominee</th>
<th>Mensa Membership No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Nominating Position (Tick only one position below)

- [ ] Chairman
- [ ] Vice Chairman
- [ ] Natcom Member
- [ ] Secretary
- [ ] Treasurer

## Nominated by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member’s Full Name</th>
<th>Mensa Membership No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindly return this form to Malaysian Mensa Society at P.O.Box 11161, 50738 Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA by 1st March 2016.
I've always been a fan of high fantasy. Growing up, I spent days reading the likes of J.R.R. Tolkien, Robert Jordan, and the Eddings'. There’s something entirely captivating about magical worlds - swords, sorcery, a clear delineation between good and evil - that appeals, in my opinion, to the male mind. In the recesses of our mind, we've all spent a little time slaying dragons, rescuing princesses, and all other forms of archetypal “manly” activities, and certain books just plug straight into these.

Solid world building, a believable magic system, steady and thought-out character development, and a whole host of other plus-points. The Stormlight Archive by Brandon Sanderson truly delivers a hearty treat for both fantasy buffs and newbies alike. The series, comprising of a whopping 10 books is still in its infancy, with only the first and second books being released (as of yet) in 2010, and 2014 respectively.

Written in a linear, continuous timeline, the books themselves are massive constructs, well over a thousand pages each and take place on a world named Roshar; a world ravaged by great weather phenomenon known as Hightstorms, which release massive amounts of energy known as Stormlight in their wake. Stormlight is harnessed for many purposes, but most importantly fuels the magic system of the series.

The premise of the series begins with an account of humanity's age old battle with ambiguous antagonists known as Voidbringers, and were once defended by men and women of great valour known as the Knights Radiant. However, after what seemed to be the final battle, and subsequent victory over the Voidbringers, the Knights Radiant abandoned their charge, and left humanity to fend for itself.

Fast forward to the present, humanity has built itself up from the ashes to form thriving societies, steadily though, signs point to the return of the Voidbringers. This sets the stage for the introduction of the main characters of the series, and speaks to the return of the Knights Radiant. The characters themselves are diverse and complex, coming from various social castes and upbringings. The multiple viewpoints can get a little difficult to follow, but Sanderson masterfully navigates these waters to deliver solid character building, which is excellently paced.

Some may find the plot predictable, nonetheless, the progression of the storyline is thoroughly enjoyable, and Sanderson leaves no unintentional gaps. With another 8 books anticipated, the Stormlight Archive promises to deliver much more over the next few years, and be Sanderson’s greatest work to date.
Maps have fascinated me from young and I vividly remember staring into the various colours and lines, wondering how on earth people could have figured out where to place the lines and what the different shades and tones actually meant. I remember my older friend from church telling me that these places are real and that the map is just a representation of the world using a scale. At that very moment I told myself, "Oh, how I wish I could be inside a map that’s on the scale of 1:1!"

What was once thought to be silly ideas of a small kid turned out to be one of the biggest dreams I had from the time I learned how to read. I would fantasise about scaling the Great Wall till the end, meeting the sun, petting a koala and hugging it so tight and never let go, looking out of the coach on the Trans-Siberian railway, or singing in front of a crowd dressed in toga at the amphitheater in Ephesus. Well, I did learn bel canto for that purpose ☺

Though I harboured these big dreams, I knew I would not be able to fulfill them on my own for neither my family nor I had the means to even travel domestically. Looking back, the greatest thing about having a dream from young and not forgetting it as we got older was the increased ability to pull together resources such as contacts of good people and different plans as years go by.

The launch pad to fulfill my dream of traveling the world was through submitting a proposal to a local television station while completing my final year at the university. I thought that since I had no money, why not get someone to sponsor my travel instead? The idea was to produce a travelogue and when the producer asked where we should start, I said, "Of course it would have to be Europe!" I didn't give reasons to substantiate but I guess the enthusiasm was convincing enough.

The end of this year would mark the first decade of my adventures. Like other travelers, they would share that the journey is enriching in a personal way and after meeting people from more than 80 nations and hundreds of cities, towns and villages, we were reassured that most people are not that different after all and how a genuine smile and sincere relationships can break down any cultural or language barriers.

As we bid adieu to 2015, let us be honest with ourselves how this year has been—there is indeed no reason to celebrate the passage of time if we are only living through the chronos without a single kairos. As a matter of fact, amidst all the partying, we are reminded of the fleeting moments. Stories of dreams achieved remind us that ours are also possible. May the new year dawn with old dreams refreshed, and new possibilities pirated.
A child navigates the rocky outcrops of the Klang Gates Ridge

Exploring nature can be a great time for family bonding—especially when "hunting" for wildlife together

Hands up: how many parents reading this have considered taking—or have taken—their primary schoolgoing child(ren) up one of the most dangerous cliffs in the Klang Valley? Probably not many, and with good reason: it is dangerous. But then again, danger can’t be the main reason. Road accidents claim far more lives than the Klang Gates Ridge (a.k.a. Bukit Tabur) ever has, and at a far more alarming rate, too. So why are parents apparently so much more open to bringing their babies around in cars, and allowing their 17-year-olds to drive? The answer, as some have suggested (and with which I thoroughly agree), is that one is perceived as a necessity while the other appears to be little more than an adrenaline junkie’s idea of a good morning out.

To this, I will only say that I believe that a parent’s role is not so much to protect the child from the dangers perceived in nature as it is to teach the child to appreciate and enjoy nature, inherent dangers and all. That, and I will quote Ted Trzyna of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

There is now strong scientific evidence that kids need direct experience of nature for healthy intellectual, emotional, and even moral development. In order to become complete human beings, kids need experience of nature early in life, frequently, and preferably with their families. (emphasis mine)

In all honesty, it’s not hard to see why: these days, the sight of parents plonking a tablet into their children’s faces, while they themselves fiddle with their smartphones, is all too common. Even without scientific evidence, it doesn’t take a Mensa IQ to see that there is something wrong here. Trzyna makes a distinction between merely sending kids off into the forest on school camps, and participating fully as a family. I often wonder: are parental “concerns” over safety a genuine expression of the protective instinct, or merely a convenient way to mask their own fears and aversions to something potentially uncomfortable?

There is, in fact, a wide range of practical ways—including very safe ones—in which we may meaningfully explore the wild world around us, even in the city: by visiting a botanical garden or animal sanctuary; planting trees in our gardens or raising a mini vegetable shelf in our apartments; taking weekend walks in the park (instead of the mall) or trekking regularly in a neighbourhood forest reserve (if you are lucky enough to have one).

The entire outlay for a “junior naturalist” kit—magnifying glass, entry-level binoculars, some containers or a plastic aquarium, a handful of reference books, a notebook and some stationery—is but a fraction of what the average parent is prepared to shell out for the next smartphone upgrade. Those of us who live in the Klang Valley have access to places like the Lake Gardens, FRIM, UM’s
Families spending an evening conducting water monitoring tests at an urban stream.

Rimba Ilmu and the Putrajaya Botanical Garden, to name a few; over in Penang there is the national park in Teluk Bahang, the Penang Botanic Gardens and Penang Hill—walk, don’t ride the funicular! And no matter where you are in the country, there are always neighbourhood parks and fields that can often be a treasure trove of wildlife.

I am grateful to my parents that we had a lot of “family nature” time: the annual holiday by the sea—almost a family tradition—and lots of gardening at home. As a child I was often jealous of friends who went on fantastic trips to faraway places like Australia and the UK during the school holidays, while I’d be building sandcastles in Port Dickson or Malacca. I used to envy friends who had all the latest gadgets—in those days, PlayStation, Tamagotchi, Pro-Yo and mobile phones—never fully appreciating what it meant to have parents enthusiastically supporting my insect catching hobby, parents who would hover with me over the tadpoles in the drain outside the house. Looking back, I don’t regret one moment of it.

Throughout this year, Malaysian Mensa has emphasised the word “together,” and it is hard to find a better community to do things together than the family unit itself. Does the family have a role in making this world a better place? The Incredibles describes a family that does just that, imbued with superhuman powers. We don’t need such powers to explore life around us, but the considerable positive impact to the world can be just as great, if not more so.
Science in the New Age: Wave Function—Part 1
by Fabien Bouheir (MY 20630)

Wave Function
It seems very difficult to surf the net without stumbling upon cat related content. Since this is the trend, we will discuss Schrödinger’s cat in this quarter's issue.

In 1925, Erwin Schrödinger came up with a great equation that had a massive impact in the field of Quantum Mechanics: The Wave Function.

Do not start to sweat, we will not go through the math, but instead I will try to put some words to it. Basically, the wave function defines the certain value of a group of particles (or a single one) at any given time—Like snapping a picture of particles to know its whereabouts.

Particles can have different energy, speed, and position and so on, and the only way to know exactly its state is to measure it. Before the wave function is observed the particles are in superposition (multiple possibilities exist) but as soon as we make a measurement, it collapses into one definite state.

To put this into perspective let’s go thought a little thought experiment.

The Experiment
Do not do this at home! Put a cat in a box with explosives—this is the Einstein’s version, the original apparatus was a radioactive material, a Geiger counter, a hammer and some poison - but it is funnier with dynamite.

Close and seal everything for an hour. If the explosives go off in the box, kitty goes bye-bye. If it does not, kitty lives happily and can go back to sit on your keyboard.

HINT: You have no way to know what the outcome is without opening the box; you cannot hear or smell anything. So what is happening down there?

The two big names in the field at the time, Bohr and Schrödinger, concluded that when the box is closed, the two possibilities exist simultaneously; the cat is, for a moment, dead and alive at the same time.

As seen above, the wave function, which is all the possible states an object can exist, do not collapse into a definite one (in this case the cat being dead or alive), they are in superposition, in which both possibilities exist.

So when do we actually know what is going on in that box?

Well, the answer is straightforward: we have to look inside it (duh).

The simple fact of observing what is inside the box makes the wave function collapse into one state: dead or alive.

This is, for me, one of the most important statements in Quantum Physics and we will go deeper into the topic in the next issues.

Some people did, of course, disagree with this interpretation and it took me a while to get it right so I promise I will try to summarise those arguments as simply as possible.

Copenhagen Interpretation
The debate about interpretation of Quantum Mechanics has always been very intense.

Harsh words and personal letters were sent trying to discredit each other’s theory. In the early 1920s, Neil Bohr was the first to pose this interpretation; based on his research, a quantum particle does not exist in one state or another, but in all of its possible states at once.
It is only when we observe its state that all the other probabilities disappear and the particle is forced to choose one path. However, it may be chosen a different path each time, thus the reason why a quantum particle behaves so randomly.

**The Many World Interpretation**

We all faced this part of life where you have to make a choice, breaking up or staying with your partner, changing job or not, moving houses, buying a PS4 or an Xbox One...

Based on this interpretation, you actually make both choices and your life is divided in 2 separate dimensions, which are unable to interact with each other.

This is the famous Quantum Mechanical Paradox in which an action, such as opening the box, creates two universes in which the cat is alive in one and dead in the other—like this.

Once the box is open, the same information is shared between “the observers” and only then the wave collapses for all observers and the truth is finally revealed. Some will say that the cat, the guy and the rest are all “entangled” together and that the information is shared by mutual observation.

**Objectives Collapse Theory**

This is actually the first thing that popped into my mind when I first heard of that experiment.

To be honest, I was already seeing myself getting a Nobel Prize and buying an unlimited supply of video games but unfortunately, some smartass already thought of it.

If you put the cat in the box and wait 100 years, the cat will definitely die; the superposition is then destroyed by the process of time.

2 years after the Wave function, another great mind joined the party to propose a principle that helped shaping the study of Quantum Mechanics: Werner Heisenberg.

Stay tuned!
People often say that a proverb is wisdom in a nutshell. Indeed, many cultures accumulate what they have learned over the centuries, and condense them in simple, catchy one-liners. Hence the many quotations, sayings, axioms, maxims, adages, aphorisms, that we are often told to live by. For our own good. But is that always the case, for our own good? This exercise will prove that you should not blindly follow the advice contained in these so called ‘wisdom statements’.

Your task: for each saying in Group X, pick one from Group Y that contradicts it. For example, ‘1’ in Group X pairs with ‘A’ in Group Y. (Answers on page 26.)

**Group X**

1. Silence is golden
2. Once bitten, twice shy
3. Procrastination is the thief of time
4. The more, the merrier
5. Seek and you shall find
6. Nothing ventured, nothing gained
7. Familiarity breeds contempt
8. Many hands make light work
9. The higher you climb, the harder you fail
10. A penny saved is a penny earned
11. The early bird gets the worm
12. Do unto others as you would have others do unto you
13. The pen is mightier than the sword
14. Practice makes perfect
15. A miss is as good as a mile
16. Cross your bridges when you come to them

**Group Y**

A. The squeaky wheel gets the grease
B. Too many cooks spoil the broth
C. Home is where the heart is
D. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail
E. The best things in life are free
F. The second mouse gets the cheese
G. Half a loaf is better than none
H. If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again
I. Haste makes waste
J. Curiosity kills the cat
K. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy
L. Actions speak louder than words
M. Better safe than sorry
N. Nice guys finish last
O. The sky’s the limit
P. Two’s company; three’s a crowd

---

### 2015 YEAR END BASH — BLACK & WHITE QUIZ

by Low Keng Lok (MY 01074)

**Question 1**
BLACK is English; in Italian black is NERO. The word NEGRO is...
A. Dutch
B. Latin
C. Spanish

**Question 2**
WHITE is Putih in Bahasa Melayu and Bahasa Indonesia. What is WHITE in Thai?
A. Khaw
B. Sida
C. Sidaeng

**Question 3**
There are 10 countries in Asean. Which Asean country’s flag have BLACK colour?
A. Brunei
B. Laos
C. Myanmar

**Question 4**
There are 13 States and 3 Federal Territories in Malaysia and they all have their own flags. How many of these State flags have BLACK colour?
A. 3
B. 4
C. 5

**Question 5**
Which of the following Gemstone is NOT White?
A. Malachite
B. Moonstone
C. Quartz

**Question 6**
Which of the following Gemstone is NOT Black?
A. Onyx
B. Sodalite
C. Tektite

**Question 7**
The most common overall white animal is the Polar Bear that live in the Arctic. It has a thick coat of white fur to protect it from the cold. What is the colour of its SKIN?
A. Black
B. Pink
C. White

**Question 8**
A Black Panther is not its own species; it is a general term that refers to any big cat with a black coat of fur, the black colouring comes from a pigment – melanin; this condition is called melanism. However, not all the big cats are melanistic, which one of the following cats is known to be MELANISTIC?
A. Cougar
B. Jaguar
C. Lion

**Question 9**
Chardonnay, Riesling and Sauvignon Blanc are among the most common Whites Wines. Which of the following is another common WHITE wine?
A. Barbera
B. Pinot Grigio
C. Sangiovese

**Question 10**
Stout is Irish black beer and Guinness is the most famous Stout. Which of these Irish beers is a STOUT?
A. Beamish
B. Kilkenny
C. Smithwick’s

(Answers on page 27)
GO BIG!

A bigger space gives you flexibility and freedom to use bigger fonts!

You may also put photos or related graphics as long as it fits the space.

Email us now at editorial@mensa.my

3M CLASSIFIEDS

Your 3M Classified Ad in this space could be bringing you the results you want!

Email us now at editorial@mensa.my

All sample space are filled with Calibri 11pt font for illustration and scaling purpose only. Final font and size are of your own choice.
The Mensa Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications from students who are pursuing their academic goals around the world.

The Mensa International Scholarship program provides funds for international students enrolled at accredited colleges or universities in a country other than the United States. Eligibility is limited to Mensa members (except American Mensa).

The Ed Vincent International Scholarship program provides funds for international students enrolled at accredited colleges or universities in the United States. Eligibility is limited to Mensa members (except American Mensa) or their children/dependents.

These scholarships are awarded on the basis of an essay that describes the applicant’s career, vocational, and/or academic goals along with information that shows how the applicant intends to achieve the stated goal. The scholarships are unrestricted regarding age, race, gender, level of education, grade point average, or financial need.

Eligible students can apply online at www.mensafoundation.org/scholarships. The site also includes more information, rules/guidelines, and an application. The submission period for the international scholarship programs begins on September 13, 2015.

All applications must be submitted online by 03:59 GMT on January 15, 2016.

The Mensa Education & Research Foundation is a philanthropic, non-profit organization funded by gifts from Mensa members, Mensa International, and other donors.

Wishing what's on in the Mensa world?

Log into the International website at www.mensa.org for the calendar of national events. You can also read or download copies of many national journals and the Mensa World Journal.

from the editor,

The recent International Board of Directors' (IBD) meeting was very successful! Some 120 international visitors attended and Mensa Serbia could not have provided a more stimulating and enjoyable program, both during the three-day meeting and the week-long 'after' trip of the sights of Serbia. Thank you Mensa Serbia! The Director of Development talks of some of the items discussed at the meeting on p3.

You may recall that the Asian Mensa Gathering in South Korea was cancelled owing to an outbreak of the respiratory disease MERS. On p4, Jim Werdeil writes a glowing account of the Unofficial Gathering – well done, Mensa South Korea!

Lots of interesting articles this month: Why is the Sky Blue – on Pluto? (p4); Being Sigmund Freud... and giving oneself excellent advice (p6); Brain Boosters could Lower IQ (?); Kissing, 'Ugh' and Bees singing (p10), and Brain Consolidates Memory with a 3-step Brainwave (p10).

Theresa's Puzzles are on the back page as usual.

Season's Greetings to you all – and best wishes for a wonderful start to 2016!
Opinions in Novi Sad

I just came back from a great Mensa meeting in Serbia. Let me share with you some thoughts from a discussion we had.

The Constitution of Mensa says in section II under The Policy of Mensa: Mensa as an organization shall not express an opinion as being that of Mensa.

Very well. But just before that, we can read the first policy: “Intelligence should be used for the benefit of humanity.” This is, of course, an opinion, albeit an abstract one. How do we square this circle? And who is to say what benefits humanity?

Intelligence is good. Identifying and fostering it so that people can put it to good use is a message Mensa expresses by its very existence. What we must avoid, now and always, is to lend our name to this or that cause, that has nothing to do with our core policy.

Should Mensa be against the use of marijuana? What is our opinion on biodiversity? Saving the whales? How about being for or against GMOs or file sharing? Inequality? There are just some issues where members have a wide range of opinions. Our very constitution embraces the diversity that our membership represents. But if Mensa lost track of its purpose, there would simply be no end to the list of causes we would be pressured into supporting. And it gets harder to argue against another after agreeing to one. There would be conflicts over what to support, and this would distract from that which Mensa actually does stand for, beyond the political issues of our days, whatever they may be in each country.

How does intelligence express itself? How can we recognize it, whether in a school child or a gifted adult in the workplace? What difference does intelligence make? Mensa, in many countries, is working and leaving a mark in society by spreading awareness of these issues. It is possible to do this without crossing the line and becoming political or ideological. It does take good judgment on behalf of our spokespeople, but then again, is that not what intelligence is for?

This topic, on opinions, is an important one that is good to revisit now and then. During the meeting of the International Board of Directors (IBD) in early October, we discussed this issue along with many others.

The IBD meets once a year, not only to vote on budgets and policy, but also to share experiences and knowledge and to ponder the course of the society with the future in mind.

The meeting of the IBD was this year organized by Mensa Serbia, and it was held in the charming city of Novi Sad, by the Danube river. Our Serbian hosts did an excellent job making sure both the conference and the social gathering that surrounded it went smoothly. The full meeting minutes can be downloaded from Mensa.org. Let me share some items with you.

- The position of International Communications Officer was created. This person will play an important role in promoting the brand of Mensa in the international arena, not least using online platforms and social media (see p7 for further details). At the time of my writing this, the position has not yet been filled.

continued on p4
- Did you know that you can check if a person is a member on Mensa.org? Lots of members take part in Mensa services outside of their own country. They travel abroad to gatherings or use the SIGHT program to find accommodation in people’s homes etc. The host group will then have to verify that they are indeed members, and this should be done using the centralized service we offer at Mensa.org, rather than sending queries to foreign offices that have to be handled manually by volunteers.

- Have you heard of “Mensa-in-a-box”? It is a custom-built website, complete with everything that a Mensa group needs, including a section for the public and one for the members. Mensa Denmark produced this to be used by as many countries as possible, and the IBD voted to endorse this project and set aside a minor sum to support its deployment internationally.

- The component was set to 7%. This is the percentage of your membership fee that goes to Mensa International, and pays for all things like our international office, new development, global name and logo protection, the Leadership Exchange Ambassador Program (LEAP) and, not least, the IBD meeting itself.

- A big part of Mensa International’s responsibility is development, establishing new Mensa groups and helping them grow. Our development plans for the next year include visiting a handful of potential Mensa countries, and helping to start up regular testing and member activities. New countries that are high on our list of priorities include Portugal, Russia, Taiwan, the UAE and Kenya.

- In parallel to the IBD meeting, another meeting took place: A gathering for PR officers from more than a dozen national Mensas. As we already had a big hotel full of board rooms, they used the opportunity to have a conference on how to promote Mensa. The PR meeting was an initiative by our new Director of Smaller National Mensas, Tomas Blumenstein, and the idea is to follow up with similar officer events in conjunction with IBD meetings in the future.

“Next year, we meet in Kyoto, Japan, celebrating Mensa’s 70th anniversary. Come and join us!”

Next year, we meet in Kyoto, Japan, celebrating Mensa’s 70th anniversary.

Come and join us!

- Bjorn Liljeqvist
  Director of Development
  development-mil@mensa.org

A New Mensa Post!

International Communications Officer

The purpose is to bring together the several strands of communications within Mensa but also in respect of presenting a positive image of Mensa to the outside world. The person would be responsible for coordinating and advising on Mensa’s message across all media and including the creation of more dynamic content on the Mensa International web site.

Do you have these skills? The International Communications Officer is expected to have professional experience in the field of Public Relations or media and to be proficient in written and spoken English, the official language of Mensa International.

He or she will be required to play an active role in promoting the message and brand of Mensa in the international arena across all relevant media, so expertise with the use of social media and strong IT skills are also required.

Can you see a huge chunk of your time?

If interested, please write to the Director of Administration, admin-mil@mensa.org, copied to the Executive Director, MensaInternational@mensa.org for more details or go to the members’ section of www.mensa.org.
The Unofficial Asian Gathering in South Korea

An amazing thing happened in South Korea a few weeks ago, writes Jim Werdell

First a bit of background. Seoul, South Korea was chosen as the site of the 2015 Asian Mensa Gathering (AMG). It was to be held from 28 to 30 August. The planning was well under way, and many participants had already signed up for the activities, when the viral, respiratory disease MERS rose its ugly head, and forced Mensa Korea to cancel the gathering – a decision that was well-supported. All AMG registration payments were immediately refunded in full.

Despite MERS, a number of those who had signed up for the gathering indicated that they would probably still travel to Seoul. Many had purchased un-refundable plane tickets, and some just wanted to take the opportunity to visit Seoul.

That’s where the “amazing thing” started. The Korean Mensans who had been planning the AMG agreed that if Mensans were still willing to visit Seoul, those visitors would not be disappointed. The newly created Mensa Korea replacement function was quickly renamed AMUG, for Asian Mensa Unofficial Gathering.

The original venue for AMG, the Marriott hotel, decided that since the formal AMG function had been canceled, their offer of lower-cost rooms was also canceled. The AMUG team quickly found an alternative hotel at a very reasonable price.

Tours were set up for the AMUG attendees – so many tours that one could pick and choose from multiple daily tours – even at the last minute. Dinners, and in many cases, lunches were set up at wonderful restaurants, with after-hours functions available every night. The tour to Jeju Island that was to have been offered as an option for an after-AMG function was re-activated. The organizing team found a guesthouse, literally 30 feet from the Pacific Ocean, with an incredible view. The airplane, bus travel, and guestroom arrangements for Jeju all ran without a hitch.

Compared with the three-day AMG schedule, the entire AMUG function lasted more than ten days.

During that time, the tours, the meals, the travel arrangements – everything that constituted AMUG – worked exceedingly well.

Having attended many annual gatherings in my Mensa lifetime, I will echo what many of the other AMUG attendees have already said, AMUG is one of the best annual gatherings I have ever attended – official or unofficial.

Many, many thanks to Mensa Korea, and especially to Jongbok Kim (JB) and Dae Yong Kim, and to their helpers, Sujin Kim, Kijune Yoon, Junwoo Jung, and others. They did an absolutely wonderful job.

Simply “Amazing”.

Jim Werdell
Kissing, ‘Ugh’, and bee stings...

Researchers who studied the consequences of intense kissing, the global use of the word “huh?” and how badly bee stings hurt on different parts of the body were among the winners of this year’s Ig Nobel prizes for comical scientific achievements.

Researchers who studied the consequences of intense kissing, the global use of the word “huh?” and how badly bee stings hurt on different parts of the body were among the winners of this year’s Ig Nobel prizes for comical scientific achievements.

The annual prizes, meant to entertain and encourage global research and innovation, are awarded by the Annals of Improbable Research as a whimsical counterpart to the Nobel Prizes, which will be announced next month.

Among the 10 awards, three went to teams of researchers that revealed that nearly all mammals regardless of size take about 21 seconds to pee, showed it is possible to partially unboil an egg with chemicals, and used math to determine how a North African emperor from the 17th century fathered 888 children in just 30 years. Other teams earned prizes for attaching a weighted stick to a chicken’s rear end to demonstrate how dinosaurs might have walked, and for showing that acute appendicitis can be diagnosed by how much pain a patient feels when driven over speed bumps.

Researcher Michael L. Smith shared the physiology and entomology prize for arranging honey bees to sting him repeatedly on 25 different locations on his body, revealing that one of the most painful locations was on his penis.

Former winners of real Nobels handed out the spoof awards at the ceremony at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, organized by Marc Abrahams, editor of the Annals. The ceremony included a three-act mini-opera about a competition between the world’s millions of species to determine which one is the best.

The Ig Nobel medicine prize went to two teams of researchers who conducted experiments to study the biological effects of intense kissing, which include decreasing skin allergies, and the literature prize was given to researchers who showed that the word “huh?” appears to exist in every language.

Ig Nobel prizes this year also went to researchers who showed how business leaders developed a fondness for risk-taking after surviving natural disasters in childhood, and to the Bangkok Metropolitan Police for offering to pay policemen more money in exchange for not taking bribes.

The human cerebral cortex contains 16 billion neurons, wired together into arcane, layered circuits responsible for everything from our ability to walk and talk to our sense of nostalgia and drive to dream of the future.

In the course of human evolution, the cortex has expanded as much as 1,000-fold, but how this occurred is still a mystery to scientists.

Now, researchers at UC San Francisco have succeeded in mapping the genetic signature of a unique group of stem cells in the human brain that seem to generate most of the neurons in our massive cerebral cortex.

The new findings, published Sept. 24, 2015 in the journal Cell, support the notion that these unusual stem cells may have played an important role in the remarkable evolutionary expansion of the primate brain.

“We want to know what it is about our genetic heritage that makes us unique,” said Arnold Krugstein, MD, PhD, professor of developmental and stem cell biology and director of the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research at UCSF. “Looking at these early stages in development is the best opportunity to understand our brain’s evolution.”

[Continued from http://www.universaldaily.com/releases/20150918/0928012k958.html]
The Malaysian Mensa Year End Bash was held on the 6th Dec 2015 at The Penthouse, Damansara Uptown, Selangor. The storm that evening did not deter 55 members and friends from attending the event. There were even visiting Mensans from Singapore and Indonesia. The theme for this year was ‘Black and White’.

This was my first time joining a Mensa event. When I first entered the venue, so many unfamiliar faces greeted me. As a new member, I felt welcomed and comfortable making new friends. Pre-dinner snacks and cocktails were served. We played a game called ‘Zoomed In’, where we had to guess the 10 household appliances through black and white pictures that had been zoomed in. After that we had a variety of scrumptious food at the buffet table.

After dinner, the activities of the night began. Vice chairman, Tan Kee Aun...
Visiting Mensans from Singapore and Indonesia

Who has the longest thumb?

Low Keng Lok giving a black and white quiz to the members

Attentive members

Started off the session with icebreakers. Next was a quiz regarding things related to black and white by Low Keng Lok. I got kicked out during the first round as all the answers were so similar. (The quiz can be found in this issue.)

Next we were divided into groups using our telepathy skills. Samantha Chow and John Ng were the organizers for the games. We commenced “The Best Game” where each group has to send a representative fulfilling the requirements set and then the ‘game master’ shall decide out of the 4 representative who won. There was also the impromptu acting where two teams went against each other and act a play without saying the selected words.

The finale act was the most spectacular where Dr Saga performed a wonderful experiment. So spectacular it is hard to put it in words but here is a brief summary of it. Two volunteers A & B had to stand about 3 meters apart from each other. They then had to close their eyes. Dr Saga then went forward to A and tap his forearm a couple of times but he didn’t touch B at all. As he concluded his experiment, Dr Saga asked both volunteers to come closer and asked B if she felt anything. And she did! She said she felt someone touching her forearm too.

After that it was the group photo taking session, all the smartphones went click-click. And that concluded this year’s YEB.

It was a great experience for me as a new Mensan and I hope to join more activities soon.