DelaMensa

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EXCOMMunication – September, 2005

By: Maria Sawczuk, Local Secretary

September – it conjures up images of the last breaths of summer, heading back to school, playing football – funny how Delaware Mensa has something planned that fits each of those images.

First off, plan a nice drive to Fenwick Island in mid-September and join Delaware Mensa at Delaware's own Shipwreck Museum on September 18th. This will surely be on our list of memorable events. Heck, since that's such a nice time of year at the beach, it might be worth making a weekend out of it.

On the school front, we are preparing for a media blitz for National Testing Day, Saturday, October 22. Let me know if you see or hear anything about Delaware Mensa or National Testing Day in your local media outlets. If you know of someone who might qualify for Mensa, encourage them to take the test. We will have two testing sites: one in Wilmington and one in Georgetown. Also, let me know your ideas to promote Delaware Mensa. Let's get the word out, and top 200 members this year!

Football – when I think football, I think Eagles, and when I think Eagles, I think Hall of Fame sportswriter Ray Didinger, who will be speaking with us on October 6 at Stanley's Tavern. This event is open to non-members interested in joining, so if you have any football fan friends who might qualify, please bring them along. Admission to this event is $5, to cover the cost of the room at Stanley's.

There's more buzz going on with Delaware Mensa – the Mind Games 2007 bid is due in mid-November, the Happy Hours are gaining popularity, the ExComm is gathering more speakers for upcoming months, and there's over 750 Mensans already signed up for the World Gathering in Orlando next August. Whew – what a great time to be in Mensa!

Coming Events!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2005: DISCOVER SEA SHIPWRECK MUSEUM

DATE: Sunday, September 18, 2005
TIME: 11:00 am
PLACE: Discover Sea Shipwreck Museum, 708 Ocean Highway, Fenwick Island (above Sea Shell City)
COST: $2 per person

EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY – Happy Hour/NTN Trivia Night

Join Delaware Mensa on the Third Wednesday (TUESDAY THIS MONTH) of each month for some after-work cocktails and a little friendly competition as we play another round of NTN Trivia. You've probably seen NTN Trivia at a favorite bar or restaurant. It's a nationwide trivia network, with rounds of games played 24 hours a day. You answer the questions shown on the TV screen by using a small voting device. If you've never played before, it's highly addictive! Come out and see what it's all about, and challenge your fellow Mensans.

DATE: Tuesday, Sept 20, 2005
TIME: 6:00-8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Grotto's Pizza, 1819 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington (other dates, location TBD)

To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118. No RSVP necessary, but we'll know to look for you this way.

EXCOM MEETING, Tues, Sept 27

7 pm, ExCom Meeting, at Taste of India, Dover DE (348 N Dupont Hwy). All members are welcome. Become a "mover and shaker" in Delaware Mensa; help plan events for the next several months; discuss our holiday event. $10 buffet. For info, call Maria, 302-893-5118

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2005: E- A- G- L- E- S EAGLES!

Delaware Mensa (well, me specifically, but I am sure my ExComm will back me on this) is thrilled to have Ray Didinger, senior producer with NFL Films for our Speaker Series this month.

DATE: Thursday, October 6, 2005
TIME: 7:00 p.m. for dinner; speaker to begin at 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Stanley's Tavern, Foulk and Grubb Roads, Wilmington DM

> If man asks for many laws it is only because he is sure that his neighbor needs them; privately he is an unphilosophical anarchist, and thinks laws in his own case superfluous.
>
> *Will Durant*

Number Puzzle

Based on Euler's Latin Squares, the standard board is made up of nine blocks of nine cells. Each cell contains a single digit, 1 through 9. Each small block of nine cells must have one of each number, and each row and each column of the large block must have one of each number. A limited number of cells are "given" and the puzzle solver must find the correct combination to make it all work out. A properly formulated puzzle will have a single solution, but nobody's perfect and sometimes multiple solutions exist. Solve the puzzle with logic and deduction - a minimum of guessing or trial and error is the best form.

The solution for this puzzle can be found on page 4

7				6			9	
			9		4	7	8	
			5			4		
	6		3			8	1	4
	7		8			2	6	
8								
					5	9	4	
	4	6	7				5	3
3	5		4		2			

Event Report—Mensa at the Movies

Enron: the Smartest Guys in the Room

A surprisingly large crowd was in attendance on August 28, for this show in the Schwartz Center summer movie series, throwing the organization of our outing completely "off the wire." Most of the Delaware Mensa attendees were lost in the crowd and watched the movie alone, and for that I sincerely apologize.

This documentary traced the scandal from it's roots in the founding of Enron, through the potentially scandalous connections with the George Bush family, to the outright fraud perpetrated to keep the company solvent in the final years.

It showed graphically how Enron created the California energy shortage, which eventually resulted in the recall of Governor Gray Davis, from scratch

(Continued on page 5)

Marc My Words

By Marc Lederman, Region 2 RVC

July was a very busy month for me. I spent five days in New Orleans at the Annual Gathering. While there I attended 8 LDW programs, 3 AMC Committee meetings, and participated in my first AMC meeting.

The AMC meeting was very harmonious and quick. The highlights of the meeting included numerous appointments, repealing the motion prohibiting organizers of Mensa events from actively arranging for ridesharing or roommate matching, creating a committee to establish a policy for paying partial dues for needy members who otherwise contribute to Mensa, the annual report of the Mensa Foundation, and an excellent presentation on the fall 2006 Colloquium on Cosmology.

Region 2 was mentioned numerous times during the Friday afternoon Awards Luncheon. Our winners included:

Steve and Lesley Slepner from Delaware Valley Mensa received a National Chair's Award for superior service in support of the aims and purposes of Mensa.

Tom Tyson from Thomas Jefferson Mensa received the PRP Newsletter Contribution award for Best Non-Fiction (Mensa Themed) Contribution for "An Out-Of-This-World Experience".

Sallie Banko from Lehigh Pocono Mensa received an Abbie Proctor of the Year Award Honorable Mention.

Two of the top 20 CultureQuest teams were from Region 2 - The Gordian Nots, captained by MWM's Stephanie Smilay, took second place. Who Knows?, captained by MWM's Nancy Farrar, finished in a tie for fourteenth place.

In the middle of the month, I visited the ExCom of Delaware Valley Mensa. We discussed my trip to the AG, details from the AMC meeting, and my desire for a 2006 Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) in our region. Based on the interest and enthusiasm I received at this meeting, plans are underway for a May 2006 Region 2 LDW. I have sent each LocSec a copy of the LDW Needs Assessment form, and have asked them to distribute them at their next ExCom meeting. This form helps identify the topics we should cover at the LDW. I hope to finalize the dates and location by the end of September.

Next August, American Mensa is hosting Mensa's 60th Anniversary World Gathering (WG). I spent the last weekend of July visiting the host hotel, the Coronado Springs Resort, at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. I am the logistics chair for the event and my primary responsibilities are deciding how to use all of our available space and scheduling every event that will take place during the WG. This event will be a great opportunity to meet and mingle with Mensans from all over the world. Please visit the WG website (http://wg06.us.mensa.org) early and often for the latest news on what is shaping up to be the largest gathering of Mensans ever held.

DM

Stories from the AG

A small but determined band of Delaware Mensans, led by LocSec Maria, made the trek to New Orleans, the first week of July. Even then, the weather dominated the week. At least four of our members made the trip, and maybe others that this reporter didn't see, to joint the 1400 odd (some odder than others) Mensans who descended on the city.

First Stop: Registration

Travel getting to the city was dominated by the effects of Hurricane Cindy, who visited the Gulf Coast just before the official start of the AG.

Once there and registered, the next order of business was to have fun while we could. There were trips and tours around the city, visiting stores, restaurants, cemeteries and, of course, drinking establishments. There was plenty of opportunity to explore the city without a group. And there were the many, many events planned that make up the core of an AG. Presentations were scheduled on just about any topic that could interest a Mensan, from baseball to the red-light district of New Orleans, from space travel to the fascinating but eerily prescient series on the danger of a major storm and flood to the city. Throughout it all were the continuing presence of games and food, both available side by side, 24 hours a day.

Mensa Hospitality: It's all about the food

Hell's M's working security

For the socially minded, an AG is the biggest most intense chance you will ever see to meet a diverse group of smart and interesting people. Too bad they aren't all as smart or interesting as they think they are (you, dear reader, would never fall into that category).

If meeting people wasn't your main mission, there were a myriad of other pursuits and intellectual stimulations. The game room was open and occupied every hour of the day. Parallel presentations were running in eight different rooms at any one time during the day: Classes for dance; martial arts; and investing; contract law; medical ethics; the meaning of reality; computers; New Orleans history, going on and on for days.

As the end approached, so did Hurricane Dennis, who began chasing away a number of the speakers, and eventually chasing quite a few Mensans (this writer included) out of town a day early.

How many storms has this street seen?

We are all saddened to see the devastation of the city and the population of New Orleans by Hurricane Katrina. After sitting through the session on hurricane flood modeling, I saw that the older parts of the city, the French Quarter and business district, are built on the highest ground, since they were established before the levees were built, and sustained relatively little flooding. The tourist locations will be the first to recover. The worst flooding is in the residential and industrial parts of the city, built in the later 20th century, and closer to Lake Pontchartrain. Most of the buildings in that area will end up as total losses, to be bull-dozed for new construction. DM

Games Day Report

It was a great turnout for another games day at Leah Kinder's house, enough to have two different groups playing. Some of us were a little late getting there, but that didn't slow down the games. There were old favorites, a couple of new acquisitions, and two brand-new games sent to us for evaluation. We started out with the strategy games at the dining room table, and card games in the living room, and each group tried several different games.

Games and food. Does it get any better than this?

As always, Leah laid out an array of tasty (and yet health conscious) snacks. The group munched and gamed away the afternoon. Following the games, most of us adjourned to a local restaurant, where crab shells were flying and melted butter ran like water. Unfortunately, no pictures survived. DM

> Except our own thoughts, there is nothing absolutely in our power.
> Rene Descartes

An Island Getaway—Close to Home

By Gail Lear

There is an island nearby that's been inhabited for 400 years and many people in this area have never heard of it -- such is the mystique of Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay, accessible only by boat or plane. On a recent weekend my husband and I decided to take the boat from Crisfield, MD (there are also boats that leave from Onancock, VA) to learn more about it.

The boat ride to Tangier is a big part of the adventure. It's about a 1-1/4 hour cruise from Crisfield to Tangier – the 90-foot boat *Steven Thomas* is spacious, and on this particular day there were only about 50 of us onboard. The captain gave a wonderful tour of the sights along the way.

Tangier Island is only three miles long by a mile wide, with about 700 residents. As you get closer to the shoreline you can see rows of picturesque wooden piers with small fishing boats, crab pots and some houses, businesses, a church spire and a water tower that confirms you have arrived in Tangier.

In 1608 Captain John Smith discovered three small islands in the Chesapeake. He named them the "Russell Isles," but today the islands are known as Smith, Tangier and Watts Islands. The 1800 census counted 79 people living in Tangier, most of them from the Crockett family. There are several founding families who still thrive on Tangier Island – the Thomases, and the Crocketts among them.

The British sailed up the Chesapeake in 1812 and set up a base on Tangier, housing at one point about 1,200 British soldiers. In 1813, the island was used as their departing point when they attacked Baltimore and Fort McHenry (supposedly the Tangiermen predicted the British defeat!).

We took our own walking tour of the area – everything on the island is within walking distance! The streets are narrow – people walk or use bicycles or golf carts to travel. As we approached the church, we read the war memorial plaque there – interesting to see so many Crockett and Thomas family members. Down the block, two little girls were selling candles– they used oyster shells (which are plentiful on Tangier), poured wax in them, and wrote "Tangier Island" on the shell. Clever little entrepreneurs!

There are a few restaurants in Tangier, most specializing in seafood, but the most famous is Hilda Crockett's Restaurant, featuring family-style dining. Tangier's charm is that life is simple and everyone is family, and you get the best sense of it when you dine here at long tables, with platters of crab cakes and green beans that you pass to your neighbor, just like at a family reunion.

After about 2-1/2 hours of walking around the island, having ice cream at Spanky's and buying a few souvenirs, it was time to take the cruise back to the mainland. After only one day, it seemed that we had been away from home for a long time – it's a trip I would recommend if you like history, the Chesapeake Bay, and getting away from it all for a little while! For more information, check out www.tangierisland-va.com. DM

A Word Puzzle

This is a word-finding puzzle, prepared for your entertainment. The game board is a 4 by 4 grid of letter cells

I	C	N	O
O	U	N	O
N	G	A	E
M	R	A	B

Find as many words as possible in the grid. Words must be formed from adjacent cells, in the order in which they connect, and no cell can be used more than once in a word (but a letter can be used more than once if it is on more than one cell). Words must be three or more letters. A cell has up to eight adjacent cells: one above, one below, one on the right, one on the left, and four along the diagonals. Words can go up, down or whatever, and needn't be in a straight line.

Listed on page 5are 35 words found in this game board (and, no doubt, there are more.) How many can you find? The listed solution uses English only, no abbreviations, acronyms, contractions, or proper names.

DM

Sleeping here, my chin
On your foot -no greater bliss -
Well, maybe catching rats. . .

Dog Haiku

If all the economists were laid end to end, they'd never reach a conclusion.

George Bernard Shaw

Solution to the number puzzle on page 2.

7	2	4	1	6	8	3	9	5
6	3	5	9	2	4	7	8	1
9	1	8	5	7	3	4	2	6
5	6	2	3	9	7	8	1	4
4	7	3	8	5	1	2	6	9
8	9	1	2	4	6	5	3	7
1	8	7	6	3	5	9	4	2
2	4	6	7	8	9	1	5	3
3	5	9	4	1	2	6	7	8

Solutions to Word Puzzle on page 4:

ICON	GUN	BEAN
ION	GUANO	BAR
COG	GAB	BARN
CON	GAR	BAG
NON	GRAB	BAN
NOON	ARAB	BANE
NONE	ARM	BANG
NUN	AGO	
ONE	EAR	
NEAR	EARN	
NAB	RAN	
NAG	RANG	
OAR	RAG	
NOUN	BEAR	

Movies *(Continued from page 2)*

as a fundraising ploy. After buying many of the power plants within the state, they actually forced some of them to shut down from time to time just to force up prices.

The theater itself is completely restored to its glory of yesteryear; it has an ambiance that just can't be found in the metroplex in the mall. They have a year-round schedule of both films and live performances. Check their website, at http://www.schwartzcenter.com for their planned schedule. I hope to see you at our next event. DM

Celebrations

As of July 31, we have 163 members

A Happy Birthday to these Mensans with a birthday this month:

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Bart Miller	9/3	Howard Layton	9/18
Roy Jackson	9/4	Anthony Eros	9/20
Barney Vincelette	9/10	Lorelei Hunt	9/22
William Bialk	9/12	Richard Hartland	9/23
Mark McHugh	9/16	Leslie Leach	9/25
Henry Milligan	9/16	Coralee Witham	9/27
Karl Boettcher	9/17		

Congratulations, and a Happy Mensaversary to these members who celebrate their Mensa anniversary this month:

Name	Member since:	Name	Member since:
Paul Thompson	1977	Gail Lear	2000
Richard Dillard	1981	Timothy Vogel	2002
George Dailey	1987	Jodi Walker	2003
Maria Sawczuk	1999	Kathryn Canavan	2004

Correction:

We regret misspelling the name of Carl Moore, in last month's Birthday listings. Carl asked me to tell you about his music website, http://www.centuria.com/~carl. He selected, arranged, and in some cases transcribed the music, himself. Most of the site is based on light popular sounds of the middle third of the 20th century. There is a very small "classical" section, and the church section is Catholic (mostly before Vatican II). New The site now has an alternate name: http://www.cmooremusic.net

Delaware Mensa Calendar

Grab your personal calendar and write down some events!

Mon, Sep 12	11:30—? Downtown Lunch Bunch meet in the basement Cafeteria of the Hotel DuPont for lunch and stimulating conversation. (Every 2nd Monday) Info: Fran Joseph at 302-994-6347
Sun, Sept 18	11 am. Visit the Discover Sea Shipwreck Museum, 708 Ocean Highway, Fenwick Island. The museum focuses on shipwrecks of the Delmarva Peninsula. Admission cost $2 per person. To RSVP and for directions, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Tues, Sept 20	6 to 8 pm, NTN Trivia Night Grotto's Pizza, 1819 Pennsylvania Avenue, Wilmington. Every 3rd Wednesday (TUESDAY THIS MONTH). For info, call Maria, 302-893-5118
Tues, Sept 27	7 pm, ExCom Meeting, at Taste of India, Dover DE. (348 N Dupont Hwy, a hotel restaurant) All members are welcome; $10 buffet. For info, call Maria, 302-893-5118
Thur, Oct 6	7 to 10 pm, an evening with Ray Didinger, journalist, author, film maker, and EAGLES expert—Stanley's Tavern, Foulk and Grubb Roads, Wilmington. To RSVP, e-mail Maria at legalady@magpage.com or call 302-893-5118.
Oct 14-16	(Delaware Valley Mensa) Liberty Bell XV RG: That's Medieval: An Anachronistic Experience. Sheraton Park Ridge Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Register with Joy Gomez-Farrow at gomezfaj@pobox.upenn,edu or (610)521-6701. Book a hotel room at (610)337-1800 or (800)325-3535 (special Mensa rate of $92/night before 9/23)

Your event here DM

Mensa is an international society whose sole membership requirement is a score in the top two percent of the general population on an approved intelligence test. It is non-profit, has no religious or political affiliations, and promotes no official positions. Send address changes and requests for information to: **American Mensa Ltd., National Office, 1229 Corporate Drive West, Arlington TX 76006-6013, 817-607-0060, e-mail:** AmericanMensa@mensa.org. DelaMensa is the official publication of Delaware Mensa, local group number 197 of American Mensa Ltd. *Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and should not be construed as official opinions of either American Mensa Ltd. Or Delaware Mensa.* Manuscripts and letters are welcome, but must be original and unpublished. Reprints will be considered if accompanied by written permission from the copyright holder. All submissions must be signed, although the name of the author will be withheld upon request. Deadlines are shown on the calendar included in the newsletter. All submissions should be sent to the Editor at the address listed in the directory below.

LocSec	Maria Sawczuk, legalady@magpage.com
1st Councilor	Jim Bishop, b ishopdds@hotmail.com
2nd Councilor	James Carroll, jamesdcarroll@speakeasy.net
Treasurer	Dee Richardson, busydeee@comcast.net
Proctor/RecSec	Frances Joseph, 302-994-6347
Downstate Coordinator	Leah Kinder, leahkinder@aol.com
Editor	Keith Johnson, jkjohnson@snip.net
Regional Vice Chair	Marc Lederman, 717-308-1221 Dover PA RVC2@us.mensa.org

Editor:
Keith Johnson
181 Proctors Purchase
Hartly DE 19953

Postmaster: Send change of address notification to:
American Mensa Ltd.
National Office
1229 Corporate Dr. West
Arlington TX 76006-6103

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SEPTEMBER 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	*2*	*3* New Moon
4	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*
11	*12* Lunch Bunch	*13*	*14*	*15*	*16*	*17*
18 Full Moon Shipwreck Museum	*19*	*20* Happy Hour/ NTN Trivia Night	*21*	*22* Autumnal Equinox	*23*	*24*
25	*26* DelaMensa Deadline	*27* ExCom Meeting	*28*	*29*	*30*	

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