



American Mensa Committee Highlights ...

Thomas G. Thomas - RVC 10

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) meeting will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019 in Elk Grove, IL at the Sheraton Suites Chicago. Most of the agenda is boilerplate (acceptance of quarterly reports, approval of minutes, reports from the Treasurer and Executive Director, etc.). There is one motion on the agenda at this time which I suspect will generate substantial discussion, both among the AMC and the membership in general, and that is to put forth a bylaws referendum to change the AMC Terms of Office from two years to three years starting in 2021. The primary reason for this is to align our elections with those of Mensa International, which already changed the Constitution in the most recent election to hold their elections on a three-year cycle. There are several advantages to this proposal, not least of which is to reduce the expense of elections by keeping them synchronized. If the membership approves this referendum, there will be two elections every six years, but if it is not approved, there would be four election years (American Mensa in 2023, 2035 and 2027, and Mensa International in 2024 and 2027). The projected average annual savings would be \$5,000.

Of course, if this motion passes, it wouldn't change the terms of office automatically, but would put it up for a vote by the membership of American Mensa during the next election in 2021. Expect to see more details about this referendum in upcoming months.

You will be able to find the agenda at: www.us.mensa.org/lead/amc/meeting-reports/ Select the dropdown for the 2019-12-07 meeting. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns that you would like me to bring before the AMC.

The 2019-2020 Mensa Scholarship program is underway, and essays are rolling in. The Mensa Foundation awards more than \$140,000 annually in scholarships, and volunteering to be a scholarship judge is one way members can contribute to the first of Mensa's purposes ("to identify and foster human

intelligence for the benefit of humanity"). Starting in December, Local Group Scholarship Chairs will begin to gather information on the submissions, though applicants will have until January 15 to submit their essays. They will need judges to assist in reading and scoring the essays, so let the Scholarship Chair for your local group know if you would be willing to help.

I would like to thank Lisa Blair for spearheading Tampa Bay Mensa's participation in the Tampa Bay Times Festival of Reading in at USF-Saint Petersburg in November. The local group was recognized as a Community Exhibitor, presenting information about Mensa For Kids' and their Excellence in Reading program, which in cooperation with the Library of Congress, provides reading lists for youth, along with opportunities to earn certificates and t-shirts for their accomplishments. The program is open to all youth under 18 years of age, whether or not they are a member of Mensa.

Until next month (or until I see you online). 

Election Rundown ...

Ballots for the SCAM Executive Board election are still trickling in (11/30 deadline) ...

The unfortunate circumstance that led to the field being reduced to four candidates - running effectively unopposed - does NOT mean that your votes aren't reflective, or necessary ...

You are ALL necessary as Members and as Voices within this Group ...

Please feel free to USE those Voices ...

As cheerleaders, or as the loyal opposition ...



Space Coast Area Mensa Group

Executive Committee

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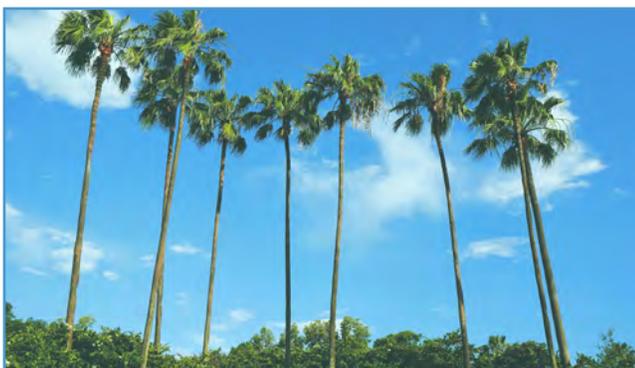
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American Mensa

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Cape Canaveral Schedule

Falcon 9 Block 5 | SpX CRS-19
SpaceX
Wed, Dec 4th, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | JCSAT-18/KACIFIC-1
SpaceX
Sun, Dec 15th, 2019, TBD

Atlas V N22 | CST-100 Starliner Orbital Flight Test
United Launch Alliance - (Uncrewed)
Tue, Dec 17th, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | SpX-DM2 (Demo Mission 2)
SpaceX
Sun, Dec 29th, 2019, TBD

Atlas V 551 | STP-3
United Launch Alliance
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

Atlas V N22 | CST-100 Starliner Crewed Flight Test
United Launch Alliance - (Crewed)
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | GPS III SV03
SpaceX
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

Falcon 9 Block 5 | ANASIS-II
SpaceX
Tue, Dec 31st, 2019, TBD

Deep Sleep > Deep Clean ...

Scientific American excerpt > 11-01

Why sleep has restorative – or damaging – effects on cognition and brain health has been an enduring mystery in biology. Researchers think cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) may flush toxic waste out, “cleaning” the brain and studies have shown that garbage clearance is hugely improved during sleep. They were not sure exactly how all this works, however, or why it should be so enhanced during sleep.

One aspect of sleep that is well understood is how the slow electrical oscillations (or “slow waves”) that characterize deep, non-REM sleep contribute to memory consolidation, the process whereby new memories are transferred into long-term storage. A new study, from a team led by neuroscientist Laura Lewis of Boston University, now gives insight into what drives CSF flow through the brain, suggesting that the same slow waves that coordinate memory

MENSA College Scholarships

Hello members,

We completed free testing for potential new student members at FIT in November. Please encourage any local college students you know at accredited schools to apply for the scholarships offered for non-members by our local chapter and national, and also the members-only national scholarships. The announcement has been sent to FIT, Indian River State College, and Eastern Florida State College.

Any members want to help? Julie will need approximately 6 judges to rate essays, starting January 15th. The essays of not more than 550 words will describe their career, academic and/or vocational goals, and how they plan to achieve those goals. If you are available to serve as a rater, please email:

scholarship@scam.us.mensa.org.

Details regarding eligibility:

An applicant must be intending to enroll in a degree granting accredited college/university the academic year following their application. Students just need to become enrolled and provide documentation of enrollment if they receive the award.

For more information - read the scholarship FAQ at the website below:

www.mensafoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/us-scholarships/

Thank you,

Julie S. Costopoulos, Ph.D.
Space Coast Area Mensa (S.C.A.M.)
Scholarship Chair

Testing:

*Our chapter's voucher code is "RocketShip19" ...

Anyone that you know can use this  code for FREE testing (no tests are scheduled for December). 

Perception as Action ...

Quanta Magazine excerpt > 11-07

A system in which each neuron channels information about multiple activities at once might seem unworkably convoluted, but the Cortexlab* team found that the brain can cope with all that data more easily than we might think. Their analysis revealed that when a stimulus is shown, the incoming information simply gets added on top

of the movement-related signals that were already present. In a single neuron, those signals appear jumbled together, impossible to tell apart. But different neurons might convey the same stimulus but different background behaviors, so that if enough neurons are recorded together, it becomes possible to tease vision and movement apart.

The movement signals therefore aren't hurting the animal's ability to process sensory information about the outside world. But scientists still need to explore exactly how those signals might help the brain work better. At its core, this discovery reflects the fact that fundamentally, the brain evolved for action — that animals have brains to let them move around, and that "perception isn't just the external input," Stringer said. "It's modulated at least to some extent by what you're doing at any given time."

Sensory information represents only a small part of what's needed to truly perceive the environment. "You need to take into account movement, your body relative to the world, in order to figure out what's actually out there," Niell said.

"We used to think that the brain analyzed all these things separately and then somehow bound them together," McCormick said. "Well, we're starting to learn that the brain does that mixing of multisensory and movement binding [earlier] than we previously imagined."

It's necessary to know how the body is moving to contextualize and interpret incoming sensory information. If you're running, the visual world flies by, and the visual cortex needs to know that this is driven by your movement. If you're circling around a monument, the visual cortex needs to know that you didn't see 20 different statues, but the same statue from 20 different angles. "Where is the stability among this storm of variance?" McCormick said. "That's why I think that this recent work is very interesting and very important, because we're starting to see where the stability is." 

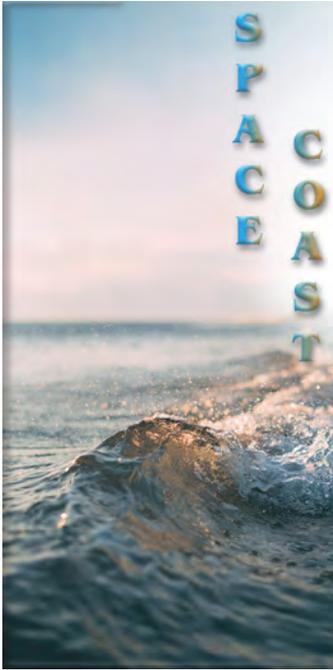
**University College, London*



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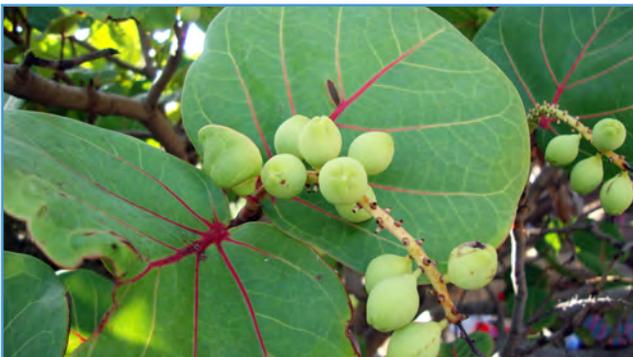


BE SAFE!

Cont. from pg. 2

consolidation, drive oscillations in blood flow and CSF in the brain.

The work has implications for understanding the relations between sleep disturbance and psychiatric and neurodegenerative conditions, and may even point to new approaches to diagnosis and treatment. "We've discovered there are really large waves of CSF that appear in the brain only during sleep," Lewis says. "This effect is really striking, and we're also interested in what it means for maintaining brain health, especially in disorders such as Alzheimer's disease." 



Just Meandering By ...

The Editor

Print can be horrrifyng and certainly humbling ...

A typo in last month's issue went unnoticed for three weeks after publication/uploading - am still shaking my head ...

You all deserve better ...

SCAM, SCAM, SCAM!!!

Upcoming Events

Games Night – Tuesday, Dec. 10th at 6:30pm

SNORT – Saturday, Dec. 21st at 5:15pm