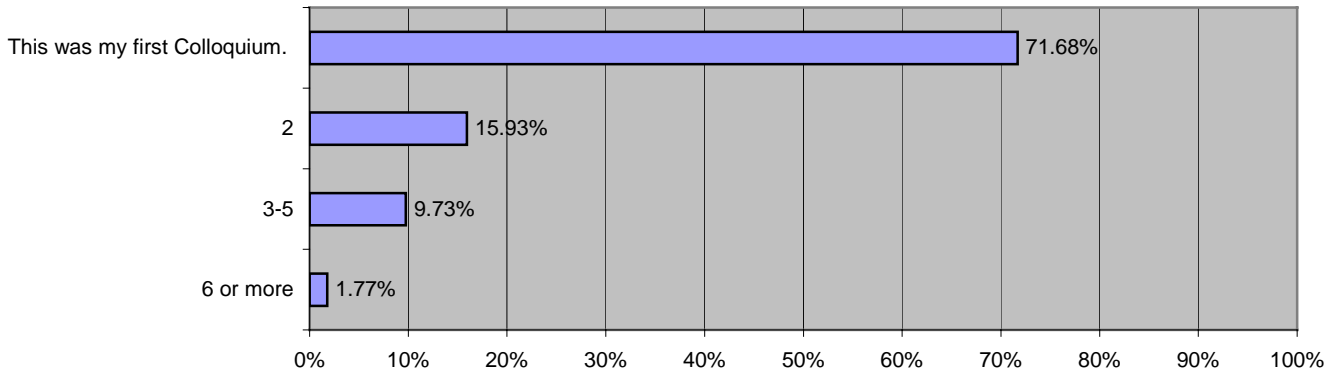


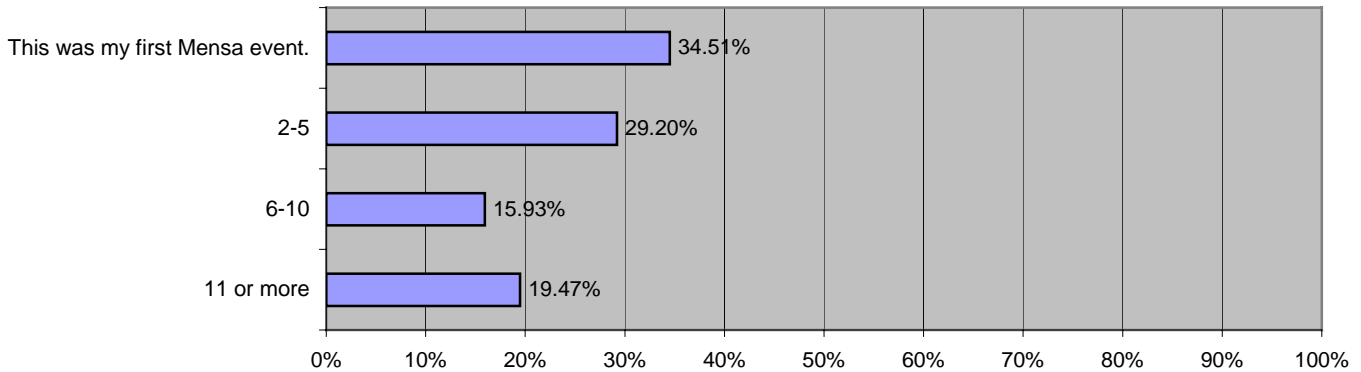


The following survey was sent to 114 Colloquium registrants who supplied email addresses during the registration process. The following reflects the responses of 113 registrants.

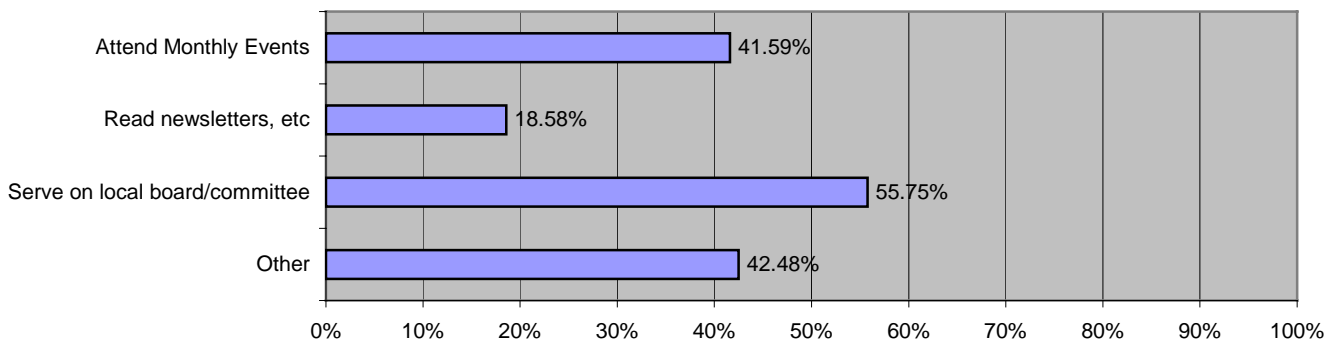
1. How many Colloquiums have you attended?



2. How many local or national Mensa functions have you attended in the last year?



3. How active are you on a local group level? (check all that apply)



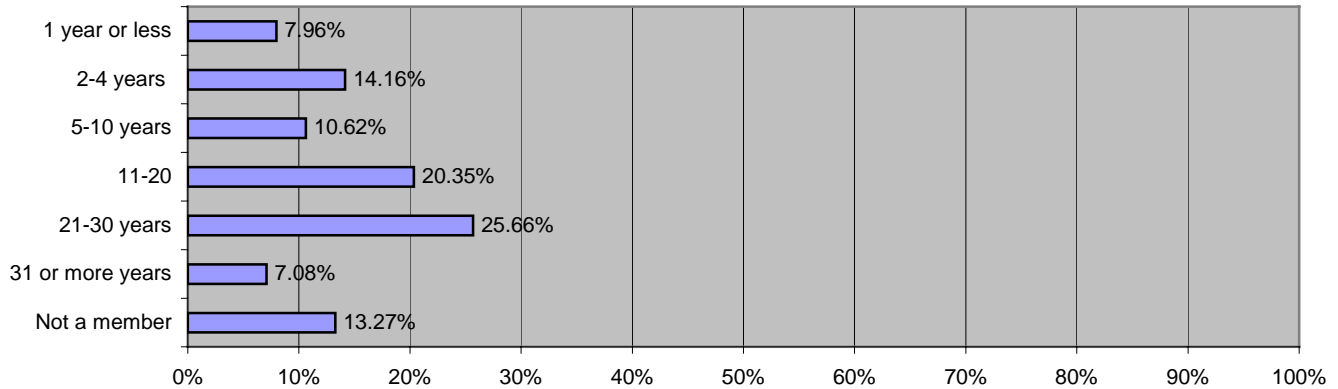
3. Other, please specify

appointed tasks
 Area Coordinator
 attend SIGs, luncheon, mailings
 Calendar Editor
 Chaired Colloquium 2006 !
 completely inactive
 Editor, A-QOMen
 former Excom but more distant now bc of school
 Frequently host SIGs (science, myth, ect).
 Group Webmaster
 Haven't belonged to Mensa for years.
 host events
 host local SIGs, coordinate national SIG
 I am not a member of Mensa.
 I have a monthly discussion group.
 I have hosted 2 events
 I'm not a Mensa member...just wanted to attend

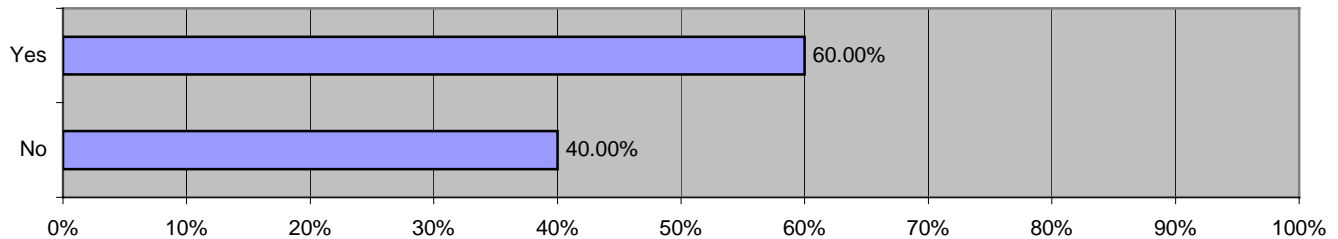
I'm the Proctor Coordinator and the Ombudman.
 inactive
 Local Group membership officer, help with RG
 Local Group Officer
 LocSec
 n/a not a member
 NA
 new member
 new member
 Newsletter editor
 Non member
 none
 non-member
 not a member
 not active
 Not active locally
 not at all because my husband just died

Not very
 Opulent M SIG Leader
 participate in essay reading for scholarships
 President
 proctor
 Recruit among college community
 RG
 RG committee
 RG yearly, lunches in summer
 run a weekly and monthly events
 serve as local group testing coordinator/proctor
 some events
 There is now no local group in Puerto Rico.
 Was active in the past but not in the last few years

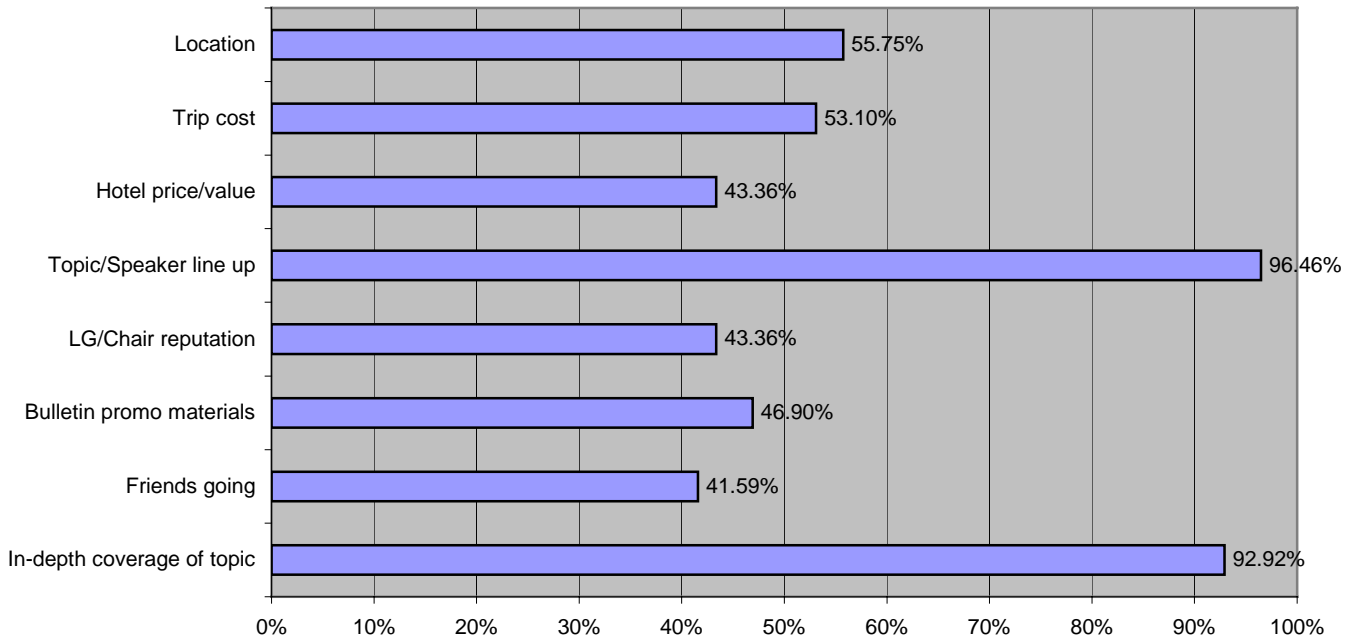
4. How long have you been a member of Mensa?



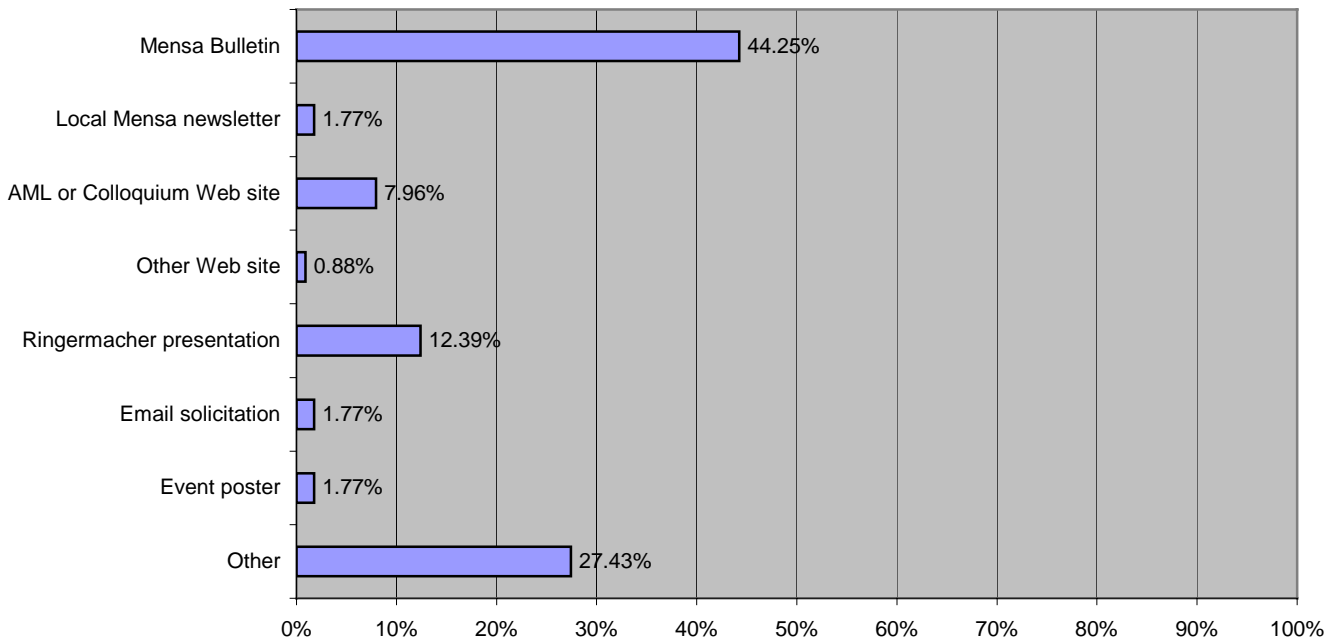
5. If not a member, will you consider joining Mensa as a result of this event?



6. What influence did the following have on your decision to attend the Colloquium?



7. How did you first hear about this Colloquium?



apa friend
 A friend told me about it.
 Can't remember
 Created it
 discussed it at previous colloquium
 Discussion at last year's colloquium
 family attended
 flyer at an RG
 Flyer in monthly LocSec packet

friend
 friend
 friend
 Friend
 friend who is a member
 From Harry a couple of years ago
 helped plan it
 I am an AMC member
 I am on the Foundation board.

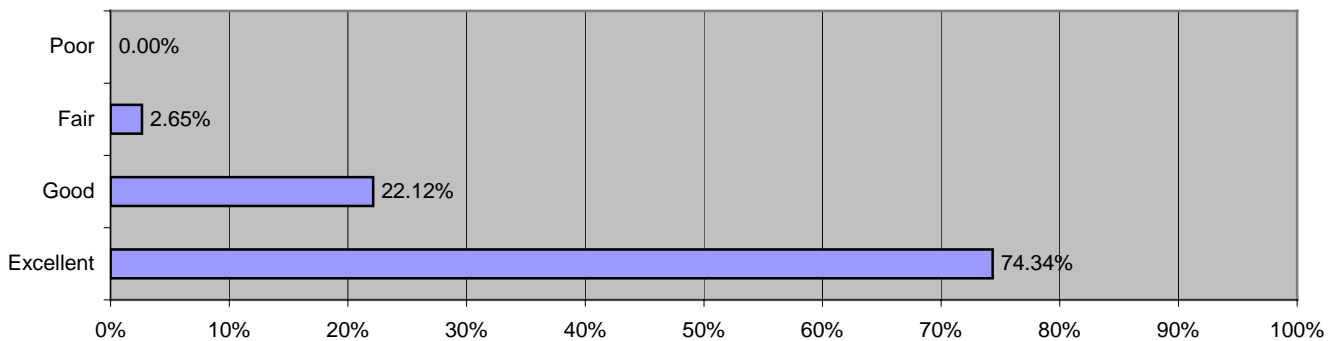
I think just conversing with Harry.
 Link in Mensa annual billing e/mail,
 Member e-mailed me
 member of local chapter
 Mensa member, John from Rochester MI.
 MERF board member told me.
 My girlfriend saw it in Bulletin, said we
 should go
 On Foundation Board

relative informed me reviewed proposal to Mensa Foundation

Speaking with Harry as a friend spouse

Word of mouth

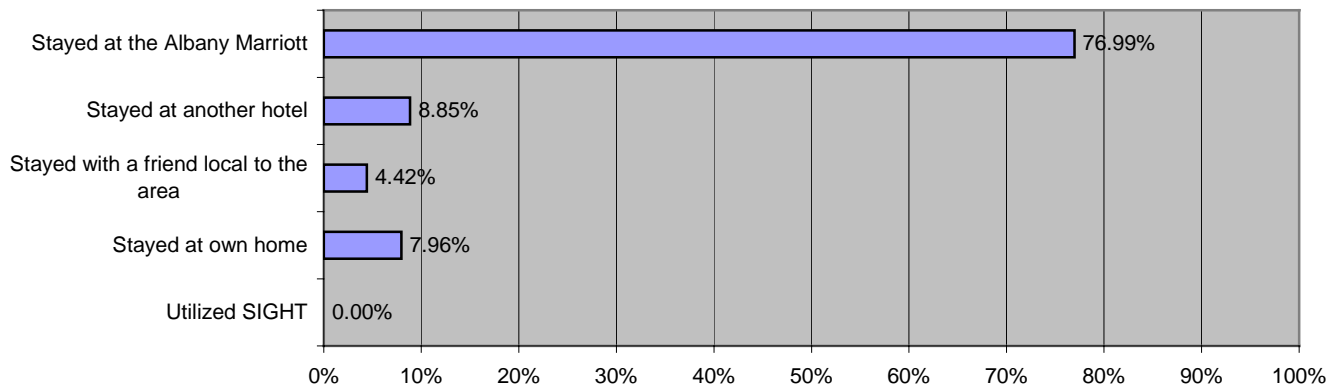
8. Please rate the pre-event registration process.



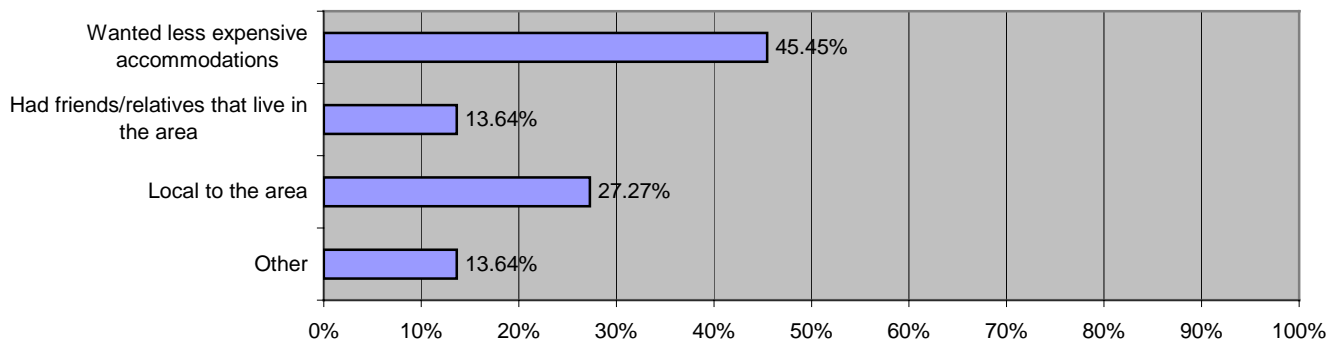
9. Please provide additional comments regarding the registration process.

<p>Clarity is all... Completely painless; consistent with commercial best practices for on-line registration. "Couldn't have been better. Food was great. Look forward to future events." Easy. Everything was fine. Graciously accomodating "Had a problem apparently because the computer was down when I first applied, had I not followed up, I would have missed. Rosa was very helpful correcting the problem tho I was put on the list waiting for a cancellation. " Have been to 5 Colloquiums. This was perhaps the best ever, both in speakers and in organization. I appreciated the meal selection and the fact that you guys kept after me when I didn't immediately make my meal choices. I also thought the registration table where we picked up our badges and materials ran smoothly. I was surprised to find left-handed programs. Don't know whether this was just a binding error or if someone deliberately decided to have left-handed materials but, as a left-handed person, I appreciated that. I didn't do anything - my husband handled it all.</p>	<p>I found it very easy to do via the internet. I paid my registration at the WG and the person who took it, lost it. I noticed when the charge did not appear on my credit card. Fortunately I was accepted as a registrant. I was put on a waiting list, but the national office contacted me promptly when an opening became available. Felt like that part of the process was handled very well. It was smooth, easy, and there were no problems. What more can there be? It was excellent. It was so easy! :-) It was very good. It was wonderful! My boyfriend and I received (and responded to) a total of 9 e-mails asking for our meal choices - that system could be streamlined a bit. Other than the names of the speakers, very little info on the program was presented during registriation (eg, start and end times). Our kick off speaker should have been given the hook. Bright guy, I guess, but since we all are, that didn't make up for the lousy job he did. piece of cake Process was efficient and easy to complete. Quick, easy, efficient Rosa helped me to register. She was extremely patient and helpful. Thanks</p>	<p>"seamless - phone call let me know how many spaces were available and that it would sell out in a few months. I appreciated that info." Smooooooth smooth as silk smooth, effortless, fluid. Thanks Rosa The deadline for making the Marriott hotel reservation(June 15, 2006)was not made clear.(I was unable to get a room there.) thorough Unable to register additional person at later date on original registration form. very easy, fast, and organized. Loved the Colloquium. The organizers did an outstanding job of lining up speakers of phenomenal quality and background. It was the most smooth-running large meeting I ever have attended. Thank you very much. Very quick and easy. Very well done. Was easy and accurate. Very well organized and easy to do. Went as expected worked well; details of programme, if they had been available, would have been appreciated on the web page</p>
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10. Where did you stay while attending the Colloquium?

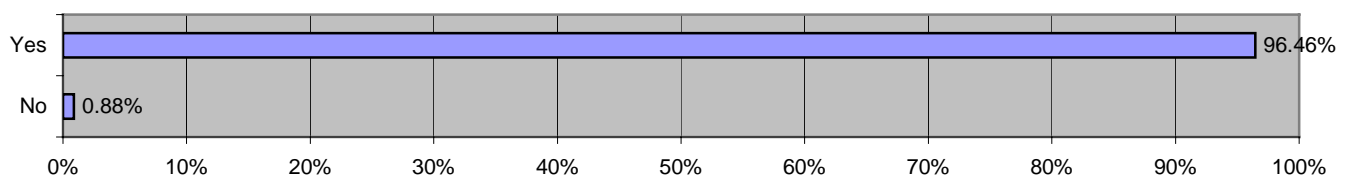


11. If you did not stay at the Albany Marriott, what is the reason you selected other accommodations?



We live in the Capital District.
 No rooms available at Marrioot when I attempted to
 home is where the heart is

12. Did you attend any of the planned meal functions?



13. What did you think of the hospitality provided at the Colloquium?

A hospitality room would have been nice--
 but I am not sure what the hotel could
 provide.
 All was terrific.
 Enjoyed it greatly
 Everything was satisfactory.
 excelent
 excellent
 excellent
 Excellent
 Excellent - it really was the way to do an
 event
 Excellent food and service considering the
 size of the crowd.

"Excellent meals, excellent service!
 Except for the lack of coffee Saturday
 morning... Facing a full day of
 presentations with no caffeine was quite
 inconvenient. Sunday breakfast was
 fabulously luxurious. Maybe for next
 time you could just average them out so
 there'd be coffee both mornings, even if
 the rest of the fixings might be plainer."
 Excellent
 Excellent!
 Excellent, and was agreeably surprised to
 see how kind and hospitable people
 were.

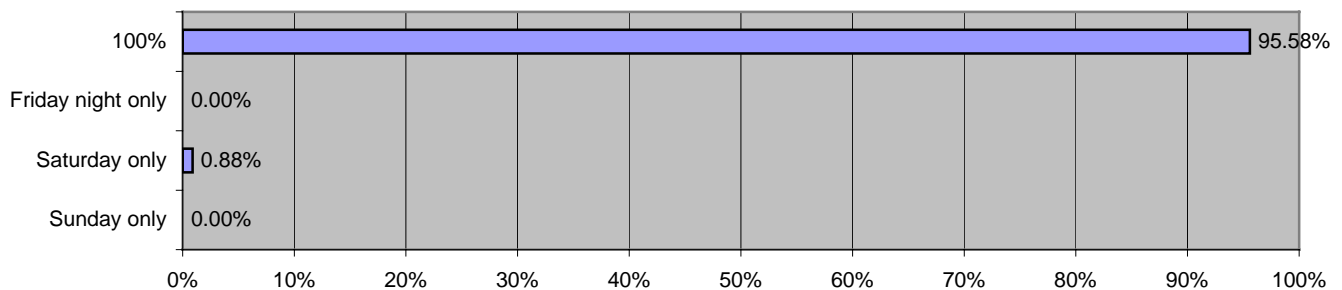
Excellent.
 Excellent.
 Excellent. Registration desk people were
 helpful and friendly, and I loved the
 chocolate.
 Excellent. Everyone was very friendly and
 helpful.
 Excellently
 excellent
 Fantastic, thank you for the good planning
 and hard work
 fine
 fine
 Fine.

Food was fine. Snacks were a nice touch. The breakfast could have used some fruit or anything in addition to all the carbs.
 Food was good. I would have liked some boiled eggs for Sunday breakfast, as all the food was wheat-based carbohydrates.
 friendly, sufficient, appropriate
 good
 Good
 good
 Good food, nice menu selections. Good break time refreshments.
 Good location. I didn't feel that the hotel was adequately staffed for the numerous functions they were having, but that was not a problem with the conference and not much of a factor.
 Good.
 Good.
 Good. Didn't quite rise to standard set by 2002's 'Exploring Consciousness', though. Central gathering area with lots of tables, chairs, nibbles, and drinks after Friday and Saturday evenings' events would have been welcome.
 Good--enabled conversations.
 great
 great
 great
 Great meals.
 Great!
 Hotel was awful. Food was bad, poor choices, unable to handle crowds, elevators crammed.
 I have many years experience with business and government functions and your hospitality was excellent.
 I thought it was fine.
 I thought the food was great (and I am a picky eater), also the hotel staff was very friendly and helpful. I did however think the drink prices were a little high.
 informal chat area and more coffee and fruit would have been good
 "it was a weak
 not many refreshments available (I don't drink coffee)"

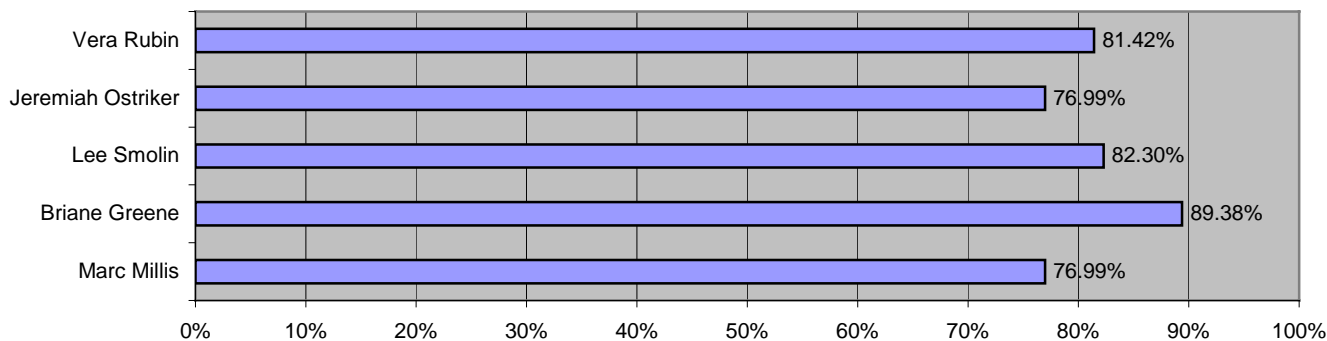
It was excellent.
 It was excellent.
 It was excellent.
 Please consider this a very minor consideration among many many things that were great. It would have been nice if in the area outside of the speaking room there were more chairs to simply hang out.
 It was extremely good.
 It was great
 it was OK. The hospitality suite was not large enough to accomodate all the attendees which was unfortunate.
 just fine
 Just fine, we knew in advance what it would be.
 kExcellent, the hotel did an excellent job "less than typical RG, but lobby bar was
 nice. Met new Mensan's there."
 marvelous!
 N/A
 Needed a sit-down room. Breakfast was great.
 Needed coffee in the room during the day
 Nice.
 Not bad. We were spending so much time listening to speakers and at meals there was no need for a hospitality suite.
 o.k.
 outstanding
 Outstanding
 perfect. Enjoyed the taste of chocolate at registration desk. Would have been nice to have had some fruit/protein at Sunday breakfast
 Perhaps could have used more bottled water/snacks during breaks, otherwise very good.
 Quite good! The meal planning was excellent and the meals provided were very good. The Saturday night dinner was under-staffed (insufficient wait staff, leading to delayed dinner), but I expect that was the Marriott, not the Colloquium planners.
 Quite satisfactory
 Super

Superb!
 The hotel staff was COMPLETELY AWESOME!!! I could not have imagined a better hotel experience. The front desk people, restaurant people, and pretty much every single other staff member I encountered were really wonderful.
 the hotel staff were great. Mensa volunteers too.
 The meals were quite good. I enjoyed the 2 small parties I attended in Harry and Judy's suite. I wish there'd been a late-night hospitality suite set up somewhere.
 "There shud have been a hospitality suite, with food n drink. I'd have paid extra for that."
 There was hospitality?
 there was no hospitality provided.
 There was no hospitality suite. The hotel was fine.
 They were great. I had no problems with the Colloquium. They did an exceptional job.
 totally excellent
 very good
 very good
 Very good!
 Very good! thanks for the fruit juices.
 very nice
 very nice
 Very nice.
 Very nice.
 Very nice.
 warm & friendly
 Was appropriate to the nature of a Mensa colloquium.
 Was fine, but would have liked something for breakfast each day.
 was ok--shudda had continental breakfast set up for saturday
 We thought it was excellent.
 We were more than adequately fed and watered. Quite nice and a good value for the money.
 Well organized. Reasonable food.
 Would be nice to have a hospitality room to chat in.

14. What percentage of the Colloquium activities did you participate in?



15. Please rate the following Colloquium speakers.



16. Please provide additional comments about the speakers.

All of the speakers were very good. Dr. Ostriker's presentation was a little inaccessible, and George Musser's was a little too involved for an introduction.

All superb

All were outstanding--well-prepared

Almost impossible to see slides due to setup of screen, so much of the content was lost.

An outstanding lineup

Brian gave us a 'performance', disappointed in tone

Brian Green should have given more on the rationale for 10/11 dimension requirements. He underestimated our ability to grapple with the equations and mathematics. Too 'canned' a presentation

Brian Greene explained everything beautifully and was most entertaining.

Dr. Smolin was such a kind man. He took time to write personal messages in his autograph signing, and to speak to each of us for a few minutes.

Fantastic line-up of presenters! An amazing job in gathering that line-up. Many compliments to all involved in setting everything up, both locally and nationally. The only downsides in my opinion was the ridiculous banter between folks about the politics in the scientific community. When they have an opportunity so share the excitement and enthusiasm it's a shame to see them argue and bicker. Also, there were several problems with technology and being able to hear people due to either poor equipment, or a lack of experience by a speaker in using that equipment (i.e. Musser was almost impossible to hear for a major portion of his presentation because he would mumble on the mic). All in all this has to rank as an extremely worth while event for anyone who attended.

Greene presented only tired info - we heard nothing new. Great that the current controversy between Smolin and Greene was aired on our stage!

I appreciated Smolin making himself available for an hour after his lecture and panel were over. I also appreciate the fact that he came to Harry and Judy's suite for the party.

I appreciated the technical depth. I got the impression that at least half of the audience did too. We don't want pablum. I can't recall Francis

I enjoyed the fact that the speakers (almost all of them) were present for the whole weekend and made themselves available to everyone for conversation. They also allowed pictures to be taken of them and with them.

I feel like Mark Millis should have been provided more time to talk. His presentation felt like it was rushed by the small time frame he was given in comparison to the other speakers.

I would have preferred Lee Smolin to actually define loop quantum gravity instead of deriding string theory. All of his points were certainly valid, but I did not learn from his lecture what I had expected.

incredible

It is a pity there was a sour note late Saturday involving Smolin, Ostriker against Greene. Thank God for Mills' peacekeeping efforts.

It seemed that Brian Greene had an agenda at the meeting to call out Lee Smolin on his criticism of String Theory. Lee was evasive and downplayed his criticism even though he DID tell the audience that String Theory was unraveling before Greene's arrival. Many people saw this as unprofessional. It was. But I think Greene calculated the entire affair and it proved very interesting. Vera Rubin was charming. Everyone loved her.

It was most interesting to interact with them at the other functions of the meeting

Jeremia Ostriker refused to speak into the microphone. He cared more about talking to the other panelists, than to sharing his comments with the audience.

Looking forward to getting access to speaker slides!

Mr Musser's enthusiasm was contagious, but he had a tendency to tail off at the end of sentences so one could hear only about 3/4 of a sentence

Mr Smolin seemed to trash and dismiss string theory during his presentation, then try to backtrack/weasel out when confronted over a similar occurrence by Brian Greene.

Musser tends to garble his words; he is not a good public speaker.

My feedback on the use of PowerPoint slides: Brian Green's were excellent. Marc Mills' were also very good. Most other speakers had dreadful presentations. Slides were overcrowded, graphs were illegible and had no reference, and images were too small.

On another note, George Musser spoke far beyond his allotted time ignoring calls from the host to stop.

Ostriker is a pompous SOB, isn't he? Rest were pretty good.

Pleased with all of them

Poor mike, or speaker walked away from mike, or speaker's delivery was poor. Not all slides were intelligible.

Smolin is a little whiny.

some of the panel discussions were less than interesting

Speakers were sometimes hard to hear. Seemed like some had never used a mike! Slides were projected on a screen that was too low; for those of us in the back the bottom 20% was often blocked by heads.

Thank you for putting Wilken where you did. The material was understandable, but too detailed, at times. I remember Vera's presentation best -- probably because it was very visual.

The panel was hysterical!

The speaker lineup was great and I liked having only one track so as not to miss out on a "better" program elsewhere.

The speaker selection was balanced and presented a wide range of subject and viewpoint.

There was some difficulty hearing the speakers, at least for the first two, problems with the sound system. It was very difficult hearing Musser, he tended to drop his voice (volume) at the end of sentences.

These talks could have been better coordinated so there was less duplication of material.

They covered different areas of the topic and I thought the order they spoke in was logical.

They were all extremely erudite, and most were able to present in a clear manner. The exception to this was Smolin, who doesn't seem to understand how much his ambivalent-to-negative attitude seeps

through into his remarks. Brian Green was perfectly right to call him out on it in the panel discussion on Sunday night. But, we were all treated to a lively disagreement, so maybe that's not such a bad thing. Science is a human activity, and as such will always have an underbelly of spin attached to it as well. Too many speakers for the amount of time provided. Ended up napping a couple times instead of listening to speakers. Vera and Jeremiah were too technical for a layperson. Vera Rubin and Jeremiah Ostriker really didn't have much to add to the conference. Vera Rubin is a personal hero of mine, so hearing her was thrilling. Brian Greene was very dynamic and his presentation was fun to watch. Marc Millis was fun as well. I thought it was wonderful that Vera Rubin and Jeremiah Ostriker attended the whole weekend. Video (or just audio) tapes shud have been made available; I 'd pay for those.

These r especially good for those of us whose hearing is less than 100%. Videographics were splendid: period, topically they excelled at encapsulating a remarkably involved subject into readily accessible concepts. This was Was unable to understand speeck of first speaker. He did not enunciate well. Either he or the p.a. were simply not loud enuf. I got nothing from his talk. This was extremely disappointing, because he was supposed to intro the topic and bring all of us to the same page. We enjoyed all of the speakers and all of the panel discussions. This was a very informative and worthwhile colloquium. The selection of speakers was appropriate and each built on the topic(s) presented by the previous speakers. I could have wished for more cosmologists speaking about inflation and multiverse notions, but I do realize the limitations encountered in producing these events. I will attend any future Mensa events on

scientific topics. This was a truly worthwhile and stunning success! Thank you! Well chosen and well geared to the level of the audience; most of us were not hard scientists. Would like to be able to see their slides again... Yes, Brian Greene deserves his star status, but Lee Smolin & Jeremiah Ostriker were definitely the most profound scientists. I felt a particular kinship with Dr. Smolin and believe it was the most extraordinary opportunity offered at the colloquium. Note: I used one of his books as my main resource for a local group Science SIG discussion prior to the colloquium. Wow! Also, I found Vera Rubin to be much more interesting to talk with in person than as a lecturer. So even though I only rated her as a "4", I was highly gratified to have her there.

17. Please provide comments about the Master of Ceremonies, announcers, introducers and other non-speaker presenters.

a lot of time was spent talking about the local group
 Actually added to my enjoyment of the event.
 Again I must comment on what I found that was different. An African American woman introducing Vera Rubin told a side story about an ancient female scientist. I like that she had a forum to remind us of how difficult the sciences can be for women while celebrating Rubin's success.
 All brilliant!
 All did a fine job.
 All did a very good job
 All excellent
 All Excellent, short and to the point.
 All these people were charming and wonderful.
 Also fine, though microphone problems were a distraction.
 An embarrassment to Mensa. NEVER Delay events for nearly an hour every day while the committee and National get up to pat themselves on the back. Never introduce an introducer. Wasting that much time for 300 people implies intense ego.
 Appropriate to the occasion.
 At a couple of times they didn't stay on schedule; they should have.
 Both Harry Ringermacher and Judy Keating were absolutely excellent! The non-speaker presenters performed their function very well. Use of the panels, in addition to the individual speakers, was a "genius" idea...it added a tremendous amount of quality and substance to the whole event!
 Everyone was great.
 excellent
 fewer introductions by Mensans recounting their lives, perhaps more by Doc Harry Fine.
 For the most part very good.

great
 Great job, need to start on time and have equipment tested prior to start.
 Harry and Judy were great at making folks welcome and, when needed, "herding" Mensans et al.
 Having someone read from the program is not my idea of an introducer.
 I didn't attend to hear 30 minutes plus of self congratulation on what a great job they did putting the event together. That should have been done in an internal meeting.
 I feel like they dragged out their performances longer than they needed to, and I was anxious to hear the speakers talk and not the announcers.
 I realize that some introducers were getting a bit of quid pro quo for helping to enable the colloquium BUT--Margarita McBean (please pardon my spelling) was embarrassing. She used her intro of Vera Rubin to further her own candidacy for Chair of American Mensa; she gave the audience a dreadful insight into her own belief in astrology (which must have appalled our guests); she spent excessive amounts of time discussing the first astronomer; and she gave us unnecessary information about her own career in information systems (or whatever it was). I like Ms. McBean but I hope she will not embarrass Mensa like this again. Everyone else did okay, I suppose. But it might have been better to have the lesser scientists (Musser and Wilkins) introduce the great scientists since they would know the science and wouldn't just be mouthing words they couldn't pronounce.
 I thought all of the real problems between presenters bickering happened during the panel discussions. I think the MC is responsible for ensuring the intellectually stimulating conversation doesn't fall apart

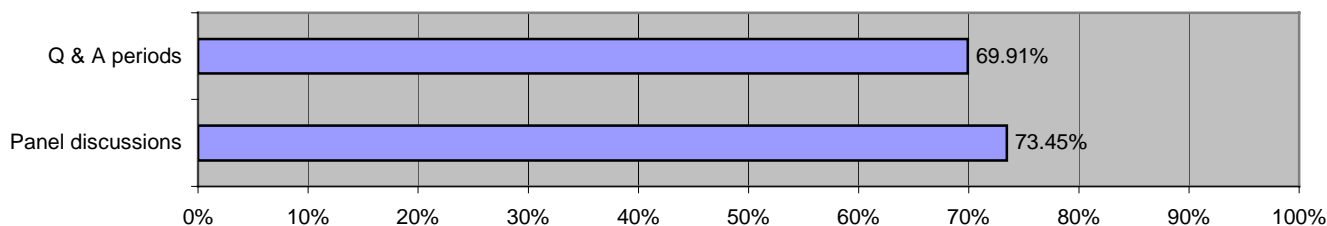
and needs to cut that off. Other than that very well organized and strong introductions (except for the one person who got up to us and read what was listed about Musser in the handouts) I thought Mr. Timmers, my husband, did an excellent job.
 I was great !
 I would have preferred a single MC introduce all of the speakers. The parade of Mensa dignitaries drew focus to them and away from the purpose of the gathering. I found Harry's obtrusive time-keeping to be distracting and embarrassing.
 Introductions could have been a little shorter.
 intros too long and rambling
 It would have been better if the introducers were from the Colloquium committee rather than candidates for Mensa offices
 Judy seemed a bit unprofessionally dressed, jeans, etc.
 Laboring, wordy introductions detracted from speaker time and was unnecessary.
 Lame. Especially lame were the panel discussion questions.
 Margaretha added some spice.
 Marghretta's introduction of Vera Rubin was an insult to those who had to listen to it.
 MCs need to stay on stage until the presenter arrives, shake hand . Same at end.
 My only complaint about the entire event was the embarrassing degree of self-congratulation among the organizers. Each person thanked a small army. Enough credit was handed out that we could buy Mensa a planet or two.
 okay
 Okay.
 Okay. Glad they were not too lengthy.
 Performed well.
 Pretty darn good.

Recognition of volunteers could have been more evenly spaced throughout the program.
 Screen was way too low
 some of the AMC & MERF people went on a little too long
 Super job.
 The best one, can't remember her name, introduced Ostriker. It was to the point and done like a seasoned intro. Others were either long or talked about themselves. Also, several merely read word for word the bios of the speakers in the program.
 The best thing about them was their comments were short. There seemed to be an understanding that we weren't there to hear ceremonial efforts and nonsense.

The non-speaker presenters were good, and mercifully brief, giving us just the right amount of orienting remarks so we could get on with the real presentations. I liked the ritual school bell touch also.
 There really wasn't a need to introduce the people who were introducing the speakers. It felt like everybody just REALLY wanted a chance to get up and talk and added about ten minutes to every lecture.
 There was too much reading of bios. All that was in the program. I presume we can all read and don't have to have it read to us. Short introductions are better than long ones.
 These were all handled smoothly and professionally.

They did a nice job introducing the speakers. Harry Ringermacher did a spectacular job hosting the panel discussions.
 they kept things moving smoothly
 They were excellent
 They were predictably self-effacing as one hoped they would be.
 To much Mensa business and politics.
 Should have stuck to the topics at hand.
 Chairs dragged and talked to much about themselves.
 Very well done
 Very well done.
 Well done.
 well done; with one exception
 What can I say? Hats off to you.

18. Please rate the question and answer periods and panel discussions.



19. Please provide any additional comments about the question and answer periods or panel discussions.

All were too short of course!
 already mentioned this.
 At least 2 questioners used their question time to make silly speeches. This wasted time that people who had real questions could have used. It might be better to have questioners submit hand-written questions to a moderator who could edit and shape them. A moderator could also polish up the occasional painfully stupid question so that it wouldn't seem quite so stupid (i.e., "What's the difference between a galaxy and a nebula?"). Panel discussions were way to short. They could have been longer and more sharply focused by more aggressive moderators. The dramatic argument between Smolin and Greene could have been fleshed out and anatomized had it been allowed to go longer and had other panelists been allowed to get involved with it.
 AV not as good as should have been. Visual presentations were not legible to large part of audience.
 Microphones were troublesome and distracted from presentations.
 Brian Green fighting with Lee Smolin over some radio address was annoying. Moderator should have intervened.
 chair needs to step in to police Q&A process
 Could have been a little more time for questions.

Did not attend the question and answer periods.
 Didn't like the debate between Greene and Smolin. Would have preferred time spent on discussion of itnerest to the audience, not to each other.
 Outside of that, the panels were fine.
 Given the time constraints, question periods were well handled. Only wish there could have been more time...but that was not possible. It was great that the kids got their questions in. Panel discussions were good. The "fight" at the end was interesting and certainly gave an insight to the "conflicts" that exist within the field(s). It was well handled."
 Giving Mensans an open mic is dangerous. I'm surprised it went so well. This is the only access most of us have to people functioning at this level. I was very excited to have access to them past a rehearsed presentation. That mattered alot.
 I desire the VIDEO TAPES thereof.
 I left during some of them. The quality of questions from the audience was surprisingly low.
 I missed the imbroglgio between Greene and Smolin, but wish I hadn't. Debate is at least as important as presentation, and it's something we get little of in popular media.
 I think they could have been more pointed. I wish someone would have lead them in an interesting direction instead of just letting them pick a topic and ramble on it for a while. The

confrontation between them was limited and I thought that's what the panel was designed to do.. create conflict and possibly (or not) resolve it.
 I was sorry to see Dr. Smolin unfairly verbally attacked by Brian Greene. Dr. Smolin simply expressed an academic opinion that deviated from Dr. Greene's. His attach showed Dr. Greene to be a person rather insecure in himself or his opinions. Is he by any chance doubting a bit his own theories, so much that he can't have anyone urge further study?
 I would have strongly preferred to have had no questions whatsoever and let the speaker talk longer! I have very few complaints about an otherwise excellent event, and this is the most important one.
 I'd like an opportunity to get the panel discussions on video.
 Instead of having people stand at the microphone, have them turn in written questions. Then the speakers could calibrate the length of their responses better. Audience should be limited to one question each, and no secondary questions until everyone has had a first turn.
 It was lame when the people waiting in line were denied a chance to speak -- instead there should have been (at some point) an announcement to prevent any MORE people from getting in line.

more audience participation

needed/smaller group break-outs, maybe

Needed more

Okay. Lots of room for improvement here.

1. Let's start with the question and answer sessions. Not bad, all-in-all, but here's something for consideration. A significant fraction of the questions were not closely related to the content of the speaker's presentations, but were of a more general nature and indicating a wide variation in levels of knowledge. I don't have a problem with the variation in background and I applaud your scheduling of George Musser and Francis Wilken to bring those with less background up to speed before the high powered speakers. Still, I think the background problem was inadequately addressed as many participants had questions that should be respected and asked and yet were somehow too basic to fit well into the question and answer and panel discussion formats. I'm just noting the problem here but alas don't have a solution to suggest.

2. Please keep the people with this level of questioning off the panels (aka Mr. Supplementally) unless the panels are specifically redesigned for such issues.

3. I was quite upset at how the conflict between Dr. Smolin and Dr. Greene was handled (or not handled). The planners of that panel should have been well aware of the existence of the several conflicts (string theory vs loop gravity, conflicts over what is proper scientific method in this arena,

conflicts over relation between scientists and society) and worked the moderation of the panel discussion to bring out those legitimate differences of opinion out in an honest, respectful, and clearly stated way for us participants. Instead, I fear that our poor handling of the legitimate conflicts both left most of us participants bewildered and contributed to ill feelings between two very fine rival scientists and good people.

4. Prepare panel questions ahead of time and give them to the speakers in advance.

Opportunity for participation and interaction was probably inadequate but I don't know what I would have wanted to omit to accommodate more discussion.

poor mic control of modulation of early speakers

Prepared questions were not the most germane to the information presented. questioners sometimes hard to hear Same people asked questions of each speakers.

Same people monopolized the question sessions seemed like same folks always asking the questions.

Seemed like they never let that little kid ask his question. He went up every time and never got to ask anything. Not fair. But I am glad they put time limits on the Q&A. Keeps it from getting boring or turning into a bickering match. The panel, however, I only sat through once. There is nothing more annoying than listening to people trying to fight politely. Friendly enemies are boring (and long

winded). I'd rather they either agree with each other genuinely, or disagree and really stand up for themselves.

Smolin!

So many questions, to little time; perhaps just right.

Some more time for questions and answers would add to a colloquium. the moderators were very good The panel discussion involving Brian Greene and Lee Smolin was interesting and exciting. I liked the way the question period was ping-ponged between two mics. It was very well organized for optimal time management.

The panel discussions should have been prompted by a consensus of topic ideas from the audience.

The questions weren't very good. This was not the fault of the speakers. I don't see how to improve this at a Mensa event.

The staff and speakers had no control over numbskulls who wanted to vent or blather. I was amazed at how polite the speakers were and how they were able to turn nonsense into a direction that developed genuine information.

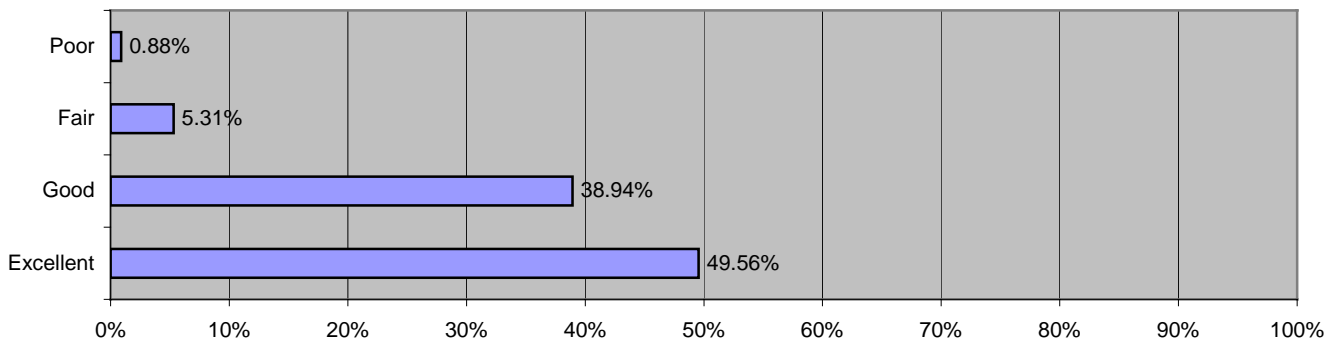
There could have been more time allotted to question periods.

There were definitely some crackpot questions during the Q&A sessions. They were handled pretty well as far as traffic control, and there was a sense that the questions were all handled fairly.

Too bad panel discussions weren't longer.

Were essential and great! Would have liked longer Q & A, but there are only 24 hrs. in a day.

20. Please rate the Colloquium Web site.



14. Please provide additional comments regarding the Web site.

a what's new area would be good.

Both attractive and functional.

By following links of links, we were able to design ourselves a very pleasant New England tour after the colloquium.

could have been more current in the weeks before the event

Didn't know about till now.

Everything was ok.

I appreciate being able to take care of all the reservations on-line.

I did not, but I heard that some people had some trouble with the on-line registration

I like the picture used and the information was easy to access. Initially I had a hard

time finding the actual location of the Colloquium other than Albany, NY.

It didn't have the program schedule.

Needed to have the starting times posted. I looked and there was no time info.

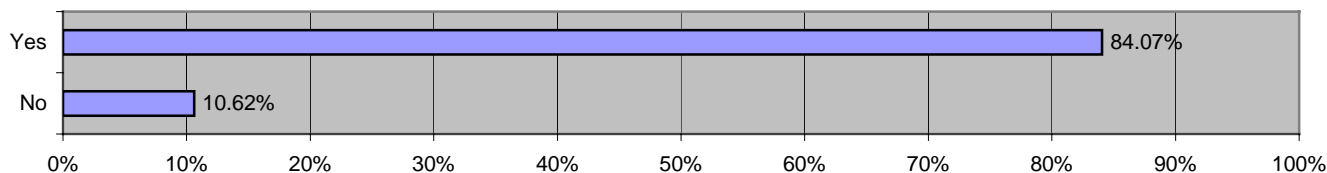
Please give up the black background - it kills a printer when you're just trying to get the agenda.

staff most friendly
 The web site was very good...clear and accessible.
 The website got me to attend! Attractive, enticing, informative. Especially liked links for recommended reading (which I did), and links to other sites for more information

The website was great. I was able to get everything I needed simply and cleanly without too much needless information.
 Very clear and easy to navigate
 Very informative and pretty.
 Very well done. I wish I had read the web page material more carefully before the event. I would have been better prepared to ask questions.

Was very helpful in deciding whether to come and planning the trip.
 with so much to convey, it was a good job in just presenting the essentials.
 Would have liked a little more info about Albany and other points of interest as I did have a little free time - a map would have been good.

22. Do you plan to attend another Colloquium?



23. On what future topics would you like to see a Colloquium given?

#1.evolution; #2.stem cells and other advances
 (1) consciousness (revisited); (2) Shakespeare is a good idea too; (3) brain/mind; (4) belief (religion/atheism)
 ?
 1. Current research into human development, including what is being learned about prenatal development and the role of the environment in switching genes on and off; 2. Anything about outer space.
 1. Global warming; 2. Genome research, including information coded outside the DNA sequence and coding for RNA; 3. Alternative economy & changes to our economic system (globalization, corporate power, advertising, ect); 4. The merging of the fields of ecology and human economics; 5. Mythology; 6. Future of computing/ communication; 7. Historical sciences (biological evolution, historical geology, historical astrophysics, anthropology, cryology, Biblical higher criticism, etc.)
 1. Relationship of effective education process and intelligence; 2. Relationship of success in life and intelligence; 3. Intellectual satisfaction compared with whole person satisfaction; 4. How to maximize achievement in one's whole life due to high intelligence.
 Advertising, Urban Planning, Roots of Terrorism, Predicting the Future
 Almost anything concerning Physics
 American History, World History, Biological Research, Archaeology, Entertainment Industry, Writing industry
 Another one on Cosmology! Maybe one on raising gifted children.
 anything in the sciences, engineering, politics or economics
 Anything science or philosophy or political related, as long as there is *depth*. We don't need more fluff in society.
 Astrophysics again - in about 2 years.
 chemistry, dna, science, math
 Clones and genetical engineering - scientific, ethical and legal considerations.

Considering what I just said about the Mensa administration, I think I'll pass on comment here.
 Crime solving, e.g. forensics, criminal profilers, etc.
 energy, climate, resources
 Energy, Geo-political context and alternatives
 Environmental issues, Film, Music, another one on Consciousness/power of the mind, Mysticism, Meditation/Eastern philosophy, Religion/theology
 ESP etc.
 evolution (richard dawkins)
 Evolution vs creationism; Space based astronomy; The future of fusion as a power source, including ITER; Space travel: can we really do it, in light of recent findings about the hazards; Life in extreme places, like deep ocean vents, clathrate deposits, thermal springs, etc.
 evolution vs. intelligent design; God: theistic vs atheistic viewpoints and the idea of enlightenment
 evolution, cellular biology
 evolution, global warming, justice
 Floop-up this after the LHC has some results - same place, same time of year!
 Global warming/Climate change
 grief, fractal geometry, theology, writing,
 Health- alternatives, herbs, drug companies vs. natural methods.
 History of Science; Science; Nature
 I have not thought that much about it
 Individual freedom or threats thereto from improvements in technology of microsurveillance and ubiquitous government photography and facial recognition software.
 Intelligence -- as a function of Brain structures and ways artificial intelligence may be realized (Jeff Hawkins)
 It's got to be stuff of substance, not fluff like the RGs. Thorny current issues like education, the decreasing standard of public discourse, US population problems and illegal immigration, how to deal with people who like death (terrorists and their ilk). There is no shortage of difficult issues. We should be

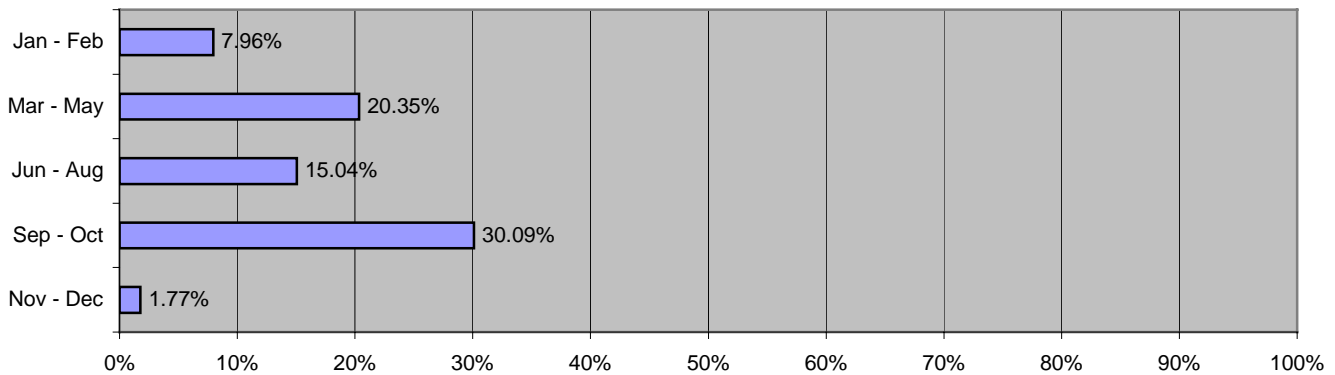
able to talk about them in a civil manner and put our 2% heads together.
 jazz music and history, culinary
 Language
 Literature
 Mathematics
 Molecular Biology; Language; Biotechnology; Information/knowledge/thinking/wisdom
 More scientifically related topics. This was a rush.
 Most any scientific subject, particularly astronomy
 n/a
 Nanotechnology, Artificial Intelligence, Genetic Engineering
 Neurobiology, genetic engineering, future of computing, marine science, space exploration
 Not humour.
 Other Science topics, Shakespeare, Humor
 Physics, biology, chaos/complexity theory, neuroscience, history, geology, etc
 Politics. Events surrounding solutions to societal problems. Philosophy.
 Metaphysics.
 renewable energy
 Science and math are my favorite topics, I would like to see a colloquium on genetics.
 Science fiction; Game design; Sexuality
 Science topics
 science, philosophy, math
 Science, technology, environmental issues (e.g. global warming)
 Science. Anthropology. Sociology.
 Globalism. I like being filled in on the bigger issues in life that I could never possibly access at home.
 Shakespeare
 Shakespeare; Atheism/Agnosticism
 Silent Movies with live accompaniment
 Some of us discussed the possibility of a game theory colloquium. Sounded interesting.
 something on cultural history, perhaps--with good info, but always a sense of humor
 space
 sub atomic physics

Sustainable futures. Green global economy; Redesigning our cities and our culture to be friendlier to the environment and to our own health needs. Alternative economies. Total recycling as already practiced in San Francisco and Taipei; How do we acquire knowledge. How do we know we know. How do we determine authority or expertise in unfamiliar fields of knowledge; How can scientists and other experts properly educate the voting public and the lawmakers so their policies will enhance

and not stifle the interaction of science with public life.
 Take up Vera's suggestion of link between Neural networks and cosmology; Fractals, chaos theory; More on uncertainty principle. the idea of chance I find intriguing; What makes people tick. What makes people believe in certain things
 The entertainment industry in general, and particularly television and the changes of the last 50 years and what the future may bring.

the human genome and what's coming out of it; Evolution, both human and nonhuman; planetology (geology of earth and other worlds); brain science"
 The probability of intelligent life other than human, the state of the environment, an overview of the current state of technology in any major area (computing, medical, automotive), artificial intelligence.
 Weather

24. What time of year would you find most workable for your schedule to attend a Colloquium?



25. Please provide any additional comments regarding this Colloquium.

Absolutely fantastic. Heard amny times: "This raises the bar for all colloquia to come." "THIS is what I joined Mensa for."
 Although I had to miss a few segments, I enjoyed it very much.
 As a non-MENSA member, I really enjoyed the fact that you'd open this to outsiders. This has made me want to join even though I knew very little about MENSA when originally going. Seems like a very nice group of folks and great to be challenged intellectually and surrounded by folks interested in adding some wrinkles to their brains :-)
 Best ever.
 Came away satisfied; time well spent. Could have made the book and other peripheral sales available for a longer time. Will you be making tapes or DVDs of the sessions available soon?
 Doc Harry & Judy did a very (emphasis) good thing; and as I understand it, Mensa too.
 everything seemed to go very well
 Fantastic job!!!
 From the participant's side, things were handled very well. If, behind the scenes, there were problems and the like, they certainly did not cause disruptions.
 Great job, thanks to all the hard work that went into this event.
 I came by myself to honor my husband's memory. I had little knowledge of the topic. I was greatly rewarded for my efforts and I feel that I now have a basic understanding of cosmology.
 I enjoyed it very much.

I had a great time. It was very informative, entertaining, and very well put together. Hats off to my local Mensa chapter!
 I have been to a past colloquium, and I realize that a different chapter lead this one, BUT... I think that in Southeast Michigan one thing that was different that was very successful was discussion groups amongst the mensa members instead of just with the speakers. This way, we got to all talk about our opinions and learn more from each other, as well as get to know each other. Why were the optional discussion groups left out of the format for this one?
 I KNEW this would be good because I know Harry and Judy. They were an excellent match for both topic and organizing the event. And Ken Gacioch picks FINE beer...
 I really enjoyed it. It was totally worthwhile. I truly enjoyed the fact that the speakers geared their talks to a level that I could understand (at least most of it) but they did not talk down to us
 I understand the decision not to omit them, but still regret the absence of facilitated, small-group discussions prior to lunch and dinner--the 'colloquy' part of colloquia.
 I was very pleased that there was only one "track" so that I did not have to choose what to hear and what to miss. I would have enjoyed more open time to talk with other attendees; Some very interesting talks happened at the coffee tables at the breaks.

I would like to be in touch with a physicist/philosopher I met from Poland. He said he sent an e-mail on Friday evening, but I never received it. I do not remember his name.
 I would like to have access to the recordings as well as the slideshows for this event.
 If the speakers' Power Point presentations become available, please forward me a link. All presenters said they'd try to post their slides online.
 Is it possible ot access the speakers' slides-and would someone let the attendees know when they are available (on the local Albany Mensa website or the American Mensa website) and how to access them?
 It was a very good fit with my interests. It would have been nice if somehow an extra day between Saturday and Sunday could have been found. In fact this was far better than I anticipated notwithstanding I had high expectations. Judy and Harry devoted very much time and energy to have the colloquium be such a success.
 Liked the setup of the room with the tables; did not like inability to see the bottom third of the screen displaying the Powerpoint slides; wanted adherence to policy of audience questioners being forbidden to ask follow-up questions
 Overall the organizers did a fantastic job. Please sell us the VIDEO TAPES.
 Re No. 24 - most of the year is good, but you need to consider weather and travel conditions, vacation time in the summer

and holidays. Otherwise any time is good.
 Regarding Question 24 above, it would only accept one entry, but we would come to an event any time of the year if the topic was of interest to us. Keep up the good work!
 Thanks!!!!
 The local group host committee did an outstanding job!!
 The luggage tags are cool as was the program. It would be nice to have know which meal was a buffet and which wasn't. The volunteers were all very helpful.
 The many volunteers helped to make this a great colloquium. The staff of American Mensa and of MERF performed outstandingly and contributed to the

"essence" of making this a great success.
 The Mensans I met didn't loosen up enough. Some focus on socialization activities before the main event may add to the experience.
 This was a great colloquium. You got people with REAL rather than PSEUDO credentials and they were among the most famous in their fields. The topic was a sexy one, too.
 This was a superb event. I am grateful to Dr Ringermacher and all the folks that helped him put this colloquium together. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Screen needs to be as high as possible.
 Time does not matter, but stay away from major holidays and potential snow/ice travel problems.

timing depends on where the program is. Too much was scheduled for Saturday. I was close to falling asleep during part of it, and I saw other people nodding off, too. Separating things into a morning session and an evening session would probably work better.
 Topic was interesting but coverage was too basic - I didn't learn much new. I was disappointed due to slides not being visible, hotel being poor, Albany not having enough hotel & transport options. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend last years March activity on Einstein, so the minute I saw the 2006 ad, I said this is it!
 Cosmology and physics are my passion. very much enjoyed helping and getting to know local group - they were great!
 Wonderful.

26. Please provide any additional comments regarding future Colloquiums.

Bundling the meals with the events is important to keep the conversations going. This was done well. Extended time in morning with buffet breakfast would be welcomed. As well as conversation corners at breaks, near food/drink with whiteboards and seating areas to explore more complex questions. (if appropriate for subject matter). Longer bookstore hours (or publish) Continue to keep the events small and intimate, with everything in as few of rooms as possible. Nobody wants to miss a moment.
 Eastcoast location is critical for me. Preferably Washington to Boston.
 For me most workable time of year depends on location. For example, I would not be likely to attend any event held held in Florida, say, or texas in the summer.
 Give a high priority to bringing in world-class presenters.
 I am not sure what the Mensa Foundation contributed. I am glad the lbany group and other groups of Mensa have started putting on Colloquiums again!
 I encourage the inclusion of optional organized discussion groups of Mensa members after the speakers are done for the night.
 I love them. It is the only time I can talk to people about my interests.

I probably will want to volunteer at the next one I attend, if possible.
 I would like to attend another on on a subject that catches my fancy, at any location.
 I would love more serious topics like this. If you need more ideas, I could dig through 18 years of presenting local science and myth sigs and get you some more ideas and leads.
 If audience questions are to be permitted, then they should be submitted IN WRITING to moderators who would screen the questions for relevance and articulateness before allowing them to be made public.
 I'll volunteer next time if they are close to CT!
 It is difficult for me to find time to attend these things--the one on humor is far too close to our RG, among other things. But I will consider going in the future.
 Just keep having them, please.
 Keep getting qusality speakers. Some Colloquiums have not had them. Chicago's Colloquium probably had second best set of speakers.
 Need to locate in town where there are more hotel choices and better direct transport options. Also it could be more condensed - Sunday morning's session was unnecessary.
 Please do whatever is necessary to make intellectual events happen. They are the

reason the silent majority joined in the first place.
 Please see my answe on 23, above.
 Probably will not attend the next colloquium on humour
 See 23.
 see above# 23 and 25.
 Some small break-out events would be interesting but I also realize that these things have to remain cost effective.
 The "Squires" were very beneficial to the speakers, and to the administration of the colloquium.
 The best dates for me seem to be April-June. One problem with this survey site is that once I have presed a "radio" button, I can change the selection, but cannot change back to "no button", at least I can't figure out how.
 This requires significant thought and not something off the cuff.
 This was a great colloquium! Thank you for putting it on and letting non-members come!
 VIDEOTAPE them and sell the tapes.
 When providing cash bars be sure to provide non-alcoholic beverages for those of us who choose not to drink alcohol. The non-alcohol beers (malt beverages) would be most welcome.
 Will definately consider attending.
 would be happy to help again
 You could have a series of Colloquiums on science in various fields.